



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.

Member Meeting
18 August 2025 7:00pm

Greetings and welcome to August.

Not much from me just that I'll be out of town trying for another Tiger Musky in upstate NY so I won't be at the August meeting.

Striped bass fishing at Fort Eustis has been pretty good but the number of sick fish with big red bloches and missing scales coming in is discouraging. At least 50% have the disease and who knows how many with internal damage. Hopefully when the weather cools off the fungus or bacteria or whatever it is, will turn off.

It was good to see Milton at the August Board meeting, I missed seeing him the last couple of months.

Mike Brian Lockwood (Jet-Ski Brian) will be speaking to the club at our August meeting. He'll be bringing his Ski as well. Don't miss this one.

Stay well,
Mike the Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

As I reported last month, club member Gary Lawson is continuing to deal with his serious health issues and will be going in for surgery in September. I ask that you keep him and all other members of the club dealing with their or a loved one's health issues in your thoughts and prayers.

Our sheepshead tournament was held on Saturday, July 19th. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who made this possible. Some t-shirts are still available for anyone who would like to purchase one.

July was a pretty hot month, and I believe the hot bay water and lack of forage fish certainly seems to have affected inshore fishing. Cobia fishing has been pretty tough for those sight casting and the sharks have made chumming very challenging. Last week's weather seems to have gotten the cobia moving back down

the bay and they are starting to show up around the buoys. The puppy drum bite is improving now that the water has cooled a little. Bull drum and big bluefish are plentiful off the ocean front and along the CBBT. Flounder fishing has been productive both in the bay and on the triangle wrecks. There have been some very nice king mackerel caught off the ocean front and out past the windmills. Nice Spanish mackerel have made a decent showing in the last week or so. Sheepshead can be found throughout the bay. Decent spots and croakers are starting to show with some of the spots over 10 inches. Speckled trout have been almost nonexistent. Hopefully with the shrimp arriving in the bay some of the North Carolina trout will be following them in.

Offshore tuna fishing was very good in mid to late July and there are still a decent number of them still out there.

Continued on page 3

2025p Club Officers

Stan Simmerman
President

Milton Hudgens
Vice President

Wally Veal
Secretary

Christina Grice
Treasurer

Danny Forehand
Past President

Board of Directors

Ronnie Wilson
Gary Donaldson
Rick Wineman
Charles Randolph
Mike Frielingsdorf
Richie Moore
Paul Downey
Nicole Ambercrombie
Johnny Boyd
Gerald Abrams (alt)
Rob Laymen



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

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:

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

Deep dropping has been producing some very nice tilefish. Mahi have shown up and there are some around the windmills.

Tuna, mahi and wahoo are being caught along the outer banks. The wahoo bite has been very good for this time of year out of Hatteras with some boats getting as many as 8 a day.

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 meeting.

Tight Lines,
Stan



2025 PSWSFA Irv Fenton Trophy Red Drum Tournament Sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply

The 2025 PSWSFA Irv Fenton Trophy Red Drum Tournament Sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply was held from April 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025. We had six club members participate and several entires.

1st Place – Nick Hite - 50" Red Drum caught off Cape Point in Buxton, NC (see additional info below) - \$48 from PSWSFA and a gift certificate and T-shirt from Bishop's Fishing Supply

2nd Place – David Brabrand - 49" Red Drum caught on 5/17 @ 12:45 pm - \$36 from PSWSFA

3rd Place – Chris Harris - 49" Red Drum caught on 5/17 @ 1:00 pm - \$20 from PSWSFA

Nick caught his red drum at night, in the surf using a spot head for bait. He was using a Penn Phantom 2 reel with 17lb line and a 1306 custom rod.

Thanks to John Bishop for his continued support of PSWSFA and our club tournaments.

