

# PENINSULA

Salt Water  
Sport  
Fisherman's  
Association

# CHUMLINE

MARCH 2025

Supporting Hampton Roads Fisherman since 1957



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).

### 1st Meeting of 2025 18 March 2025 7:00pm

We had a really nice turnout at the club's annual Awards Banquet. Lots of good food, good company, and raffle prizes. My plus one Fran cleaned up. She also said "I never win anything." Go figure. I was having Deja Vu since Lenny Rudow said the same thing at the boat show.

I'd also like to thank Stan for nominating me for the George C. Robertson award. I was chuffed.

Another reminder, dues are due this month. If you can't make it to the meeting you can point your phone's camera at the QR code on page 2 and click on the link that pops up to pay online. Or, print out the form on page 2 and send it to the address shown.

Richie Moore and I were at the Great Bridge Fishing Flea market on 1 March and took in around \$700 on the high end Igloo Cooler and gear raffle. People were generally impressed with what we had to offer.

The Poquoson flea market was far smaller but took in another \$300+. We will pick a winner at the March meeting where you will also be able buy tickets.

Stay well, Mike the Editor

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

February is finally behind us and hopefully things will warm up fast and our spring and summer fishery will get off to a good start. This winter has been pretty harsh for our area.

The banquet was a success with a very good turnout. The food was, in my opinion, better than last year. A number of awards were presented and a big congratulations to all the awardees. A special shout out and congratulations to Chris Harris who not only won angler of the year but became our newest master angler. The raffle brought in a pretty good amount of revenue for the club, and it looks like we are off to a good start to the new year.

The Great Bridge Fishing Flea Market was handled by Mike Frielingsdorf and Richie Moore. They ended

up handling the club's table by themselves and deserve a big thank you for all the work they put into supporting us on that endeavor. While they were at the flea market, Dr Ken Neill and I participated in George Poveromo's Saltwater Series Seminar. There were several of the club members that attended and hopefully learned a few tidbits that will help them improve their chances of catching more and bigger fish in the future.

We owe George Poveromo a huge thank you for what he does supporting our club. All of the buckets and merchandise that was left over from the seminar was given to the club to use as door prizes and handouts. The value of these items is significant.

The Poquoson Kiwanis Club Fishing and Crafts Flea Market was held on March 8th and we sold approximately \$300 in raffle tickets plus \$165 in other items. We had support from

*Continued on page 3*

**2024 Club Officers**

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Rob Lehman

**Please Note:** March is fast approaching and dues will be due. If you can't make it to the meeting scan the QR code below with your phone's camera and it will take you to the site where you can pay your 2025 dues online. However, there is a small fee which goes to the service hosting the site.



**PSWSFA 2025 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

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Boat Name/Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number in your membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with a check (payable to PSWSFA) to:

Please check one of the following:

**New Address**

PSWSFA  
P.O. Box 1056  
Yorktown, VA 23692-2878

Yes, please add my name to the club membership list to get the newsletter  
 No, please do not publish my info, but we never do

*Presidents comments continued from page 1*

club members to man the booth and sell raffle tickets. I gave a 1-hour seminar on speckled trout fishing. For those that attended last year, you know that the room was filled to overcapacity and a lot of folks could not get in. This year we had a larger room and I gave out a few more secrets as well.

Because of the cold weather I have not fished for specks since January 5th . There has been a significant fish kill but some fish have survived and hopefully we have a decent year targeting them. Puppy drum are almost everywhere and although some have succumbed to the cold there doesn't seem to be any shortage of the pups.

The bluefin tuna season in the outer banks continues to be off the hook. We should start to see bluefish and big red drum show up later this month. There are plenty of stripers up the bay and up the James River as well as in the Elizabeth River.

Seabass fishing was good if you were able to get out in February but not many folks got out there.

We will be having another Sheepshead tournament in 2025, and this one should be bigger and better than last year. This year's tournament will be on July 19th. Make plans now to support this tournament.

I encourage you to help find as many sponsors as possible. Sponsors are the lifeblood of the tournament and financing the club for the following years. If you work for a business or know of a business that might be willing to sponsor the tournament please let Charles Randall, Wally Veal or me know so that we can get the information to them.

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 at the banquet.

Tight Lines,  
Stan

## **IMPORTANT**

Anyone who had their membership check returned please contact Nicole directly at [nabercrombie78@gmail.com](mailto:nabercrombie78@gmail.com).

The club P.O. Box was changed to: P.O. Box 1056, Yorktown VA 23692-2878



# 2024 AWARDS BANQUET PICTURES









By Meg Walburn Viviano / February 25, 2025

A bill directing the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to explore building a new bridge over the James River has passed—just before the close of the Virginia General Assembly.

**[Senate Joint Resolution 263](#)**, sponsored by Sen. Lashrecse D. Aird (D-13th), directs VDOT to study “the need and options for constructing a bridge” from Surry County to James City County or Charles City County.



The bill states that Surry County, located across the James, is seeing an increase in visitors to its idyllic, Scenic Rivers-designated shoreline, in part because of a recent broadband access project that brought high-speed internet to the county. The bill also points out that Dominion Energy’s Surry Power Station, adjacent to the Hog Island Wildlife Management Area, employs thousands of Virginians.

