



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

16 July 2024 7:00pm (1900)

Well here it is, no kidding Summer. My lawn has been browning out since the first week of June, it doesn't stand a chance in July and August.

Our guest speakers this month will be Susanna Musick and Jan McDowell from VIMS. They will be speaking about a new Grey Trigger fish study VIMS is conducting. They may need our help?

The Sheepshead Tournament is only a few months away. Let all your non-member friends on facebook etc. know about it so we can have a big turnout. Also, we are still looking for sponsors for the tournament. If you are a business we could really use your help by sponsoring a boat or two. Go to [WWW.PSWSFA.COM](http://WWW.PSWSFA.COM) for more info. See Page 3.

On my vacation on Otisco lake NY early this month I caught a 45" Tiger Muskie on a 1/8 oz jig and a 3" curly tail. My biggest Tiger so far. I let him go while it was still in the water. A lot less stress but no pictures.

Stay well,  
Mike the Editor

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are definitely in the heat of summer. Temperatures have been a bit brutal, and it doesn't look like too much relief coming our way for a while.

June was a very good month for fishing in our area and it should continue that way into the fall. All our local species are here. The biggest problem has been all the grass floating inside the bay causing issues when trolling or casting for fish like spanish mackerel, bluefish and trout. Hopefully that will change very soon.

Remember that the Youth and Ladies Croaker and Spanish Mackerel Tournament runs until July 31st and is free for club members. Get the ladies and youngsters out there and enter their fish in the tournament. There are some bigger croakers around and the spanish mackerel are throughout the bay and ocean front.

Flounder fishing has been picking up and there are some nice flounder around. Spadefish have shown up inside the bay and around the CBBT but their diet seems to be making the switch over to jellyfish and away from clams. Sheepshead fishing has

also improved inside the bay and there have been a lot of citations turned in. Large schools of big red drum are around the CBBT and the ocean front and there are schools of large black drum at the CBBT also. Puppy drum are almost everywhere and the same is true of speckled trout. The speck bite has been mostly a morning bite or on overcast days if fishing artificial lures. A good number of specks and pups have been caught by folks fishing bottom rigs with peelers.

There have been some very decent sized grey trout being caught in NC and I expect we will start seeing some of them show up in our area this fall. Some of what I've seen reported have been over 5 lbs.

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 16th. Until then get out there and fish and try to get a youngster/youngsters out with you.

Tight Lines  
Stan

**2024 Club Officers**

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Vice President  
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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

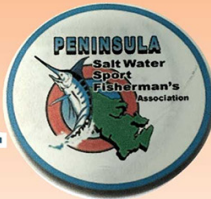
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**Sheepshead Tournament**



**September 21, 2024**

Sponsored by:

**PSWSFA**



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

Hosted By:

**Wallace's Bait & Tackle**

## 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**

# Bay Places: A Virginia Jewel Hides In Plain Sight On The James River

By John Page Williams / April 10, 2024

Virginia's **Historic Triangle**—composed of Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg—is a magnet destination for visitors thanks to its carefully curated archaeology, authentic living history by committed reenactors and full-sized replicas of the ships that brought the first colonists to Jamestown.



The Scotland Ferry

Sitting just across the James River, hiding in plain sight, is a place where you can create your own living history experience. Better yet, you can only reach it by ferry. Even better, there's a free VDOT car ferry to give you a scenic twenty-minute ride across the big river. The ferry ride is free, even if you're towing an outboard skiff, or you have a canoe, kayak, or paddleboard strapped to your vehicle's roof (and we recommend you do, for a full sightseeing experience!).

The vessel you'd ride would be either the Pocahontas, Powhatan, Surry, or Williamsburg, one of the four ferries in the Virginia Department of Transportation's **Scotland-Jamestown Fleet**.

On the 15-minute, three-mile crossing, the ferry offers miles-long views up and down the river. The views are essentially the same as what the first English colonists saw in 1607 when they chose to settle at Jamestown. Upon arrival, the ferries dock on the south bank at Scotland Wharf in Surry County. In the tradition of the Algonkian Indians who lived here for centuries, the English considered the river as connecting its two sides, rather than separating them, so it's no surprise to find that ferries have operated in this vicinity since 1660.