Rick



Nick Hite and his winning 50" Red Drum



Nick Hite receiving his 1st place winnings at the July meeting for the biggest Red Drum from Rick Wineman

July Sheepshead Tournament Winners

1st Place: Team - Dave's Marine -
Capt. - Rudy Lavasseur -
Weight - 14.3 lbs



2nd Place: Team - Tighten Up
Capt Hunter Watson
Weight - 12.75 lbs



3rd Place: Team - Kurtz Marine
Capt - Blake Michael
Weight - 11.6 lbs



Biggest Oyster Toad
Team - Reel Nauti
Capt - Nick Kincaid
Weight - 3.44 lbs

Not 100% sure on pic



Virginia Junior Angler Awards Program

JUNIOR ANGLER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

(No P.O. Box Please)

Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

CATCH-AND-RELEASE INFORMATION

Species	Date	Witness
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Check one:
 Hat
 Utility Box

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 Lewis S. Gillingham
 Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
 Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road
 Ft. Monroe, VA 23651
 (757) 491-5160



Virginia Junior Angler Awards Program
 sponsored by
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
 a program of
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Rules

- All anglers 15 years of old, or younger, are eligible; the program will start January 1st and the 16th birthday of eligible anglers must not occur prior to this date. There no entry fees.
- To qualify for a Virginia Junior Angler Award, an angler must catch and release six different eligible species of saltwater fish on rod and reel, while fishing in the marine waters of Virginia or while fishing in the Chesapeake Bay or the Atlantic Ocean. If fishing from a boat the vessel must leave and return to a Virginia port. There are no minimum size limits.
- The angler must complete the reverse side of this card with all required information, including the name of the person who witnessed each catch-and-release, and mail it to the office of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road, Ft. Monroe, VA 23651, prior to December 31st. All anglers fulfilling these requirements will receive a certificate suitable for framing recognizing their accomplishments.

SOME ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Albacore (true)	Croaker	King Mackerel	Porgy	Skate/Stingray	Gray Trout
Amberjack	Dolphin	Spanish Mackerel	Sailfish	Spearfish	Speckled Trout
Atlantic Bonito	Black Drum	Blue Marlin	Sea Bass	Striped Bass	Bigeye Tuna
Barracuda	Red Drum	White Marlin	Shark	Swordfish	Bluefin Tuna
Bluefish	False Albacore	Perch	Sheepshead	Tarpon	Skipjack Tuna
Cobia	Flounder	Pigfish	Spadefish	Tautog	Yellowfin Tuna
Cod	Kingfish (roundhead)	Pompano	Spot	Toadfish	Wahoo

Experience the Newport International Boat Show This Fall



Boat show season kicks off September 11-14 in one of East Coast's most desirable boating locales. Set against the historic waterfront of downtown Newport, Rhode Island, the Newport International Boat Show is one of the largest and most prestigious boat shows in the Northeast. Spanning over 17 scenic acres, this iconic show features an impressive lineup of new sailboats and powerboats—some making their U.S. debut—plus a full brokerage basin.

On land, explore hundreds of marine products, gear, services, and accessories designed to enhance your boating lifestyle. Take part in hands-on boating workshops, in-water boating courses, educational classroom opportunities, and enjoy an elevated boat show experience with the Windward VIP Lounge.

Make it a full weekend—Newport in the fall is unmatched. With coastal charm, world-class dining, and boutique shopping just steps away, this is more than a boat show—it's a getaway.

Tickets are [on sale now](#) for the show. We'll see you there!

100th Chincoteague Pony Swim Sees Increased Security Presence, Says Captain of the Port

By Bay Bulletin / July 29, 2025

The Coast Guard holds the safety zone during the annual Chincoteague Pony Swim.
Photo by Nate Littlejohn, U.S. Coast Guard District 5



The Chincoteague Pony Swim and Auction is celebrating its 100th anniversary today, as spectators on land, on boats, and charter or kayak tours have ventured out in the very early morning hours to watch the historic swim.

On the eve of the swim, we spoke to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port about what it takes to keep the ponies safe, spectators on the water safe, and any possible security threats at Bay at this unique event.

Each year since 1925, the Saltwater Cowboys of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department herd the wild ponies from their grazing grounds on Assateague Island to swim across the channel to the Chincoteague shore. There, they are auctioned off to raise money for the upkeep of the herd.

The event has become so popular that the town of Chincoteague sees an influx of an estimated 50,000 spectators for the week of the Pony Swim. Insiders know that the best view is from the water, so people flock to the area in recreational boats, paddlecraft, and on charter sightseeing trips.