According to the bill, more housing inventory and reliable transportation infrastructure is needed to support all of this growth.

Chesapeake Bay Magazine’s feature on Surry County, “**[A Virginia Jewel Hides in Plain Sight on the James River.](#)**” was one of our top-clicked articles in 2024. One of the major appeals of the destination is the **[free VDOT car ferry](#)** you take across the James, a scenic 20-minute ride, to reach it. (The Jamestown-Scotland ferry system celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The restored deckhouse of the original ferry vessel, Capt. John Smith, is at the **[Surry County Historical Society and Museums](#)**.)

Unfortunately, the reliability of the Jamestown-Scotland ferry has come into question when VDOT started experiencing worsening staffing shortages for ferry operators. In early July 2024, VDOT announced a new schedule with reduced service, attributed to “an industry-wide shortage of critical, certified maritime positions.” The ferry was able to maintain 24/7 service, but the number of ferries at certain times was reduced.

The bill states that a new bridge connecting the shores is not only desperately needed to guarantee a reliable crossing, it would also benefit transportation throughout Hampton Roads. It stipulates that the location of any potential infrastructure must be carefully chosen to ensure the route wouldn’t impact Jamestown or any other historical assets in Virginia.

The feasibility study is more general and broad than that of a 2024 bill introduced by Del. Kim Taylor (R-82nd). That legislation failed because its directives to evaluate the benefit to the region, create a draft design, develop a cost estimate, and evaluate funding options, were too costly. It also called for a one-year turnaround time for completion of the report.

The successful 2025 legislation requires VDOT to launch the feasibility study and complete its meetings by Nov. 30, 2026, then submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than the start of the 2027 General Assembly Regular Session. At that point, it would be made public.

# Virginia Tribe Acquires 870 Acres of Ancestral Homeland on Rappahannock River

By Lauren Hines-Acosta, Bay Journal News Service / February 28, 2025

The Patawomeck Indian Tribe recently acquired 870 acres of its ancestral homeland along the Rappahannock River in Spotsylvania and Caroline counties, in Virginia. The tribe will be permanent stewards of the property.

This will be the second time the tribe has acquired land in the last six months. The state gave the tribe funding in November to acquire an initial 14 acres along the same river. The most recently acquired site has forests, wetlands and a river shoreline.

“This property will be instrumental in maintaining our traditional cultural practices and instilling a deep connection to the lands and waters of our home within future generations of our citizens,” Patawomeck Chief Charles Bullock said.

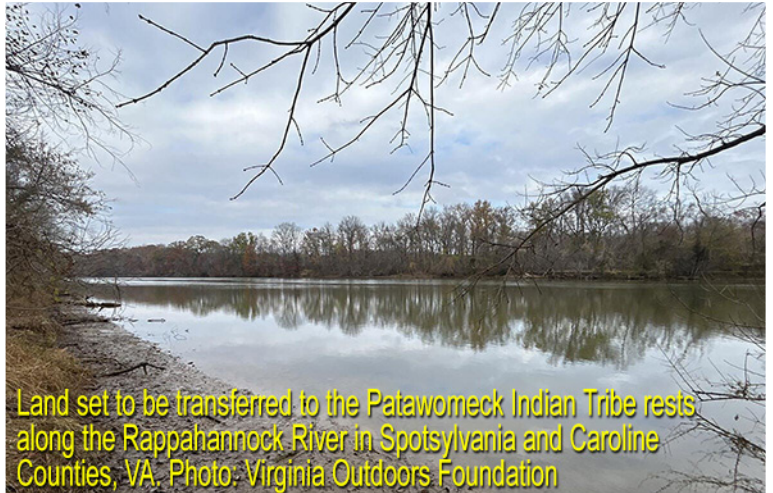
An anonymous landowner donated the property to the Nature Conservancy in the 1970s. The Trust for Public Land secured a North American Wetlands Act Grant through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and a grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The Trust for Public Land used the funding to work with the Nature Conservancy and the tribe to facilitate the transfer. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation holds a conservation easement on the land, but the tribe will remain its permanent stewards.

The Patawomeck have been present in what is now Stafford County, Virginia, since at least the 1300s and were instrumental in sustaining the Jamestown Colony, according to the tribe’s website.

The tribe was recognized by the state in 2010, and is still working to achieve federal recognition, as Virginia’s Chickahominy, Chickahominy Eastern Division, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi (all 2018) and Pamunkey (2016) tribes have done.

Editor’s Note: The Patawomeck counts among its descendants the entertainer Wayne Newton, whose grandfather was a tribe member living in Stafford. Newton returned to Virginia in 2010 to speak before a panel of state lawmakers and urged official state recognition of the Patawomeck.

The Patawomeck tribe operates a museum and living village in Fredericksburg, Virginia, which is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12-5pm, and every first and third Saturday of the month from 10am to 2pm.



Land set to be transferred to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe rests along the Rappahannock River in Spotsylvania and Caroline Counties, VA. Photo: Virginia Outdoors Foundation



A living history display by the Patawomeck tribe.

