

CHUMLINE

OCTOBER 2025

Supporting Hampton Roads Fisherman since 1957



PENINSULA
Salt Water
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Fisherman's
Association

Isle of Skye Scotland

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

21 October 2025 7:00pm

Greetings and welcome to October

So sorry I had to miss the September board and members meetings but I was having too much fun touring Ireland and Northern Scotland. Just wish I had more time to look around some more.

I only saw 2 people fishing. One was fly fishing in Ireland and the other was saltwater fishing on the Isle of Skye on some rather sketchy rocks. Pic on page 20.

Fishing for me has been terrible with nothing to show for trying. No bass, trout or drum. I finally caught a Striper on a small live spot on the 17th. There is absolutely nothing hitting artificials at Fort Eustis except small white perch and then only rarely.

Stay well,
Mike the Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

Welcome to October. The chill is in the air and the water is cooling. With the cooling water temps fish patterns are changing. Cobia have pretty much moved out. Flounder are still available and in decent numbers. Sheepshead are still here and there are also some nice triggerfish to be found. Tog are available over the tubes and on the wrecks. There are still some big reds around and a good number of puppy drum. Black drum have been around the MMBT and so are some rockfish. There are some specks starting to show up in the usual haunts but certainly not in the numbers we saw over the past five years. There have been some nice size spots being caught with some over the one pound citation size. Croakers are a little bigger than the past few years with some of them also over a pound. Bluefish are also around with

some being in the 10lb range. Seabass have been plentiful on the nearshore and offshore structure with several over the 5lb range being caught.

Swordfish are available offshore along with blueline and golden tilefish.

Tuna, mahi and wahoo are being caught along the outer banks. The wahoo bite has been very good out of Hatteras with some boats getting as many as 8 a day. The wahoo fishing should continue to improve.

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

2025p Club Officers

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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: _____

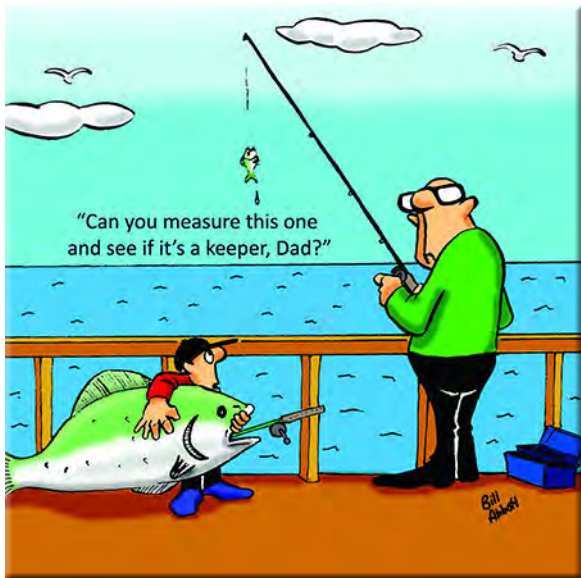
Send this form with a check (payable to PSWSFA) to:

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



“ Without a doubt, if a person is interested in how stocks are managed, this is the best way to get that information. ”

“ An excellent program that should be considered by anyone whose livelihood comes from the ocean... truly one of a kind. ”



Marine Resource Education Program

By fishermen, for fishermen, the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) offers a neutral look into regional fishery science and management. MREP's Greater Atlantic workshop is tailored to the area. It brings commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen from North Carolina to Maine together with regional scientists and managers to learn the processes, share insights, and network. This workshop will equip you with tools to engage in the management process and participate in collaborative science. If interested, apply to the 2026 MREP Greater Atlantic workshop.

Space is limited, and preference will be given to applications received by **November 10, 2025**. Accepted participants will be notified by phone and email by late November 2025. Attending the workshop is free for anyone who fishes or works in associated fishing industries. MREP reimburses travel costs and pays for hotel lodging and meals for accepted participants.

For more information about MREP, please contact:

- **Hank Soule**, Groundfish Sector Manager, (603) 781-9718
- **Rick Bellavance**, Charter Captain, (401) 741-5648
- **Robert Ruhle**, MAFMC, NC Rep., (252) 305-0960

General questions about the program should be directed to Sophie Swetz at sswet@gmri.org or (207) 772-2321 ext. 8104. For FAQ, please visit us at mrep.gmri.org.

2026 MREP Greater Atlantic Fisheries Science & Management Workshop

January 12 - 16, 2026

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Apply today!
Scan the QR code or visit:
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**Gulf of Maine
Research Institute**

2025 PSWSFA COBIA TOURNAMENT

The 2025 PSWSFA Irv Fenton PSWSFA Club Cobia Tournament sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply ran from August 1st - 31st, 2025. This was a weight tournament and we had four club participants.