Captain Peggy M. Britton, Captain of the Port for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Virginia, says with favorable weather this year, several thousand people were expected to be on the water. Britton tells us that coordinating an on-water event like this is no small feat, and Coast Guard planning has been underway for seven months. Most recently, USCG helped launch the Saltwater Cowboys' barge and placed the safety zone buoys for the area where the ponies swim.

The Coast Guard has called upon Stations Chincoteague, Wachapreague, Little Creek, along with Portsmouth and the Aids to Navigation team stationed right in Chincoteague. At least seven Coast Guard vessels, ranging from 27 to 87 feet long, were dispatched to support the event's water safety, not to mention personal watercraft patrols by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Department of Wildlife Resources vessels, and other federal and local law enforcement. Britton said crews were due on deck at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning to get into place for Pony Swim day. The swim is traditionally run at slack tide, which was forecast for about 8:30 a.m. this year.

This collaborative law enforcement effort with other agencies may have been especially important for this year's big anniversary. In early April we reported that the Chincoteague mayor heard of a "credible" threat against the 100th Pony Swim, and extra security precautions were announced at that time. Coolers, umbrellas, and large bags were banned or limited and extra security screenings were added.

Continued on page 9

Britton says she has no credible reason to believe something would happen, but law enforcement has been working together proactively on a very visible presence “to deter any would-be bad actor.” She says USCG has been getting out in front of the event, working in close collaboration with Virginia police.

“The best possible scenario is that we’re there and absolutely nothing happens. It wouldn’t be prudent if we didn’t have an increased security presence,” she explains. Britton sings the praises of the cooperative efforts of the unified command for the event. “We have really strong local leadership that is willing to accept outside resources... and an entire community of public responders,” she says.



For her own part, Britton is excited to have led the Coast Guard efforts for the last ten years of the Pony Swim because, well, she’s a fan. “When I first came into this role in 2015 I was thrilled to discover that it’s one of the many on-water events we coordinate. For me personally it was extremely gratifying because as a girl I read Misty of Chincoteague.” Like many readers of the popular novel series, she’s captivated by the thought that some of the ponies swimming today are descendants of the lineage of Misty.

“There’s just something exhilarating about seeing this event,” she shares.

After the Coast Guard finishes holding the safety zone Wednesday, their presence will remain on the water for the rest of the week to ensure safe recreational boating during all of the festivities. You can the schedule for the rest of Pony Swim week here.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Forecasters from NOAA’s National Weather Service updated the number of expected named storms to 13-18 (with winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 5-9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater), including 2-5 major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater).

The adjusted ranges are for the entire season from June 1 though November 30, and are inclusive of the four named tropical storms that have already formed. In the Atlantic basin, a typical hurricane season will yield 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes and three become major hurricanes.

The likelihood of above-normal activity is 50%, a 35% chance of a near-normal season, and a 15% chance of a below-normal season. This updated prediction is similar to the initial outlook issued in May.

“NOAA stands ready to provide the forecasts and warnings that are vital for safeguarding lives, property, and communities,” said Acting NOAA Administrator Laura Grimm. “As we enter the second half of the season, this updated hurricane outlook serves as a call to action to prepare now, in advance, rather than delay until a warning is issued.”

<https://www.noaa.gov/> (I had to turn off my VPN to access the site)

Bull red drum have been a highlight around the first and second islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. A lot of boats have been targeting them, but weekdays are usually less crowded. Live croaker has been the hot bait, but boats locating them with livescope are having success with soft plastics when placing the bait into the drum school. Sheepshead fishing has been so-so recently. By this point in the year, they have been pressured a lot, but fiddler crabs are still catching fish at the CBBT pilings. Slack tide has been best, and covering a lot of pilings has been the key. If there are sheepshead where you are fishing, you should get bit quickly. A jet ski angler reported having an excellent day on the Bay this week despite windy conditions. They caught and released five cobia up to 41 inches, which is one of the better recreational cobia fishing reports we have seen lately. The cobia are around and anglers are spotting them on the surface but getting them to bite has been more challenging.