**T**o get even closer to what made this country so valuable to both the Native Americans and the English, it's important to get on the water in a small boat. From the ferry terminal, drive a mile-and-a-half south on Route 31 and turn right onto Marina Drive. At the end, you'll find Gray's Creek, a tidal gem with state Scenic River status. It has been a treasure to us humans for at least a millennium.

**Gray's Creek Landing** offers a free, two-lane launch ramp operated by **Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)** near the **Surry Seafood Company's Restaurant, Hotel, and Marina**. Don't let the name mislead you to think it's too busy; this is a country seafood restaurant with four hotel rooms on the second floor and 45 boat slips on floating docks just inside the mouth of the creek. By all means, make it your base of operations, even if you haven't brought your own boat. The Surry County Parks and Recreation Department offers **kayak rentals and tours** in the summer and fall.



Grays Creek Landing is free.

Prior to 1607, Native people would have found the creek and its tributaries rich in spring with yellow perch, white (stiffback/gray) perch, river herring (alewives and bluebacks), and hickory shad. The main river would have swelled with American shad, rockfish, and Atlantic sturgeon. Today, the creek also holds largemouth bass, black crappie, and blue catfish (more on that fishery in our **feature story here**.)

The origin of Gray's Creek is Dark Swamp, a sprawling forested wetland that forms an effective filter, valuable for water quality despite its spooky name. As Gray's Creek meets sea level, its freshwater forested/shrub wetland turns to tidal fresh marsh. Rimmed by bald cypress trees, the creek channel flows six miles to the James, though as the osprey flies, the distance point-to-point is just three miles.

*Continued on page 5*

For the Native people who lived here before the English came, the firm land on the outsides of the creek's turns were perfect for villages, farm fields, and woods for hunting deer and turkeys. The marshes on the inside turns offered edible plants for foraging and waterfowl and furbearers for trapping. Freshwater springs flowed from the creek's headwaters and high banks.

Near the mouth, the creek turns brackish. It comes by its Scenic River designation honestly, with wide buffers along its forested shorelines, acres of wild rice and other seed-bearing **tidal fresh plants**, and numerous side branches to explore, especially in paddlecraft. On a visit last fall, a friend and I explored all the way up to the head of tide in my 17' Boston Whaler, but the marsh guts and side creeks make Gray's a great waterway for exploring by canoe, kayak, or paddleboard.

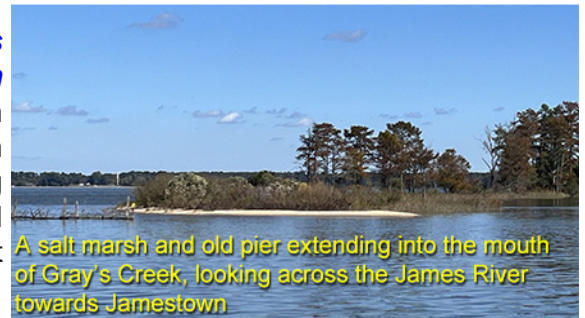


Acres of wild rice frame the shores of the river.

English settlement along Gray's Creek began in the summer of 1609 when Capt. John Smith ordered the building of a defensive fortification called the "**New Fort**" (marked on **Smith's 1612 map**) to guard against attacks. He planted a Maltese cross in the wooded swamp at the headwaters (which makes Gray's part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail). The fort was never completed (Smith left Virginia that fall), but its earthworks remain visible high on the eastern bank overlooking Gray's Creek.

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Five years later, the land became part of **Chief Powhatan's** dowry given for his daughter **Pocahontas's** marriage to **John Rolfe** in 1614. It was the site of a 1622 Native American rebellion to rid their lands of the English. One young Native warned an Englishman who lived on the creek, Richard Pace, of the impending massacre. The ambush killed more than 300 colonists up and down the James, but Pace crossed the James just in time to alert the people at Jamestown, saving many English lives.



A salt marsh and old pier extending into the mouth of Gray's Creek, looking across the James River towards Jamestown

By 1639, Gray's Creek had taken its current name from Thomas Gray, who had patented land at the mouth. In 1652, the House of Burgesses separated the south bank land from James City County to become the English shire of Surry, the name we know today. It grew into a port with a network of streets including houses, stores, taverns, riverfront tobacco warehouses, and a wharf, though you wouldn't guess it paddling along the banks today. It died out in the late 19th century.