Nick Hite had the winning entry with a 42lb / 47" Cobia. Nick wins a check from PSWSFA for \$40 and a gift certificate to Bishop Fishing Supply. Thanks to John Bishop for his continued support of the club's annual tournaments.



NEWS FROM VIMS



End of Summer Update



As fall begins, we've already had 8,296 fishes tagged this year, with summer flounder leading as the top-tagged species so far (2,080 tags)! Keep up the great work!

The 2024 VGFTP Annual Report was released in June, and can be found online here:
<https://doi.org/10.25773/bt1h-8108>



We've been recognizing your achievements in a new way through a quarterly raffle drawing. Anyone who has tagged and entered/submitted their data within 10 days after the end of each quarter, will automatically be entered for a random drawing of a waterproof fishing backpack for that quarter. Our quarterly drawing winners for April-June 2025 were Kevin and Zach Crum! Make sure you continue to turn in your data on time so you can be eligible for our next drawing!



THINGS TO REMEMBER:

We're on social media! Please like & follow us!

VGFTP Facebook page

www.facebook.com/vagamefishtagging/

Email pictures of your tagged, well-handled fish (no fingers in gills or mouth, fish should be held horizontally, etc.) to: susanna@vims.edu. We'd love to get to 1k likes this year!



As our tagging season continues, make sure to turn in (or enter) your data within 2 weeks of using your tags. Late data interferes with the accuracy of the annual reports and any subsequent recaptures of tagged fish. Timely data submittal ensures the integrity of the program.

New Study Finds Osprey Breeding Struggles Worsened Throughout the Bay in 2025

By Bay Bulletin / October 7, 2025

Recently, much has been written—and debated—about the decline of successful osprey breeding in the Chesapeake Bay. An eye-opening study of the osprey population in Virginia’s Mobjack Bay back in 2023 first sounded the alarm on osprey nest failures and the possible shortage of available prey (primarily menhaden) for the raptors to feed their chicks. The study area focused on one part of the Bay, so some criticized that it wasn’t representative of the entire Chesapeake.



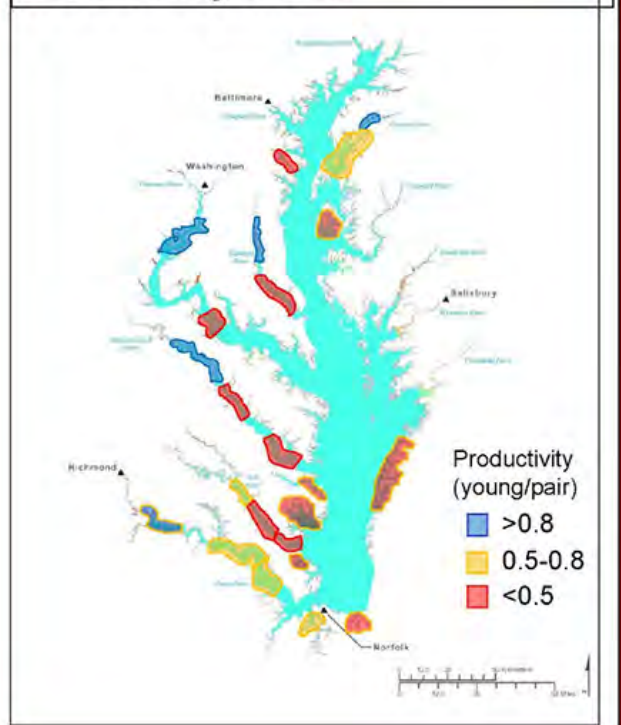
Since then, the Center for Conservation Biology at William & Mary (CCB) has been expanding its tracking of osprey nests around the Bay, relying on partner groups to observe the nests in far reaches of the watershed. In 2024, the results were grim. CCB found that in several high-salinity areas of the lower Chesapeake—Mobjack Bay (Ware River, North River, and East River), the lower York River, and the Lynnhaven River—only 17 out of 167 nests were successful. A total of 21 osprey chicks survived that year. Osprey pairs in relatively fresh water (where osprey feed on mostly gizzard shad and catfish, versus menhaden in the saltier tributaries) fared better.

CCB’s 2025 breeding study includes 1,025 osprey pairs in 23 different study areas around the Chesapeake Bay, nearly double the number they studied last year. The areas range from tidal-fresh waters to salty ocean-strength waters at the mouth of the Bay. The osprey pairs were tracked throughout nesting season (March through August) to see how many chicks they produced, and whether they survived. While the freshwater osprey pairs continue to have healthier breeding results than the high-salinity pairs, all areas saw less nest productivity than last year.