White perch are the Rodney Dangerfields of the fish world. Even though they fight hard and taste great, they don't get no respect. Yes they're small and no they're not colorful, but when pursued with appropriate gear and fried in peanut oil white perch provide everything an angler could ever desire. And best of all, right now is prime time to get in on the perch action.

## The Fishing Hole Story

During the midst of winter white perch move super-deep, often to areas of 40' or more of water. But as soon as the first signs of spring begin they'll start shifting into tributaries where they spawn. As long as water temps remain in the mid-50s and below, you'll want to target areas that are within a few miles of the spawning grounds where the bottom drops down to well over 10'. You may find them in 10' or 12', but holes and bends in the channel that are scoured to 20' or more are likely to be better.

When the fish are hugging bottom in deep holes with lots of current, using bottom rigs can be the ticket to success.



Expect the fish to concentrate the most during falling and low tides, when fishing the deepest spots possible is often the best move. During the flood tide the fish often scatter a bit. You'll find some deep but many will be patrolling the upper edges of the drop-off, and sometimes (especially on warm, sunny afternoons) they'll fan out over mud flats just a few feet deep.

## Irresistible Temptations for White Perch

Most of the year white perch bite willingly on whatever you may offer them, but finding the best bait during this timeframe can be a bit frustrating. Grass shrimp are always a good bet if you can get them. Sometimes small minnow do the trick. Sometimes bloodworm bits are better. And sometimes nightcrawlers will prove surprisingly effective. The frustrating part is that they seem to want something different from one day or one week to the next.

To make things even tougher to figure out, they also seem to favor one bait over the others from one body of water to the next. Last year at about this time, for example, bloodworms were the top producer in the Choptank and the white perch didn't seem nearly as excited about grass shrimp. But if you were fishing on the Patuxent, grass shrimp were a must-have and bloodworms were mostly ignored.

The best way to present these baits will differ depending on factors like depth and current. In deep holes when there's any sort of current moving you may need half an ounce or more of weight, and using bottom rigs is generally the most effective tactic. When the fish move shallow on a high tide or shift to shallower waters as the run begins, using ultralight gear to cast shad darts tipped with bait is highly effective.

If artificials are your game, when they're sitting deep whites can often be coaxed into striking with small jiggling spoons fished vertically right off the bottom. In shallower waters two-inch twisters and tubes fished on 1/8th or 1/16th of an ounce jigheads can do the trick. In intermediate depths or when there's a lot of current to fight, rather than reaching for a larger head try rigging up a couple of jigs in tandem so you get a weight boost without upsizing the offering. Chartreuse, white, and red/white color combos are always good choices.

Are there likely to be a few choice days next month when the perch fishing is faster and more furious for those who hit the spawning grounds at the ideal time? Heck yes. Will it still be a bit nippy out there some days this month? Heck yes, again. But, do you really want to wait around when there are fish to be caught RIGHT NOW? Heck no!

*Save the Date!*  
**2025**

## Virginia Charter Boat Workshop

at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point

**Saturday, March 22**

*Featured speakers:*

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
& MORE!

Workshop  
Link

*Space limited, register for free:*  
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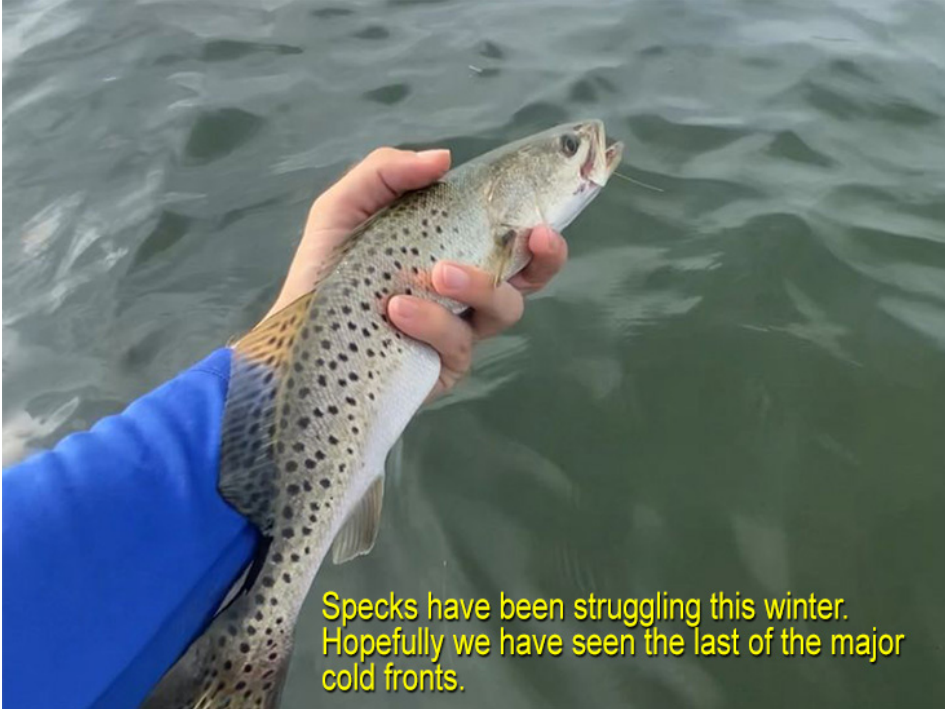
Questions? [susanna@vims.edu](mailto:susanna@vims.edu)

# Got triggers?

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is recruiting conservation-minded anglers with excellent catch & release handling skills to help us take fin clips for a Grey Triggerfish genetics study.