The deep channel in Gray's Creek has always been valuable for transportation, including for shipping lumber, tobacco, and other crops like peanuts, corn, and cotton. In 1761, merchant Jacob Faulcon built a brick manor house on the Smith's Fort land. In 1886, **a collective group of Black families purchased the house and 521-acre farm around Smith's Fort**, and they prospered there (see photo of the remnants of the farm's wharf). In 1928, they sold the farm and the brick merchant's house to Colonial Williamsburg and started a successful business in Richmond. **Preservation Virginia** received the deed to the house and 20 acres in 1933 and has cared for it ever since.

Despite its many iterations and uses over these hundreds of years, Gray's Creek still looks largely the way it has for centuries. It's a peaceful place for exploring, birding, fishing, and just plain drifting. After a visit to the established sites of the Historic Triangle, the other side of the river offers its own immersion course in the origins of our country.

## Oyster Mystery Disease Troubles Oyster Farmers

By John Page Williams / July 8, 2024

Scientists in the Virginia section of the Chesapeake Bay are studying a troublesome oyster trend.

Yes—Virginia’s farm-grown oysters are still delicious and safe to eat. No, there’s nothing wrong with the ones sold in seafood stores and farmers’ markets. The Virginia Health Department monitors them carefully. And the state’s oyster industry is still the most productive on the East Coast.

However, a mysterious new problem dubbed Sudden Unexplained Mortality Syndrome (SUMS) has been bothering both aquaculturists and research scientists on the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and West coasts for the last decade. In the hazardous process of raising oysters from larva to market-sized, there is always some natural mortality.

But something else seems to be happening. Bruce Vogt, President of Gloucester’s Big Island Aquaculture, described the problem this way: “It started around 2015 and has increased steadily. In our business planning, we used to project 30 percent mortality in the growout process, but we’ve had to increase it to 50 percent. It doesn’t threaten our operation—yet—but it certainly limits business growth and investment in equipment. It’s an insidious process over several years, with higher mortality in the spring and summer.”

Last winter, shellfish biologists at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) convened a group of aquaculture experts from eight universities around the coasts to share their experiences, draw some general conclusions about the syndrome, focus on specific research priorities, and lay out next steps. Last week, VIMS issued a six-page report on the workshop.

This problem is being referred to as a syndrome because of the combination of factors that seem to cause it. Instead of one obvious pathogen like the dermo and MSX parasites, SUMS appears to come from a mix of stress factors that together weaken an oyster enough for an otherwise nonlethal challenge to kill it. Such combinations of stress are particularly difficult to diagnose, requiring data on everything from environmental conditions like water temperature, dissolved oxygen, numbers of oysters growing together, and more, to oyster genetics and physiology of organs. Analyzing such problems requires close cooperation between researchers and growers.

Virginia has more than a century of history in leasing sections of bottom in the Bay and its rivers for private growers to spread seed oysters for growout. Farming oysters in confined conditions like bags and racks, however, is relatively new. Multiple Best Management Practices can make oyster farming more efficient, but confining shellfish together can lead to problems. There is still a lot to learn.

As the VIMS report notes, the meeting closed with the group forming a collaborative network focused on SUMS. The first step is to gather information from growers about the extent and frequency of SUMS events. The second is to analyze genetic samples from both dead oysters and survivors. The scientists will also evaluate the success of specific oyster seed genetic lines in different environments and culture settings.

Another initiative will study relationships between algae species in oysters’ diets, environmental stress, and mortality. A fifth group will place wild-caught spat into intensive culture to learn if they become susceptible to SUMS in those conditions.

Finally, several researchers will, on a small scale, explore “hardening” larvae: exposing them to sudden changes in temperature and salinity to see if that experience helps them survive changing environmental conditions later as they grow.

Vogt hopes that doing everything he can to help researchers may benefit him and his fellow oyster farmers. “I don’t want to be negative, but I am realistic. It would be hard to continue operating if the losses keep increasing. So, I want to do whatever I can to support the scientists trying to solve this,” he said.