There has been a good weakfish bite for anglers bottom fishing and jigging near the Wise Point bridge and the Kiptopeke concrete ships. Fishbites will catch them along with croaker and spot. Jigging metal spoons or jigs also works very well for weakfish, and flounder tend to bite them too. The flounder have been caught near the concrete ships, around the islands of the CBBT, and in the coastal bays along the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Persistent NE winds have been plaguing the mouth of the Bay recently and Sea Hawk Sports Center reports that they have really cut down on opportunities both near and offshore. Even inside the inlets of the Virginia Barrier Islands, sheltered waters still offered immense challenges that were influenced by turbid water, high tides, and lots of grass to foul up your rigs. The steadfast and stubborn anglers who refused to surrender to the elements were able to boat a few flounder. Bluefish have been abundant at the CBBT, especially around the rocky islands. Casting artificial jigs or crankbaits has been working well near the third and fourth islands.





Aug 10th

August saltwater fishing is an electrifying time on the water! While some species begin to wind down for the season, others are just ramping up, making these weeks a true angler's paradise.

Flounder fans, rejoice! Jigging hard cover at the bridge tunnel is producing some quality fish. If you land several nice ones in a tight spot, switch things up and try live Spot—sometimes that's the ticket for truly monster Flounder. Spot are a must-have on board, appealing to nearly every big gamefish, and Croaker can also be a secret weapon for drawing in the giants.

If you're chasing Cobia, don't pack up your rods yet—the bite is still hot! These powerful fish might be starting their bay exit, but you'll find plenty prowling near channel buoys and around the legendary Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Local piers can surprise you with sudden flurries of Cobia action. And don't forget: jigging structures really heats up in September, offering prime chances to hook a trophy!

If you're searching for heart-pounding excitement, bull red drum are stealing the spotlight around the first and second islands of the Bridge Tunnel. Fleet after fleet of boats have been targeting these legendary fish, with live Croaker topping the list as the ultimate bait. Those with livescope are scoring by casting soft plastics right into the deeper schools. Red Drum are aggressive, smashing Spot and Croaker whether you're fishing on the bottom or sight-casting to surface schools. When schools surge along the surface, you'll witness epic feeding competition! Anchoring up for night fishing brings its own thrills, as both Red and Black Drum will pounce on fresh clam, crab, or cut mullet.

Calling all sheepshead fans! The bite keeps going strong into October, with many seasoned anglers swearing that September is the absolute peak. Target slack tide, work your way through the pilings, and be ready—if sheepshead are around, you'll know quickly!

Trout fishing is perking up as the rains subside, and a surge in salty water has these fish on the move. Fresh shrimp is your top bait, live ones, if you can net them. Topwater lures and popping corks are also irresistible, and you'll find Puppy Drum attacking rattle baits with gusto. Where there's Trout, there's Drum—scour those shallow grass flats and dock areas in rivers and inlets. Some favorite hot spots include Mobjack Bay, the Piankatank River, Lynnhaven Inlet, and Rudee Inlet.

For those seeking reliable action, Bluefish and Spanish Mackerel are always ready to strike, even when other bites slow down. The oceanfront, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel delivers keepers in impressive numbers, as do Hampton Bar, York Spit, and Windmill Bar. Bluefish aren't just fun to catch—they make excellent cut bait for Flounder, Cobia, and anything lurking along the bottom.

And keep your eyes peeled—the Spot run is about to ignite!

Offshore, the excitement builds even higher. White Marlin, Blue Marlin, Mahi, and Tuna are thrilling anglers with some jaw-dropping catches, especially during the unforgettable White Marlin Open out of Ocean City, Maryland. The WMO wraps up on Sunday, and we'll report results in our next report. Soon Virginia Beach will take center stage with Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament, August 20-23.

Lower, Upper Bay Underwater Grasses Flourish as Mid-Bay Grasses Decline

By Karl Blankenship, Bay Journal News Service / August 5, 2025



Wild celery and other bay grasses grow in the Susquehanna Flats south of Havre de Grace, MD. +Photo by Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program

Underwater grasses continued to mount a comeback in the lower Chesapeake Bay last year, while a steady recovery also continued in upper portions of the Bay. Areas in between were a different story, as declines in the mid-section of the Chesapeake more than offset improvements elsewhere.

Overall, data from the 2024 aerial survey showed a mixed bag of results, with the Baywide acreage of underwater meadows—one of the Chesapeake’s most critical habitats—decreasing by about 1% but with diverse trends in different areas.