To learn more email:  
[susanna@vims.edu](mailto:susanna@vims.edu)





Specks have been struggling this winter. Hopefully we have seen the last of the major cold fronts.

Rudee inlet has been a popular spot for anglers this winter as there are good numbers of resident redfish that over winter there. While the fish are still there, the angling pressure and erratic weather seems to be making them very picky right now. We saw a report from a kayak angler who hit the inlet this week and reported a lot of reds in the area, but the fish just wouldn't eat. They did manage to catch one speckled trout. Talk about a frustrating situation. Another angler fishing somewhere north of the York River had a sobering report after he found hundreds of cold stunned trout last weekend. There were more live fish than dead ones, but the live ones were in bad shape too. He ended up catching an upper slot and two under-slot red drums during his outing. Hopefully the fish suffering from the cold will pull through with the warmer weather this week. The fish that survived the winter so far should be getting more active during warming trends like we had this week. Red drum will often be found schooling on mud flats in the tributaries during warm days in the spring. There have also been reports of striped bass being caught in the Virginia Beach inlets and rivers. A kayak angler fishing at night in an unspecified river reported that throwing paddletails around structure in deeper waters of the river let to a handful of stripers ranging from 18" to 22". Fishing near the dock and building lights is another tip when night fishing as the illuminated water attracts bait, and subsequently, gamefish.

## The December Mystery Fish Hake



Hake is the common name for fish in the Merlucciidae family of the northern and southern oceans and the Phycidae family of the northern oceans. Hake is a commercially important fish in the same taxonomic order, Gadiformes, as cod and haddock.

Hakes are medium-to-large fish averaging from 0.5 to 3.6 kilograms (1 to 8 pounds) in weight, with specimens as large as 27 kg (60 lb). The fish can grow up to 1 metre (3 ft 3 in) in length with a lifespan of as long as 14 years.

Hake may be found in the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean in waters from 200 to 350 metres (660 to 1,150 ft) deep. The fish stay in deep water during the day and come to shallower depths during the night. An undiscerning predator, hake feed on prey found near or on the bottom of the sea. Male and female hake are very similar in appearance.

After spawning, the hake eggs float on the surface of the sea where the larvae develop. After a certain period of time, the baby hake then migrate to the bottom of the sea, preferring depths of less than 200 metres (656 ft).

## Potomac Riverkeeper Recounts Role in Search Following DC Aircraft Disaster

By Meg Walburn Viviano / February 25, 2025



The Potomac River mid-air collision prompted a large response, but not many know that the Potomac Riverkeeper also played a role. US Army photo by David J. Adams.

When an unthinkable mid-air disaster took place over the Potomac River on the night of Jan. 29, the response by first responders was massive. The crash, which killed 64 people on an American Airlines regional jet and three people aboard an Army Blackhawk helicopter, is said to be the most significant disaster to occur in U.S. airspace in at least 15 years.

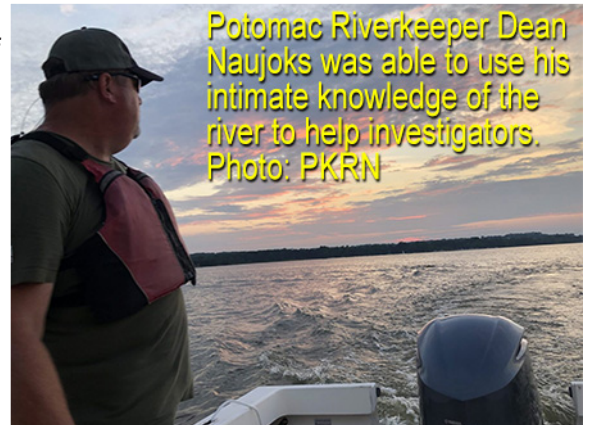
An estimated 300 emergency responders from Virginia, DC, Maryland, and federal agencies participated in the search efforts, which quickly turned to recovery efforts once it was clear there were no survivors. At the same time, federal investigators assisted by regional police were gathering debris and clues into what went so horribly wrong that night. One responder who played an unsung role in the operation was Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks, who has been on the job for a decade and knows the intricacies of the river better than most.

Naujoks recently opened up about his experience on the day after the fiery crash, during the Potomac Riverkeepers Network (PKRN) “Water Wednesdays” talk.

Naujoks calls the tragedy “one of the saddest days on the Potomac River ever.” He learned of the crash late on the night of Jan. 29, and wondered how he could help. At first light, Naujoks says he drove to the Washington Sailing Marina, which served as a landside base of operations for the response team.