**Big Island Aquaculture moves a load of oyster at its Hayes, Virginia, oyster farm.**

## Unearthing mankind's profound impact on mud and carbon cycling

By John Wallace

Most people avoid mud, but not a global team of scientists who recently detailed humans' immense impact on this often-overlooked, carbon-rich aggregate. According to their study, featured on the cover of *Nature Geoscience*, humans have significantly altered the movement of mud across the landscape and in the oceans, causing yet-to-be quantified impacts on the storage and cycling of organic carbon.

Steve Kuehl, a professor at William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science, utilized his expertise in geological oceanography as a co-author on the study.

"In our paper, we delve into understanding how human perturbations, like deforestation, construction of dams and levees, groundwater and hydrocarbon withdrawal, bottom trawling, and human-induced climate warming in polar regions, are affecting how the organic carbon complex in mud is being either preserved as a sediment deposit or remineralized as CO<sub>2</sub> and recycled into the atmosphere," said Kuehl. "If we are going to accurately predict future global CO<sub>2</sub> trends, this is an issue we need to understand."

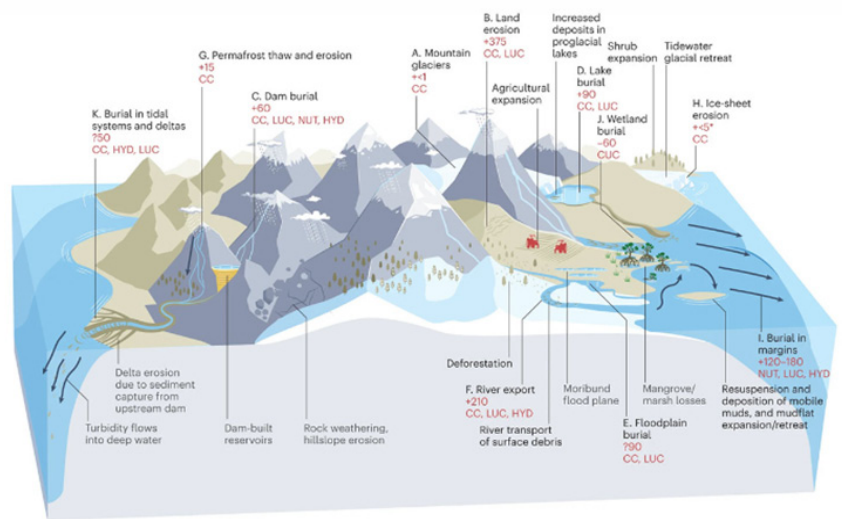
The study represents an overview and assessment of the impacts of human activities on the transfer, storage and recycling of organic carbon in mud deposits from a global perspective.

Mud is derived from the chemical and physical alteration of rocks, and the resulting fine-grained minerals are magnets for organic carbon. Huge quantities of mud and mud-associated organic carbon move across the landscape as it is transferred from land toward the sea, and human activities have fundamentally changed the transport pathways and natural sequestration of organic carbon. Overall, the concentration of organic carbon increases as mineral size decreases, making fine-grained mud a much greater source of organic carbon than larger-grained sediments such as sand.

To assist in quantifying mud's impact on global carbon cycling, the scientists identified the major pathways of mud movement and human-induced changes in organic carbon burial or release. For example, agricultural expansion has led to a tremendous release and transport of soil organic carbon, whereas reservoirs created by damming rivers may trap and remove some of this material. Humans also alter the character of the organic matter that controls its reactivity, that is the



A group of William & Mary students engage in field work with VIMS researchers on a mud flat. Photo by Gail Schwieterman



**This figure shows the landscape processes controlling fluxes of mud and the impact of humans along source-to-sink gradients. The numbers represent units of Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, where one Tg is a million metric tons. Source: Nat. Geosci., ISSN 1252-0908**

*Continued on page 8*

tendency for different organic components to be recycled to the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>.

“We need to have a better understanding of the different fractions that make up the total pool of organic carbon that spans a range of reactivity,” said Kuehl. “Some types of carbon, such as those from petrogenic (rock) sources, are more difficult to break down. However, different environmental conditions can prime or increase the reactivity of that carbon. For example, priming occurs when rock sediment from river run off is introduced to plankton in the sea. It’s kind of like adding gasoline to wood.”

### **Myriad human activities contribute to a changing planet**

The way mud moves around our planet has changed drastically due to the actions of humans. The Great Acceleration, a period beginning in the mid 20th century and continuing today, marks a dramatic surge in human activity coinciding with immense global changes.