“This year really shows just how dynamic the system is, that we can have two very different trends emerge in different areas,” said Chris Patrick, a researcher with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science who oversees the annual aerial survey of grass beds.

Last year saw more underwater grasses in the high salinity waters of the lower Bay than had been observed since the survey began four decades ago. The Susquehanna Flats in the upper Bay also saw significant expansion. But the mid-Bay saw large losses, especially along the Eastern Shore.

Altogether, the 2024 survey found 82,778 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation, or SAV, down from 83,419 acres in 2023. That is well below the Chesapeake Bay Program goal of 185,000 acres, though it is significantly more than the 38,227 acres observed in 1984 when the survey began.

Underwater grass beds provide an important refuge for juvenile blue crabs and fish, as well as food for waterfowl. Plus, they pump oxygen into the water, their roots help stabilize sediment and their leaves buffer wave action. They are also a closely watched indicator of Bay health because the plants require clear water to get the sunlight needed to survive.

Continued on page 13

But grass beds are not the same throughout the Chesapeake. Beds in different areas consist of different species based on the salinities of the water, and they can be impacted by local factors as opposed to Baywide conditions.

That might have been at play last year in the mid-Bay where higher than normal spring river flows shifted sharply to lower than normal summer flows, potentially contributing to Eastern Shore losses, said Brooke Landry, a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and chair of the state-federal Bay Program's SAV Workgroup.

The best news was in the high salinity, or polyhaline, portion of the Bay, which stretches south from the Rappahannock River and Tangier Island to the mouth of the Bay. The survey found 24,800 acres of grass in that area, a 14% increase from 2023 and the most recorded since the survey began.

It's especially good news because the area is dominated by eelgrass, a species that is especially sensitive to warming temperatures and poor water quality and has suffered repeated setbacks over the years. As Bay temperatures have increased, polyhaline SAV coverage declined to just 11,975 acres in 2019. Patrick said the comeback was driven in part by better water clarity, which means the plants get more light and allows eelgrass to move into deeper waters — sometimes as deep as 9 feet.

Last year saw notable increases in Mobjack Bay, Poquoson Flats and nearby Western Shore areas. "It certainly looks like this is tied to improving water clarity. I mean, anecdotally, the water looks clear to me out there," Patrick said.

The tidal fresh zone of the upper Bay and upper portions of its tidal tributaries saw a 2% increase from last year, including 10,925 acres in the Susquehanna Flats that accounts for more than half of all SAV in tidal fresh waters. Other tidal fresh zone improvements were noted in Maryland's Northeast River on the upper Eastern Shore and in Piscataway Creek off the Potomac River.

Low-salinity areas in and near Maryland's Gunpowder and Middle rivers bounced back from recent declines with a 46% increase. Other areas with increases included the Elk, Sassafras, Bush, and Back rivers in Maryland; the middle Potomac; and the middle Rappahannock in Virginia.

The mid-range salinity zone, which runs from near Baltimore to the Rappahannock and Tangier Island, has the largest amount of potential SAV habitat in the Bay. It suffered a 14% decline, with most of the larger losses on the Eastern Shore. The mid-range salinity area is dominated by widgeon grass, which is notorious for rapid changes linked to water quality.

Patrick points to heavy spring rains that likely washed more nutrients into the Choptank and other rivers, reducing water clarity. Landry added that the near-drought summer conditions that came after the spring rains may have contributed to losses. "While widgeon grass does have a really broad salinity tolerance, it doesn't respond well to rapid changes in salinity particularly when stressed by water quality," she said.

To read this story in its entirety, visit bayjournal.com.

Best Practices for Tarpon Catch & Release

Hooks:

- When using live bait, use circle hooks- these usually catch the mouth of the fish, rarely deep in the throat or belly like J-hooks.
- For deep-set hooks, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Tarpon can evict hooks over time.



Fight Time:

- Use tackle that matches the fish and conditions, and keep fight time short! Fight times over 30 – 40 minutes on adult tarpon will exhaust the fish and leave it vulnerable to predators. Fight times should be even shorter for smaller tarpon.

Predators:

- Tired fish are more vulnerable to predators like sharks. Avoid fishing in areas with high numbers of predators, and consider moving to another fishing location if predators are attracted by your activity. If you are fighting a tarpon when a shark appears, cut or break the line so the fish has a chance to escape.