Wary of trespassing on what was then a closed river, and with recovery efforts to find the victims still underway, Naujoks waited on land instead of boarding his patrol boat. He says considering the hundreds of emergency crews on the water, things were oddly quiet.

Then Naujoks heard FBI investigators speaking about recovering debris. He had some idea where the debris could have floated based on his knowledge of tides and river conditions. The FBI ultimately granted him permission to travel about two miles downriver to Smoot’s



Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks was able to use his intimate knowledge of the river to help investigators. Photo: PKRN

Cove and Oxon Cove, very tricky areas to approach without intimate knowledge of the river.

It is shallow in those coves, and Naujoks explains that a rock jetty makes it nearly non-navigable if you don't know where you're going. "You'll rip your prop off if you don't know where that rock jetty is," he says.



The surreal scene he found downriver over the wreckage site included floating sugar packets and bags of chips, the bags still intact. There were pages from a plane manual scattered widely. He also found larger debris, like plane parts and a seat from the passenger jet.. Everything was covered in jet fuel, Naujoks recalls.

With a boatload of debris, the riverkeeper returned to the dock and turned over the evidence to the Alexandria Police Department for delivery to the FBI. He later talked a boat captain with the FBI through navigating the approach to the coves, describing visual landmarks to guide him in past the rock jetty.

After doing what he could to contribute to the debris collection effort, Naujoks immediately began to prepare a pollution response. As riverkeeper, he is a watchdog for river health and the safety of people that may be exposed to the Potomac.

He didn't have experience with pollution risks from major aircraft, so he enlisted experts at the University of Mary Washington and Johns Hopkins University to get a better understanding of what chemicals might be in the river. Unfortunately, the high cost of testing water samples for aircraft chemicals has limited PKRN's ability to test the water. "We just don't have the resources we need to test in a situation like this," he says.

A PKRN Polar Bear Plunge was planned for the weekend following the crash, which was Naujok's most pressing concern. As a precaution, the event was shifted to a virtual plunge instead.

Naujoks is optimistic that any water quality damage would be limited because the crash caused a short-term exposure, unlike long-term exposure caused by things like industrial pollution , which create a lot of damage. The D.C. Department of Energy & Environment is the lead agency on the environmental response.



# 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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PSWSFA would like to thank these sponsors for supporting our 2024 Sheepshead Tournament

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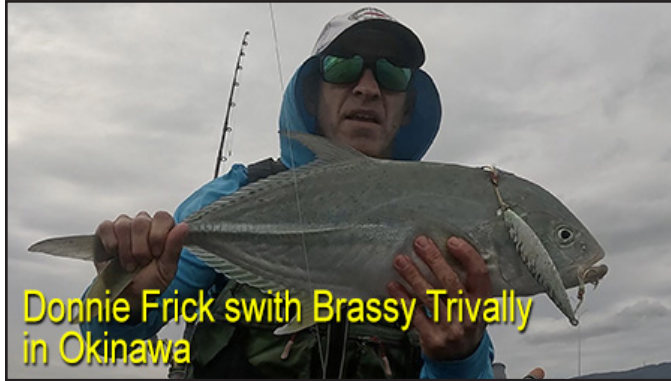


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# FISH TALES



Donnie Frick swith Brassy Trivally in Okinawa



Donnie Fricks with a Diamond Trevally fishing off Okinawa



Donnie Fricks and a small Giant Trivally in Okinawa



Wally and Black Sea Bass



Charles Randolph and Tautog



A Taug for Rick



Stan went a long way for this Speck

**Why It’s So Hard to Find Chesapeake Bay Crabmeat on the Menu**

By Meg Walburn Viviano / March 6, 2025

“We use all local crabmeat,” the server proudly assured the couple sitting at her table in a nice Annapolis restaurant. Then, after checking with the chef, she clarified, “...Well, we actually use a blend of crabmeats. It’s not all local.”

The couple eating in the restaurant that day happened to be Jack Brooks, fourth-generation owner of J.M. Clayton Seafood Company and president of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industry Association, and his wife, Diana. Their story is a perfect illustration of the problem with Maryland crab dishes: even for a leader of the industry like Jack Brooks, it’s hard to know when you’re really getting Chesapeake Bay crabmeat.



End-of-season jumbo lump crabmeat is packaged and readied for winter sales at JM Clayton

The statistic is sobering: 95% of crabmeat served in Maryland restaurants is not Maryland crab, according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). We were so surprised by the percentage that we asked MDA spokesperson Matthew Scales to repeat himself during our interview.

Scales explains that the reason so few restaurants serve local crabmeat comes down to economics. Fresh (non-pasteurized) crabmeat imported from Venezuela costs only half, sometimes one-third, as much as crabmeat that is caught by Chesapeake Bay watermen and picked in the Bay region. (“Three reasons, price, price, and price,” Brooks quips.) Naturally, many restaurants prefer to pay less and offer more affordable crab dishes on their menus.

Why do Venezuelan crabs cost so little? There isn’t much of a market for them in Venezuela, so up to 95% of their catch and process comes to the U.S. East Coast. They don’t have the ability to pasteurize their bountiful harvest, “so they just have to get rid of it,” Brooks says.