In the saltiest waters, those above 18 parts per thousand, productivity averaged out to only 0.25 chicks per osprey pair. To keep a population stable, the breeding performance needs to be at least an average of 0.8 young per pair. 18 study areas fell below this stable-population threshold. Many pairs failed to produce any young at all in 2025.

CCB says that researchers visiting the nests observed the largest contributing factor appeared to be the loss of young likely due to starvation. Broods with only one chick, loss of young, and nest failure are all indicators of food stress, the scientists say. CCB notes in its study results, “The osprey breeding performance documented in higher salinity waters in 2025 is not high enough to sustain the osprey population in the Bay.” The most concerning detail is that a larger section of the Bay is being affected than the previous

2025 Study Areas



Continued on page 7

research showed. The area of the osprey chick deficit includes more than 80% of the surface waters of the tidal Chesapeake.

Is the overall osprey population about to plummet, based on these reproduction numbers? Do the signs of starvation indicate there is a menhaden shortage? These are questions that will be posed at an upcoming panel discussion put on by Eastern Shore-based lifelong learning organization Chesapeake Forum. The event, titled *Our Disappearing Osprey*, brings together experts on the issue, including osprey scientist Greg Kearns, who gathered some of the data in the 2025 survey; Chesapeake Legal Alliance Executive Director David Reed, who advocates to protect the Bay's forage fish population; and Will Poston from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), which has been calling for further study on the menhaden fishery inside the Bay.



Poston says in response to the CCB study, “Alarm bells are still ringing up and down the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, 2025 was another year during which scientists saw osprey chicks starving in nests along the saltier waters where they traditionally depend on menhaden for food... The Chesapeake Bay is changing, and the science remains woefully inadequate.”

The Bay Foundation goes a step further, calling for a pause to menhaden fishing in the Bay until science shows whether the forage fishery is sustainable. They ask Atlantic Coast fishery managers to “heed the results” of recent stock assessments as they manage catch limits.

The menhaden fishing industry disputes CBF’s interpretation of the CCB study findings. In a statement, purse-seine fishing operators Ocean Harvesters write, “As Virginians, we share the public concern about the poor 2025 osprey breeding results reported by the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB).”

Their primary argument is that the nesting failures and starvation happen soon after hatching begins in April or early May, before Ocean Harvesters begins fishing in the Bay. They point to a CCB observation that reads, “Most young that starve in the nest die within the first two weeks after hatching.” Ocean Harvesters point out, “CCB records pairs arriving late February and early March; many never laid eggs at all, events that obviously recede any fishing and indicate that birds may not return to the area in good health.”

CCB acknowledges that food availability in the Bay is not the only factor causing osprey breeding to struggle. The study finds that weather events, like high winds and extended rains damaging nests, also played a role. They cite an example in the upper James River study area, where osprey pairs make their nests on floating buoy markers. Winds there were unusually high, tilting the buoys enough to pitch active nests into the water.

The lecture *Our Disappearing Osprey* will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Avalon Theater in Easton, Maryland. Chesapeake Forum is holding the event to give the public a bigger-picture look at where ospreys stand in the Bay, rather than just an anecdotal look at what they may see from the dock.

They also hope to give people an opportunity to take action, rather than just walking away from the lecture shaking their heads.

You can read more details of the 2025 [Center for Conservation Biology Study here](#). Editor’s note: this link does include images of failed nests and deceased birds.

Scientists Need Your Help as Stone Crabs Expand to Virginia

By Meg Walburn Viviano

Stone crabs are to Florida what blue crabs are to the Chesapeake Bay. 99 percent of them are caught in the Sunshine State, and their claws are ubiquitous on restaurant menus. But stone crabs may be closer than you think, if a recent trend in Virginia continues.

For the first time on record, watermen have caught stone crabs in the Chesapeake. Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is spreading the word about this phenomenon in hopes of learning more about the crab's expanding range.

VIMS Professor Rom Lipcius tells us he has in his possession four stone crabs that were all caught at different times off Willoughby Spit in Norfolk. Since then, he has received reports from other locations in the lower Chesapeake Bay, in Rudee Inlet, and on the seaside of Virginia. Until recently, North Carolina was the farthest north that stone crabs were usually seen.