The authors summarize that human activity has increased net changes in organic carbon derived from mud from mountain glaciers, land erosion, dams and lake reservoirs, river export, permafrost thaw, ice-sheet erosion, and coastal margins. They are uncertain about the changes for tidal flats and flood plains and suggest possible decreases for coastal wetlands. Mechanistic and budgetary study of these factors is encouraged in the study.

The researchers note that mud transport and sequestration processes remained relatively stable throughout much of the Holocene Epoch, which began approximately 11,700 years ago. However, because the timescales involved contain complex and transient events, it is difficult to determine whether relatively recent human-caused mobilization of mud results in more or less sequestration of organic carbon.

“These are complex environments, and we need to account for many factors when determining the impact of mud movements in relation to climate change,” said Kuehl. “In my area of expertise, river deltas, organic carbon in mud can be sequestered relatively efficiently, like in situations off the Mississippi Delta where sediment is shunted out into the deep Gulf of Mexico. Or, it can be recycled into the atmosphere very efficiently, like in the Amazon where the water exiting the river is constantly churning and exposing the sediment to oxygen. This churning even happens to an extent here in Chesapeake Bay tributaries, for example in the York River, where there is a mobile layer of sediment that is constantly shifting.”

The creation of reliable models will be needed to more accurately consider source-to-sink carbon cycling, and VIMS scientists and students are working to establish the scientific evidence needed for them. One little-studied aspect is the role of varying carbon pools. These have different reactivity, which affects their ability to be recycled or preserved.

“One of my students, Evan Flynn, is collaborating with researchers at Woods Hole’s NOSAMS facility. She took samples from her field work in the Ayeyarwady Delta in Myanmar and ran it through a device known as a mud burner, which separates the carbon fractions based on increasing temperature ranges during combustion, one measure of reactivity, and then determines the radiocarbon age of the different fractions,” said Kuehl. “These types of studies help in determining the carbon sources and their susceptibility to oxidation. They will be essential for developing accurate models of the global carbon cycle associated with mud.”

The complex relationship between humans and mud will continue as we advance technologically, alter our environments and look for ways to mitigate our impact on climate change. Studies such as this one will be essential to informing those efforts.



# Virginia Saltwater Fishing Report

As the summer heat intensifies, so does the action in the deep blue waters off the coast of Virginia Beach. Anglers are gearing up for what is anticipated to be a peak season in July and August for offshore bluewater action. The recent reports are a testament, with boats heading north returning with tuna, while those venturing south report an exciting billfish bite. The waters are starting to teem with white marlin, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, and gaffer dolphin, and the catches are expected to increase as the season progresses.

Last week the Spanish mackerel fishing along the oceanfront faced a challenge due to several days of strong winds. These winds caused an upwelling, resulting in colder oceanfront waters, with temperatures dropping to 67 degrees as recorded by the Virginia Beach Pier. Captain Todd Beck of Knot Wish'n Charters out of Rudee Inlet, advises that the key to a successful catch is to seek warmer waters to the east, or north near warmer bay water. He recently found a thriving bite near Cape Henry.

The cobia action is equally robust, with live baits such as spot, croaker, or eels proving effective when fished in chum slicks. Sight casters and anchored boats alike are also making good use of bucktails. Notably, as the season advances, cobia are migrating further up the bay, providing more anglers an opportunity for a successful catch.

Around the buoys and pilings of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT), as well as under the Chesapeake Light Tower, spadefish make their presence known. Meanwhile, sheepshead anglers are reaping the rewards of a great bite, utilizing crabs, clams, and sand fleas as bait. These fish show a preference for hard structures, particularly rocks and bridge piling, where they can find ample food and cover.

Flounder fishing is experiencing a rise, with increased catches reported along bridges, inshore wrecks, and artificial reefs throughout the lower bay and along the coast. Flounder are ambush predators, favoring hard structures, drop-offs, and creek entrances—ideal spots for lying in wait for their prey. For those new to flounder fishing or looking to refine their technique, Craig Paige of Paige II Charters comes highly recommended for his specialized knowledge and experience.

Black drum, ranging from 6-10 lbs, are being caught around structures that typically attract flounder and Sheepshead. These bottom dwellers have a preference for crabs, making them a prime target for those fishing in these areas.