Faidley’s Seafood, a True Blue program member, is famous for its jumbo lump crab-cakes, made with Maryland crabmeat.



However, Chesapeake Bay crab purists believe that crabmeat from outside the Chesapeake Bay just doesn’t taste as good. Bay crabs develop a unique taste because of the brackish water they live in, and because they build up fat tissue to spend winters dormant, burrowed in the Bay bottom.

As Brooks puts it, “Crabs are like bears. They know they’re going to hibernate [lie dormant] at some point. They build up this fat... their instincts are telling them they need this fat to survive.” That doesn’t happen in tropical areas where temperatures remain above 55/60 degrees, and the crabs stay active. He also points to the bright yellow-orange mustard we see in Maryland crabs as a taste difference-maker.

Brooks recalls handing out samples at the largest seafood trade show on the continent, the Seafood Expo North America in Boston. Many of the people who tried samples of his Maryland crabmeat demanded to know what Clayton added to the meat to make it taste so sweet. ‘They said, “You’ve got something in there! No other crab I’ve had tastes like that,”’ he recounts.

Not only that, but Maryland packing houses have the sorting of meat down to a science. In fact, the modern

crabmeat grading system originated in St. Michaels, at Coulbourne & Jewett Seafood. Clayton, like many packers, offers premium jumbo lump, good for high-end crabcakes and for dishes where presentation is everything, like seafood-topped salads. There is the less-costly regular lump; a mix of 1/3 jumbo and 2/3 regular they call “gourmet lump”; the darker, nuttier-flavored claw meat; and “crab claw fingers”, which leaves the pointy end of the hard claw attached to the meat—always an impressive garnish.

Despite being up against foreign processors with cheaper prices, the local crab industry is still doing brisk business. In 2023, the last year for which numbers are available, Maryland watermen landed an estimated 27,280,000 pounds of blue crab, with a dockside value of \$66.7 million. (In Virginia, crab ranks third-highest among seafood harvests, behind menhaden and oysters. In the latest report from 2022, watermen landed more than 16,082,000 pounds of crab for a value of nearly \$29 million.)

To help sustain demand in the face of foreign crabmeat, MDA offers programs incentivizing restaurants and markets to use local crabmeat. The state’s True Blue program offers a special certification for those who commit to use at least 75% Maryland crabmeat on their menus. Look for this logo at restaurants and seafood counters:



There’s a list of nearly four dozen restaurants and retailers currently participating in the program, and they aren’t all in Maryland. The businesses range from Pennsylvania all the way down to Florida, where even out-of-staters can appreciate the unique taste of Maryland crabmeat.

Several locations of Graul’s Market, a group of independent grocery stores that originated in Baltimore in 1920, participate in the True Blue Program. Jeff Berger, the store manager of Graul’s St. Michaels, says the small grocer goes beyond the threshold of 75% Maryland crab. “We are 100%. I don’t use any meat from Louisiana, the Carolinas, Venezuela... if I can’t get Maryland, I’m just not gonna have it.”

Why is it so important to Berger to be a True Blue carrier? “Anything to support the local crabbers and watermen in the area,” he says. “Plus, we totally feel like Maryland crabmeat is superior to any other. You can’t fake the other stuff... it doesn’t look the same, it doesn’t taste the same.”

Graul’s is known for carrying fresh Maryland crab. “It’s kinda like who we are,” Berger says, surmising that if the market carried anything but local, the customers would be upset: “They expect Maryland crab.”

Berger doesn’t carry pasteurized crabmeat, either. Instead, he puts in a bulk order with his Maryland supplier at the end of the crab season for flash-frozen meat. “It absolutely comes back just as good as when it was just picked,” he tells us.

While businesses like Graul’s remain dedicated to stocking Maryland crabmeat, another state program helps crab processors demonstrate the safety and reliability of their products. Under the voluntary Maryland Crabmeat Quality Assurance and Inspection Program, the University of Maryland Extension inspects plants and tests crabmeat for any harmful bacteria. The program, a partnership between MDA, the Extension, and the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industry Association, sets participating crab processors apart from the competition. “We want to make sure there’s a competitive advantage [for local crab businesses],” says Scales of MDA.

After all, the appeal of Maryland crabmeat lies in its authenticity. As Brooks points out, “You never see ‘Venezulan crabcakes’ advertised on a menu.”

# Monthly Tournament List January 2025

**Bluefin Tuna**  
Stan Simmerman 83"

**Blackfin Tuna**  
Stan Simmerman 27"

**False Albacore**  
Stan Simmerman 30"

**Speckled Trout**  
Chris Harris 29.5"

Monthly Tournament Contenders	
Species	Min Size
Albacore Tuna	35"
Amberjack	40"
Bigeye Tuna	40"
Black Drum	40"
Blackbelly Rosefish	14"
<b>Blackfin Tuna</b>	<b>25"</b>
Bluefin Tuna	45"
Bluefish	25"
Blueline Tilefish	20"
Blue Marlin	Release
Channel Bass - Drum	40"
Cobia	40"
<b>Croaker</b>	<b>14"</b>
Dolphin	35"
False Albacore	25"
Flounder	22"
Golden Tilefish	30"
<b>Gray Trout</b>	<b>22"</b>
Grouper	16"
Jack Crevalle	36"
King Mackerel	35"
Pompano	12"
Sailfish	Release
<b>Sea Bass</b>	<b>18"</b>
Shark	60"
<b>Sheepshead</b>	<b>20"</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	<b>17"</b>
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"