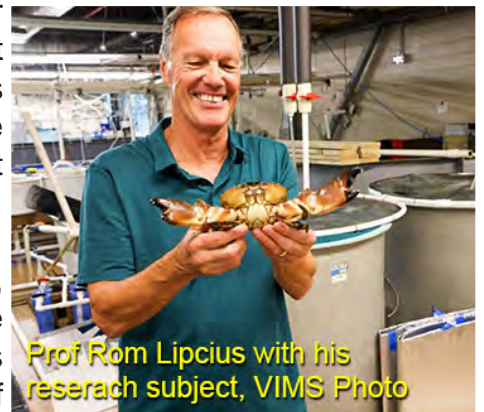
Lipcius is gathering information, and even collecting live crabs, for a scientific publication documenting and analyzing the stone crabs as they colonize the Chesapeake Bay. He's asking crabbers (both commercial and recreational) to document any findings of stone crabs in the Bay. "If you observe or legally catch a stone crab in Virginia waters, please email Rom at rom@vims.edu with information," VIMS instructs.

To document a crab you may spot, you'll need to capture photos or the live crab itself with a report of harvest location and date information. This is important because Lipcius and his team is trying to validate which exact stone crab species is appearing in Virginia: the Florida stone crab or the Gulf stone crab. So far, Lipcius believes it is the Florida stone crab. He hopes to get funding for genetic testing of the crabs. Lipcius is also working on a map of documented observations that would be available to see online.

Unlike so many invasive species that pop up in the Bay, the stone crab is not invasive, it's just migrating further north as warmer water opens new habitat. VIMS hopes to learn whether the stone crab is actually reproducing in the Bay, but so far it looks like the crab larvae are floating into the Bay



Stone crabs, a Florida delicacy, are popping up in Virginia watermen's crab pots. VIMS photo



Prof Rom Lipcius with his research subject, VIMS Photo

Continued on page 9

from waters further south, and then surviving and growing inside the Bay. The researcher doesn't believe there will be a major impact on the food web because stone crabs and blue crabs already coexist in many of the same areas, eating similar prey.

Lipcius believes the arrival of stone crabs in our Bay may be beneficial since it adds another fishery resource for crabbers. And unlike blue crabs, watermen can harvest the stone crab without killing it. The powerful claws are the only part harvested, because that's where most of the meat is. (The claws account for more than half of the crab's total weight.) So in Florida, watermen usually harvest the larger claw, then release the crab back into the water where it can regenerate a new claw.

The only possible concern he voices: When a stone crab is caught in a blue crab trap, how will it affect the catch of blue crabs? That remains to be seen.

If you're hoping to catch some stone crab claw for dinner, you may be wondering whether it's legal to harvest them in Virginia. For now, they fall under blue crab regulations. Setting crab traps requires a license with the exception of waterfront homeowners, who may set two traps off their shoreline or dock.

For those who are keeping an eye out for stone crabs to report to scientists, VIMS points out that juvenile mud crabs can often be mistaken for stone crabs. When looking for stone crabs, check for a larger body size (up to 6.5" across, compared to 2.5" mud crabs), pale horizontal stripes on the legs, and prominent black tips on the claws.



This comparison shows the differences between juvenile mud crabs and stone crabs. Image by Benji Beluga on iNaturalist courtesy of VIMS.



Better numbers of slot reds have been making a showing up and down the ESVA in recent days, with scattered reports from Craddock Neck down to Old Plantation Creek. One reader noted that a gold Johnson spoon fooled the fish into biting. We also heard reports that the slot reds are feeding in the shallows in the marshes near Fisherman's Island on the lower Eastern Shore. The red drum action has also been consistent at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The reds are staging around the bridge islands and pilings as they get ready to make their migration south for the colder months. One boat fishing the bridge pilings this week caught several redfish, ranging from slot sized fish up to trophy sized. Artificial lures and live croaker worked to get bites. Sheepshead are also still hanging out around the bridge pilings. The water temperatures are cooling down, and the bite has been very good. If you are in an area with sheepshead, they should hit your bait fairly quickly. Anglers are catching them at the CBBT, Lesner Bridge, Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, and at several reef sites in the Bay. Tautog are also showing up more at inshore structure including the islands of the CBBT.



Three of our main inshore species - rockfish, red drum, and speckled trout, have been very active in the shallows. There is an abundance of baitfish and shrimp that they are trying to fill themselves with to build up their body reserves before the colder months. A few hotspots have been the lower James River, Elizabeth River, Lynnhaven Inlet, and Rudee Inlet. One angler fishing on the James reported that the striped bass have been abundant on shoreline docks. Trout, red drum, and the occasional flounder have also made appearances, but the stripers seem to be thick right now. This is good news for Virginia anglers as the striped bass season is open. Anglers may keep one fish per person between 19" and 24". Another angler fishing an unspecified grass flat said that the specks were abundant, but on the small side during their trip this week. Most of his fish were between 12" and 14", with several fish short striking his lures.