Other Tips:

- Don't use a gaff; instead, carefully secure the fish in the water boat-side by hand or with a sling.
- Weight can be calculated using length and girth – use the calculator at BTT.org/Tarpon-Weight-Calculator.
- Minimize handling of the fish, avoid removing the fish's slime layer. The slime layer provides protection against bacteria and disease.
- Tired fish? Hold the tarpon upright until it recovers. If necessary, move the tarpon slowly forward to move water in the mouth and out of the gills from front to back. Wait until the fish can swim upright on its own before release, and shorten your fight time on the next fish.
- If the fish is larger than 40" or 1m fork length, do not remove it from the water. Take photos with the fish in the water, and keep boat-side time short.
- For smaller fish, in-water photos are still best. If the fish is removed from the water, minimize exposure of the fish to air. If the fish is not still dripping in the photo, it has been out of the water too long. Get the camera ready, and the photo set up before removing the fish from the water for the photo.



Learn More: BTT.org/Tarpon-Handling





The July Mystery Fish The Blue Grenadier

The Chief of Fisheries Management at VMRC, Pat Gear is retiring. His Bio is below. Best of luck Pat and happy retirement.

Pat was named Chief of Fisheries Management on September 16, 2019. Before that he served as the Division's Deputy Chief since April 2018. Prior to joining the VMRC staff, he worked 16 years for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, the past eight as their Chief of Marine Fisheries. Pat started his career at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science where he was a marine scientist and principal investigator on several projects including the Juvenile Fish and Blue Crab Trawl Survey.

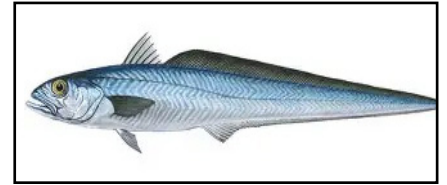
He is responsible for managing the state's recreational and commercial saltwater fisheries. His division sets the size, season and creel limits for a variety of saltwater species and creates management plans to achieve and maintain sustainable fisheries, working closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

His division also manages fisheries-related data, an extensive artificial reef system, water access projects, the Marine Recreational Informational Program (MRIP), fish ageing lab, the popular Saltwater Fishing Tournament, and a number of research and monitoring surveys. Pat has held a number of roles with various interjurisdictional organizations. He has served as an ASMFC commissioner or proxy for the past 15 years, has been the state designee to the MAFMC, serves on the Executive Committee of NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team, and chairs their Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee.

Pat earned a degree in Biology with a Marine Science Minor from SUNY Oswego, and a Master's Degree in Biological Oceanography at Old Dominion University.

He lives on the Peninsula with his wife and has two adult children. He is an avid kayak angler and enjoys woodworking.

Pat's last day in the office will be 15 August.



The blue grenadier (also known as hoki, blue hake, New Zealand whiptail, or whiptail hake, *Macrurus novaezelandiae*) is a gadiform fish of the family Macruridae found around southern Australia and New Zealand, as well as off both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America from Peru to Brazil[1] at depths of between 10 and 1,000 m (33 and 3,300 ft).

It feeds in midwater on small squids, crustaceans, and fish. Its length is between 60 and 120 cm (24 and 47 in). It is a slender, silvery fish similar in appearance to the gemfish. The meat of the fish is white and almost always sold in fillets; culinarily it is considered a whitefish.

The blue grenadier is the subject of a large commercial fishery industry in New Zealand, which has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as well-managed and sustainable in March 2001.

In 2010, Greenpeace International added the blue grenadier (hoki) to its seafood red list.[9] The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest & Bird) assigns hoki an E grade (red - avoid). Both organisations state damage to the sea floor due to bottom trawling and bycatch of species such as New Zealand fur seals, albatrosses, petrels and basking sharks as the primary reasons for the ratings



Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Last Revised
May 2025



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

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: 43 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
- Season: June 15 - September 20
- 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

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



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: May 15-July 15, Aug 5-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,

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 these sponsors for supporting our
2025 Sheepshead Tournament