**Fish in Red are updated  
as of 1 Jan 2025**

*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 2025 entry forms:			
Month of Entry	Deadline (RegMtg)	Month	Deadline (Reg Mtg)
January	18 Feb	July	19 Aug
February	18 Mar	August	17 Sep
March	15 Apr	September	21 Oct
April	20 May	October	18 Nov
May	17 Jun	November	16 Dec
June	15 Jul	December	by Brd Mtg 13 Jan 2026



Three Ways to Turn in your Forms:

- Hand deliver to monthly meetings
- e-mail to judygee03@gmail.com
- Mail to: Milton Hudgins, 1894 Kate Lane, Hayes VA 23072

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

### Eligible Species

The fish in red were updated 1 Jan 2025

Albacore Tuna	35"	Pompano	12"
Amberjack	40"	Sailfish	Release
Bigeye Tuna	40"	Sea Bass	18"
Blackbelly Rosefish	14"	Shark	60"
Black Drum	40"	Sheepshead	20"
Blackfin Tuna	25	Snapper	17"
Bluefin Tuna	45"	Spadefish	18"
Blueline Tilefish	20"	Spanish Mackerel	20"
Bluefish	25"	Spearfish	Release
Blue Marlin	Release	Speckled Trout	21"
Channel Bass	40"	Spot	8"
Cobia	40"	Striped Bass	36"
Croaker	14"	Swordfish	Release
Dolphin	35"	Tarpon	Release
False Albacore	25"	Tautog	18"
Flounder	22"	Triggerfish	15"
Golden Tilefish	30"	Wahoo	40"
Gray Trout	22"	White Marlin	Release
Grouper	16"	Whiting (Roundhead)	14"
Jack Crevalle	36"	Yellowfin Tuna	35"
King Mackerel	35"		

I hereby certify that the following statements are the truth and the rules of this contest have been complied with. (See next page for the rules).

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

## Required Information

**Tournament:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Caught:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time Caught:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AM or PM**    **Length:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (printed):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Circle One:**    **Adult**    **Youth**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional Information:

**Weight** \_\_\_\_\_ **Where Caught:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weigh Master's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. All paid club tournaments will be judged by weight.



## FISHING CONTEST RULES

1. Contest will run from January 1 to December 31. Only fish caught for recreational purposes, in accordance with state regulations, are eligible.
2. The territorial limits for this contest shall be from Ocean City, MD to Morehead City, NC. Slight variations north or south of these limits will not disqualify entry.
3. This contest is open only to PSWSFA members and their families whose dues have been paid before the catch. Youth anglers must be age 15 or less on the date of the catch. Youth entries must also meet state minimum requirements.
4. Only fish caught on hook and line, rod and reel are acceptable. No assistance at the rod or line shall be permitted, except holding the leader while the fish is being gaffed or boated.
5. There are no restrictions on tackle with the exception that power reels are not permitted.
6. Awards will be made for fish caught each month (1st through last day) at the next monthly meeting. All entries must be in the hands of the tournament chairman by the beginning of the meeting. A later entry will not be accepted. Only monthly entries are eligible for awards.
7. Acceptability of fish entered in this contest is to be entirely within the discretion of the Tournament Committee or the Board of Directors.
8. In case of a tie, the first fish caught will win.
9. Signature of witness of release must accompany entry or release.
10. November and December entries must be submitted received by January 10.
11. Monthly prize money must be picked up within 3 months after being announced.
12. A person who enters fish into another fishing club is ineligible to enter fish into the PSWSFA monthly tournament.

### Angler of the Year Award

The Angler of the Year Award is designed to honor the fisherman who consistently submits qualifying entries. The Tournament Committee will recommend Angler of the Year candidates and the PSWSFA Board will make the final Angler of the Year determination.

### Angler of the Year Scoring System

- 2 points will be awarded for each species of fish entered for the monthly contest. The fish must meet the club's minimum length to qualify, including all release entries.
- 2 points will be awarded when an entry is accompanied by a copy of a State Fishing Tournament Citation.
- 2 points will be awarded for any fish that wins the monthly contest in each species.
- 6 points will be awarded for the 1st place annual award winner in each species.
- 4 points will be awarded for the 2nd place annual award winner in each species.
- 2 points will be awarded for the 3rd place annual award winner in each species.
- 5 points will be awarded for the 1st place winner of any PSWSFA tournament.
- 3 points will be awarded for the 2nd place winner of any PSWSFA tournament.
- 1 points will be awarded for the 3rd place winner of any PSWSFA tournament.
- 5 points will be awarded for any fish that becomes a new club or state record.

Anglers are limited to 3 fish per species.

Those fish with the highest point value will be entered in the Angler of the Year point system.