17 October Report

The wind machine was ramped up last weekend as a Nor'easter moved up the coast. It brought rain and strong winds, essentially making much of the Way South waters unfishable. Needless to say, our reports from this region were slim this week. Striped bass are being caught in the Norfolk and Virginia Beach tributaries this week. One angler checked in after fishing a few nights and said that the stripers were hanging around docks with lights. He caught fish up to 33" and several slot sized fish. Specks were in the mix too. Anglers looking to catch some stripers should spend some time fishing the lower James River and the Elizabeth River. Anglers fishing right around Norfolk are having good luck catching speckled trout, red drum, and striped bass. There is a lot of industrial and shipping infrastructure in the area, so many areas of the river are deep. This makes it a great location for fish to spend the fall and overwinter. Anglers should have plenty of opportunities for inshore species throughout the rest of the year in the area.



Sheepsheads can still be caught at several bridge structures in the southern Chesapeake Bay.

There are still some sheepsheads hanging around the CBBT and other bridges in the southern Chesapeake Bay. They won't be around much longer, and the latest cold front may start to push these fish south. Red drum, both bulls and slot sized fish, are also schooling around the CBBT islands and pilings. Anglers fishing with croaker, spot, and crab are having luck with fish finder rigs. Light tackle anglers are also catching some with the help of good marine electronics. Anglers fishing at the Virginia Beach fishing pier had to take a few days off because of the rough surf, but things should have calmed down by now. Before the blow, they were catching a mix of spot, croaker, pompano, speckled trout, bluefish, flounder, and even a few sharks. Most of these species have been on the smaller side, but the variety can make for a fun trip.

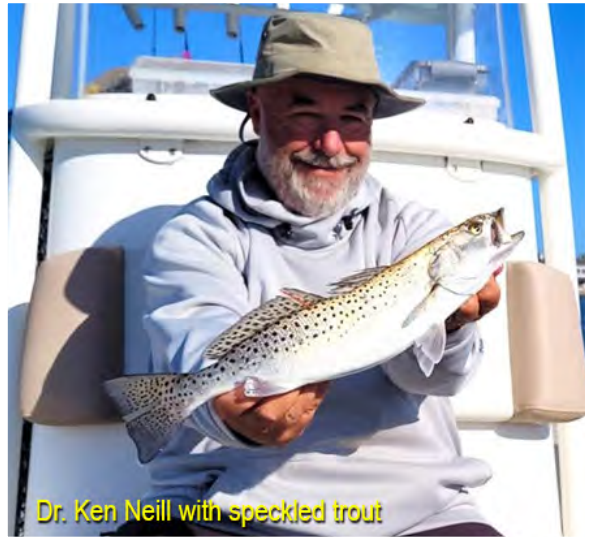


As we move into October, Virginia's saltwater fishing scene is buzzing with activity, thanks to dropping water temperatures in the low 60s to mid-70s that are oxygenating the waters and ramping up fish metabolism. This transitional fall period brings migratory patterns into play, with many species feeding aggressively before winter. Based on recent reports and seasonal trends, inshore action in the Bay and along the coast is strong, while offshore opportunities remain solid for pelagic species as well. Always check current regulations with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. And conditions can change quickly with weather, so plan carefully.

Speckled Trout

Seasonal habits in Virginia see speckled trout peaking in the fall from September to November, as they migrate into shallower bays, inlets, and creeks for feeding and spawning prep before heading south for winter. Activity is increasing greatly this month, with fish becoming more aggressive in cooler waters.

Good locations include Lynnhaven Inlet, Rudee Inlet, Eastern Shore bayside creeks, Mobjack Bay area (including the North, Ware, East, and Piankatank Rivers), Windmill Point, Gwynn's Island, and Poquoson Flats. Tributaries docks and piers are productive areas. Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle confirmed that numbers are increasing inside Lynnhaven. And Captain Todd Beck, Knot Wish'n Charters noted a nice uptick inside Rudee Inlet. Dr. Ken Neill enjoyed some good action on the Peninsula side. Most of the fish have been on the smaller side.



Dr. Ken Neill with speckled trout

In October, they're feeding heavily on crustaceans like peeler crabs and shrimp, as well as small baitfish such as spot and mullet. Best baits include live shrimp, peeler crab, or artificial lures like MirrOLures plugs, bucktails, and plastic tail jigs.

Red Drum

Red drum exhibit seasonal runs, with peaks from May to early June along the Eastern Shore and late June to early August near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT), but action remains hot into October as larger "bull" reds linger in coastal waters before migrating offshore or south.

Prime spots are along the Eastern Shore, including the shallow channel ledge from Fisherman's Island to north of Cape Charles (off Kiptopeake, Cabbage Patch, and buoys C-10 & C-12), middleground bars of Eastern Shore seaside inlets, the 2nd and 3rd Islands of the CBBT, and in the Sandbridge surf.