More at: <https://vbsf.net/fishing-reports/>

## The May Mystery Fish Alaska Rock Fish



Rockfishes are long-lived marine fishes that fertilize internally, versus egg laying fish that are fertilized externally. They are also considered matrotrophically viviparous. Wait...what's that you say? Rockfish are magically delicious?? Well yes, that too--adult rockfish are delicious, but what is meant by matrotrophy is that many rockfish species provide a form of maternal care during embryo development where additional nutrients or energy are transferred directly to the embryo from the mother (think of something like a placenta). However, there is a high degree of variability in maternal energy contribution to embryos among species of rockfish. In addition to internal fertilization and matrotrophy, large rockfish can give live birth to MILLIONS of babies. This is where the term viviparous comes from (literally it means "giving live birth").

Rockfish have other noteworthy life history characteristics. One is their closed (physoclastic) swim bladder. Unfortunately, this type of swim bladder cannot vent. When rockfish are caught in deep water and brought to the surface, water pressure decreases and the air in their swim bladder expands.



# 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

# PSWSFA SPONSORS

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



Stans Grandson John Michael with his winning 8 1/2in croaker.



Maddie Simmerman and her 8" croaker.



Milton's nephew, Ryan Brooks and his 3 sons, Carson, Connor and Cyle



Rick with a rather large Puppy Drum



Wally with a bigger Puppy Drum



Rick caught this fantastic shot of the SPACE X Starlink launch. Taken near the 4th Island at 5am on July 3rd.

# Monthly Tournament List May 2024

<b>Wahoo</b>	Charles Randolph	60"
<b>Dolphin</b>	Charles Randolph	46"
<b>Speckled Trout</b>	Donnie Frick	26"
<b>Bluefish</b>	Donnie Frick	35.5"
<b>Red Drum</b>	Chris Harris	48"
<b>Cobia</b>	Chris Harris	55.25"
<b>Black Drum</b>	Rick Wlneman	46.25"
<b>Yellow Fin Tuna</b>	Kenny Meyer	53"
<b>Sea Bass</b>	Kenny Meyer	48"
<b>Sheepshead</b>	Stan Simmerman	24.25"
<b>Spot</b>	John M Slmmerman	8.5"
<b>Croaker</b>	Maddie Slmmerman	8.5"
<b>Whiting</b>	Maddie Slmmerman	9"

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



In Montenegro, fishing enthusiasts can engage in various types of fishing, each offering its own unique experience and challenges. Let's explore some of the popular types of fishing you can enjoy in Montenegro.

## Sea fishing Montenegro

Sea fishing is one of the most popular types of fishing in Montenegro due to its abundant marine life and stunning coastal landscapes. Anglers can embark on fishing trips in the Adriatic Sea and target various species such as sea bass, mackerel, snapper, bream, and even larger game fish like tuna and swordfish. Fishing can be done from the shore, piers, or by hiring a boat or charter service.

## Shore fishing in Montenegro

Shore fishing, also known as surfcasting, is a favorite choice for many anglers in Montenegro. This type of fishing involves casting your line from the shoreline, beaches, or rocky areas. The coastline of Montenegro offers numerous fishing spots where you can target species like sea bass, mullet, bream, and sardines. Shore fishing provides a more accessible and budget-friendly option for anglers, allowing them to enjoy the sport without needing a boat.

## Big game fishing Montenegro

Engaging the services of a fishing charter is highly recommended for big game fishing in Montenegro. Charter operators offer experienced guides familiar with the local waters, ensuring a higher chance of success in targeting and landing large game fish. In addition, these charters often provide well-equipped boats with specialized fishing gear and tackle suitable for battling powerful species.

## Immerse yourself in nature

Sea fishing in Montenegro allows you to connect with the vastness and beauty of the Adriatic Sea. As you cast your line and wait for a bite, you can take in the stunning coastal landscapes, breathe in the salty sea air, and witness the wonders of marine life. The experience provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the power and tranquility of nature, surrounded by the vastness of the open sea.

## So you think you know your Fish

This fish is widely spread around the world?





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



**16 July 2024 - Member Meeting**  
Guest Speakers are Susanna Musick and Jan McDowell from VIMS on Trigger fish



**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**