PSWSFA SPONSORS

PSWSFA would like to thank our other sponsors for their support



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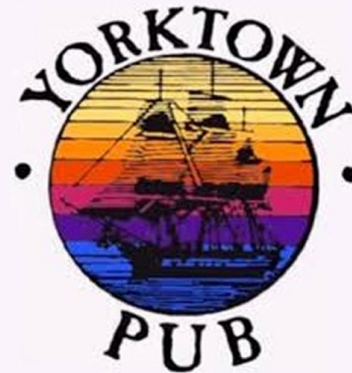


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FISH TALES



Wally fighting a shark deep dropping



Stan and 51" Wahoo



A fish and a half and a coulda been citation



Wally did catch a keeper



Dave Brabrand and a nice Drum



Rick with dinner



Another nice Drum

Monthly Tournament List May 2025

Yellow Fin Tuna
Chris Baker 41"

Spadefish
Chris Baker 21"

Sheepshead
Chris Baker 18"

Bluefish
Chris Baker 26"

Striped Bass
John Michael Simmerman 38"

Bluefish
Morgan Simmerman 36"

Channel Bass
Nick Hite 50"

Sailfish
Nick Hite 61"

Red Drum
Wally Veal 52"

Sheepshead
Stan Simmerman 24.25"

Spadefish
Nick Hite 19.5"

Yellow Fin
Danny Taylor 43.5"

Bluefish
Nick Hite 29.25"

Cobia
Chris Harris 54"

JUNE 2025

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

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

Bring your entries to Milton at our monthly meeting by 7:00 pm or send an email or snail mail to the address' on the left (Yellow Box). Please direct any questions to Milton.

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

Deadline for turning in your 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



- Four Ways to Turn in your Forms:
- Hand deliver to monthly meetings or Board Meeting
 - 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 or 757-268-1539

<p>Bishop's Trophy Red Drum Tournament April 1st – May 31st, 2025 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>Club Multiple Species Tournament June 1st – 30th, 2025 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>Youth and Ladies Croaker/Spanish Mackerel Tournament July 1st -31st, 2025 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>Sheepshead Tournament July 19th, 2025 Separate paid entry tournament. Details and rules to be announced. Rules and fees listed below do not apply to this tournament.</p>
<p>Don Forman Club Cobia Tournament sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply August 1st -31st, 2025 Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. Sept. 9, 2025. See Rules below for weight tournament</p>	<p>Club Spot Tournament September 20th – 21st, 2025 Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 21st at (Legasea Marine) All entries will be weighed using the same club scale followed by the Annual Club Picnic Spot Tournament - Two categories with 1st – 3rd place winners: "ADULT ENTRIES" and "YOUTH ENTRIES" (Anglers for the Spot Tournament must be present to win) RSVP by Sept. 19th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the Tournament Director</p>
<p>Club Puppy Drum Tournament October 1st – 31st, 2025 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>Wilcox Bait and Tackle Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament December 1st -31st, 2025 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)



Fishing Around the World



Fishing in Raoued Tunisia

Discover the vibrant fishing opportunities in Raoued, Tunisia, where the Mediterranean Sea's teeming waters offer unforgettable angling adventures. Nestled just north of Tunis, this coastal gem provides access to diverse species including Seabream, Mackerel, Mahi Mahi, and Skipjack Tuna, all thriving in these nutrient-rich currents. Local captains leverage generations of knowledge to guide you toward prime fishing grounds, ensuring an authentic and rewarding experience.

Raoued's unique ecosystem faces challenges like invasive blue crabs and shifting marine populations due to climate change, yet sustainable practices championed by local fishers help preserve its bounty. Anglers here often employ small-scale methods like traditional nets, prioritizing ecological balance while targeting species such as Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, Gilt-head Bream, and Dentex. The golden beaches of Plateau Raoued-Gammarth offer a serene backdrop, perfect for unwinding after a day on the water.

Charter experiences in Raoued blend expert guidance with cultural immersion, allowing you to explore techniques adapted to evolving marine dynamics. Whether trolling for fast-paced action or bottom fishing for elusive species, Raoued fishing charters deliver both excitement and tranquility against Tunisia's stunning coastline.



So you think you know
your Fish

Name this Fish?





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For the PSWSFA Coop group #

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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



Meeting 19 August 2025



Meeting 16 September 2025

NEW ADDRESS

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