This month, they're feeding on crabs, shrimp, and schooling baitfish like mullet and menhaden, especially when the surf is churning. Use cut bait (mullet or menhaden), shrimp, crab, on fish finder rigs or artificial lures like spoons and soft plastics.

Bluefish

Bluefish are year-round residents in Virginia waters but show heightened activity from May to October, with schools migrating through coastal areas in fall as they chase bait south. They're readily available now, slashing at bait schools.

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Look for them in the Chesapeake Bay, coastal ocean waters, Eastern Shore barrier island surf, Virginia Beach, and Sandbridge surf. Windmill Bar has also been productive.

In October, bluefish are voraciously feeding on baitfish like menhaden, herring, mullet, and spot. Effective baits include cut bait, spoons, tube eels, metal squids, surface plugs, or small spoons and feather lures for smaller fish.

Spot

Spot follow a strong fall migration pattern, peaking in late September and October as they move through the Chesapeake Bay and coastal inlets in large runs before heading offshore to spawn.

Good catches are coming from many areas of the Chesapeake Bay, including tributary rivers, coastal ocean waters, inlets, docks, piers, shore, and surf—especially lower Bay and Virginia Beach areas.

They're bottom feeders in October, targeting bloodworms, small crustaceans, and clams. Bloodworms, peeler crab, and clam bits on bottom rigs work best.

Flounder

Flounder's seasonal habits in Virginia involve inshore migrations peaking from May to October, with larger fish often moving to deeper structures in fall before heading offshore for winter spawning.

The CBBT is a known hotspot for big flounder during September/October, along with Eastern Shore seaside inlets, lower Chesapeake Bay, Rudee Inlet, the Cell, and the eastern end of the "Cut" Channel in middle Chesapeake Bay. Bay reefs are also holding solid numbers.

In October, they're ambushing baitfish and crustaceans on the bottom, with live spot being particularly effective for the biggest catches. Other baits include live minnows, frozen minnows, fresh strip baits (bluefish, squid), or bucktails with strips.

Striped Bass

Striped bass, or rockfish, are year-round in Virginia but see major fall runs from October to December, with schools migrating down the coast and into the Bay for feeding binges—"Rocktober" is prime time as the bite picks up.

Bay rockfish season opens October 4th and runs through December, with a 1 fish per angler limit per day and a slot limit of 19-24 inches. Target all coastal inshore and Chesapeake Bay waters, including tidal tributaries, Eastern Shore bayside creeks, main Bay areas, and around the CBBT. Large fish concentrate off Virginia Capes and Assateague surf in late fall.

In October, they're feeding on baitfish like menhaden, eels, and crabs, as well as bloodworms. Use peeler crab, bloodworms, eels, cut bait, or artificials like spoons, plastic eels, bucktails, and plugs.

Shellfish Success: Bay Scallops Surge on Virginia's Eastern Shore

By Meg Walburn Viviano / October 14, 2025



Scallops, absent from Virginia's Eastern Shore since the 1930s, have made a major comeback. Photo courtesy of VIMS.

As Chesapeake Bay scientists track concerning downward trends among species like striped bass, osprey chicks, and blue crabs, here's one trend to be celebrated.

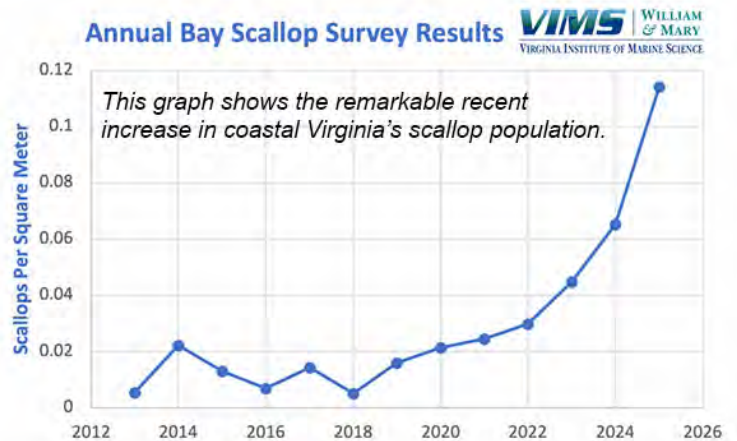
Bay scallops were wiped out by a disease that destroyed their baygrass habitat back in the 1930s, and remained extinct on Virginia's Eastern Shore for more than 90 years.

A new report shows that, thanks to decades of baygrass restoration efforts, bay scallops are back in a big way—so big that the state may

soon be able to consider allowing recreational fishing for scallops.

William & Mary's Batten School & VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory (ESL) released results of its most recent population survey, reporting an "unprecedented resurgence" of scallops multiplying exponentially in the restored eelgrass meadows of the Eastern Shore's southern coastal bays.