### Fish of the Year Award

The Tournament Committee will make Fish of the Year recommendations to the PSWSFA Board of Directors. If in the opinion of the Board of Directors, no fish is deemed worthy of Fish of the Year, no award will be made. Regardless of the method used to determine Fish of the Year, the decision of the PSWSFA Board of Directors will be final.

### Critter of the Year Award

Any unusual catch submitted by a club member will be eligible for award when approved by the PSWSFA Board of Directors.



# 2025 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

<p><b>Bishop's Trophy Red Drum Tournament</b>  <b>April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. June 10, 2025          See Rules below for Catch and Release fish totals. (Witness or photo)</p>	<p><b>Club Multiple Species Tournament</b>  <b>June 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>          Angler who catches the most saltwater species in a single day          Must Receive Completed Forms no later than the Board Mtg. July 8, 2025</p>
<p><b>Youth and Ladies Croaker/Spanish Mackerel Tournament</b>  <b>July 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          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 12, 2025</p>	<p><b>Sheepshead Tournament</b>  <b>July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>          Separate paid entry tournament. Details and rules to be announced.          Rules and fees listed below do not apply to this tournament.</p>
<p><b>Don Forman Club Cobia Tournament</b>  <b>sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply</b>  <b>August 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. Sept. 9, 2025. See Rules below for weight tournament</p>	<p><b>Club Spot Tournament</b>  <b>September 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at (Legasea Marine)          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. 19<sup>th</sup> if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the Tournament Director</p>
<p><b>Club Puppy Drum Tournament</b>  <b>October 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          Most number of Spots Wins (photos required)          Must Receive Completed Forms and copies of photos no later than the Board Mtg. Nov 11, 2025</p>	<p><b>Wilcox Bait and Tackle Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament</b>  <b>December 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>          Must Receive Completed Form no later than Jan. 13, 2025          See Rules below for weight tournament</p>

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO: MR. MILTON HUDGINS, 1894 KATIE LANE, HAYES, VA 23072 (e-mail: [judyqee03@gmail.com](mailto:judyqee03@gmail.com))



# Fishing Around the World



The Philippines has much to offer, especially regarding the variety and quantity of fish. In addition to the fantastic game fishing, the friendly, courteous people of the entire country are happy to be your guide.

Furthermore, communication is not a problem as most citizens can speak English.



Spanish Mackerel caught on a boat fishing charter off the coast of Siargao

## Top Fish to Catch in the Philippines

How diverse are the Philippines? Of the 34,300 fish species cataloged in FishBase, 3,125 can be found in the Philippines. That's the reason why the Philippines is listed in the top 10 countries with the largest variety of marine fish species.

## Offshore Fish in the Philippines

The Philippines is strategically located in the Pacific migration path of major pelagic fish. According to the UN-FAO, in 2019, the country's commercial fishing industry produced over one million metric tons of fish.

Don't get too concerned regarding the commercial fishing industry; there's a lot of fish in the country!

Offshore fishing and game fishing are not as popular as in other countries. When you arrive and go fishing, it's likely to be very easy to book a charter boat at a very reasonable price.

## These are the offshore fish you can expect to catch in the Philippines

Black marlin, Blue marlin, Broadbill swordfish, Sailfish, Striped marlin, Indian mackerel, Spanish mackerel, Dogtooth tuna, Mackerel tuna, Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna and Mahi. There are also numerous inshore fish available: Snapper, Trevally, Rabbitfish, and Grouper to name a few.

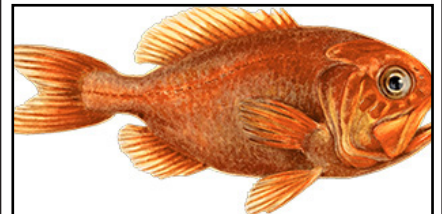
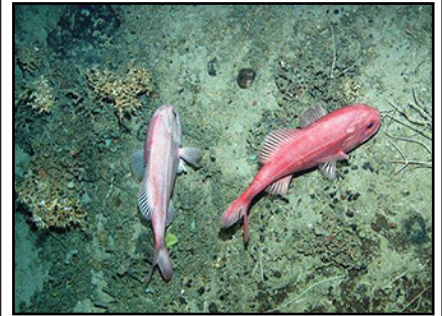
## Where to Fish

Mindanao is considered the country's fruit basket. But for us sport fishermen, Mindanao is synonymous with paradise, as its deep trenches are a part of the Pacific pelagic migration path.

Siargao Island is the Philippines' hot spot for surfing and big game fishing. In 2019, Siargao was voted the best island in the world by Conde Nast Traveler magazine readers! Game fishing competitions are held every August along the city's coastal waters.

## So you think you know your Fish

Name this Fish?





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



DISCOUNTS



MAGAZINE



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. A new Peninsula Baptist Church sign is on the lawn just short of the driveway.

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.

**Scan Link with your phone to Pay Dues. It costs a bit extra though.**



## WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



**1st Club Meeting - 18 March 2025**



**2nd Club Meeting 15 April 2025**

### NEW ADDRESS

PENINSULA SALT WATER SPORTS FISHERMAN'S ASSOC.  
P.O. Box 1056  
YORKTOWN VA 23692-2878