The VIMS ESL 2025 Bay Scallop Survey measured an average density of 0.114 scallops per square meter, and in many places, found multiple scallops within a single square meter. The researchers say that density would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. The population has now reached the density that Florida considers to be the minimum for a stable population. And based on current trends, VIMS scientists believe the Virginia population will double in the next year and a half.



Florida is one of three East Coast states where recreational scallop harvesting is allowed, and the way things are going, researchers say Virginia could be next.

"In New England, North Carolina and Florida, individuals with a fishing license can harvest scallops," explains VIMS ESL Assistant Director Stacy Krueger-Hadfield. "The next step for us is to review management and regulatory frameworks being used for harvest elsewhere and provide advice to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to establish rules for Virginia, so that we don't decimate the population we just restored." Currently, there is a moratorium on scallop fishing in the Commonwealth.

The restored population comes courtesy of an eelgrass restoration effort that began in 1997. Since a wasting disease decimated the scallop's natural habitat in the 1930s, the mollusk had been absent from Virginia's coastal bays. Then, Batten School & VIMS researchers launched a seed-based submerged

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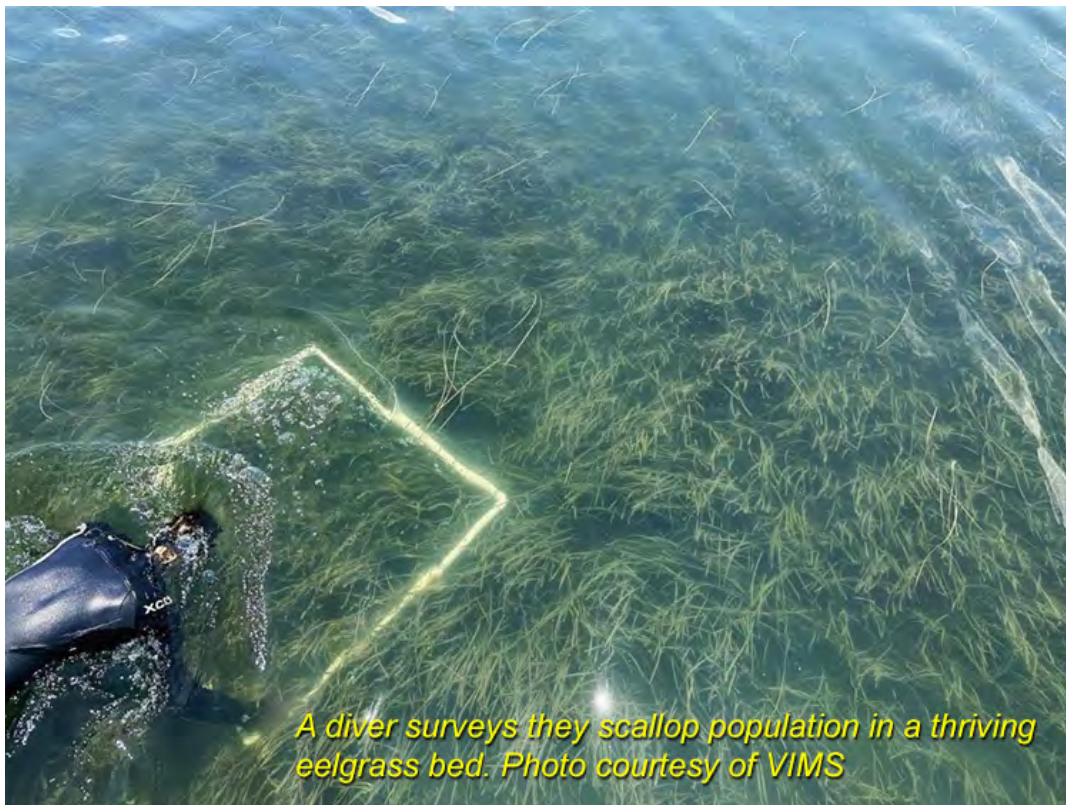
aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration project. Over the past three decades it has become the world's largest and most successful seagrass project of its kind.

As eelgrass began to thrive, scientists saw their chance to bring back bay scallops. Their efforts yielded only small results in early years, but the population has grown exponentially. The difference is stark even since five years ago, says Chris Patrick, director of the SAV Restoration and Monitoring Program. “My team on the 2020 scallop survey only found a few scallops here and there, this year we found handfuls most spots we checked. It’s amazing and the grass habitat has also continued to expand and change. In addition to scallops we continue to see many other species responding positively to the restoration.”

“The growth suggests scallops are doing well enough to sustain the population on their own, not just relying on what VIMS ESL puts out each year from spawn,” Krueger-Hadfield says. It’s a promising development that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission will be watching closely.

“It’s incredibly fulfilling to see this progress,” said Darian Kelley, a nursery manager at VIMS ESL who works closely with regional shellfish farmers. “The combined success of the seagrass and scallop restoration efforts is creating a more resilient and productive coastal ecosystem while potentially adding a new product to our state’s aquaculture industry.”

Learn more about the scallops population study results on the [Batten School & VIMS website](#).



A diver surveys the scallop population in a thriving eelgrass bed. Photo courtesy of VIMS



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- A Variety of Boats & Trailers
- Hot Food & Cold Refreshments
- Admission \$5 (Children 12 & Under Are Free)
- FREE PARKING

You are invited to visit or join the largest fishing Club in the area. Each month the club has a speaker to present an informative program on various local fishing topics. Check us out at www.fishgbfa.org

Or Visit facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation

- Monthly Newsletter • Annual Awards Banquet
- Fishing Tournaments (Boat & Surf) • Special Events such as Oyster Roasts & Picnics
- Philanthropic Events to Benefit Organizations such as Hope House and Wish-A-Fish
- High School Scholarship Awards Presented



September 29, 2025: Beginning 12:01 am October 7, 2025, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or land in Virginia any amount of Spanish mackerel in excess of 500 pounds from any vessel in any one day. This provision will be in place until March 1, 2026, when the Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Northern Zone reopens in federal waters. [[Notice](#)]

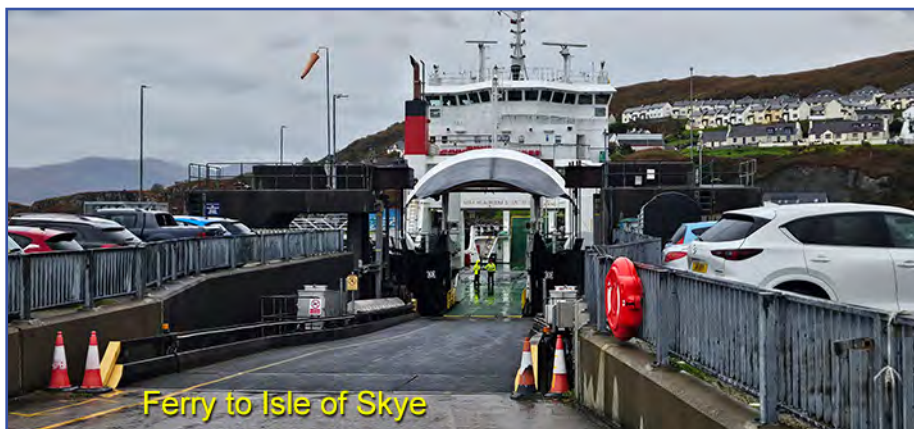
September 29, 2025: The National Marine Fisheries Service announced an adjustment to the 2025 Winter II commercial scup quota and per-trip Federal landing limit. The Winter II period will run from October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. During this period, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess aboard any vessel or to land in Virginia any amount of scup totaling more than 15,000 pounds. [[Notice](#)]

September 23, 2025: Results of the September VMRC Commission Meeting can be found here [[Draft Minutes](#)]

September 8, 2025: CMAC - 11/13/2025, 4:00 PM: There will be a Crab Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 4:00 PM [[Agenda](#)]



Cliffs of Kerry, Ireland



Ferry to Isle of Skye

The September Mystery Fish was: The Ling Cod



Despite its name, the lingcod is neither a cod nor a ling. It is also known as the buffalo cod, cultus cod, or Buckethead.

The Ling Cod is native to the North American west coast from Shumagin Islands in the Gulf of Alaska to Baja California, Mexico. It has been observed up to a size of 152 centimetres (60 in) and a confirmed weight of 39 kilograms (86 lb), with unconfirmed reports of fish weighing more than 50 kilograms (110 lb).

Tagging studies have shown lingcod is a largely nonmigratory species, with colonization and recruitment occurring in localized areas only. However, Lingcod are the most abundant near British Columbia, Canada, and Washington, USA. The Lingcods within this range are composed of two stocks, whose status is maintained by NOAA Fisheries: The Northern Pacific stock and the Southern Pacific stock.

Adult lingcod are aggressive predators. They consume other bottom-dwelling fish, including other Lingcod, squid, octopus, and crab. They also devour large rockfish.



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



MILLS MARINA



757.898.4411



Capt. Michael Hanna, President
mhanna@southernbayyachtsales.com

757-810-7152

<https://www.southernbayyachtsales.com>

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FISH TALES



Richard with Sheepshead



Wally and tagged Tautog



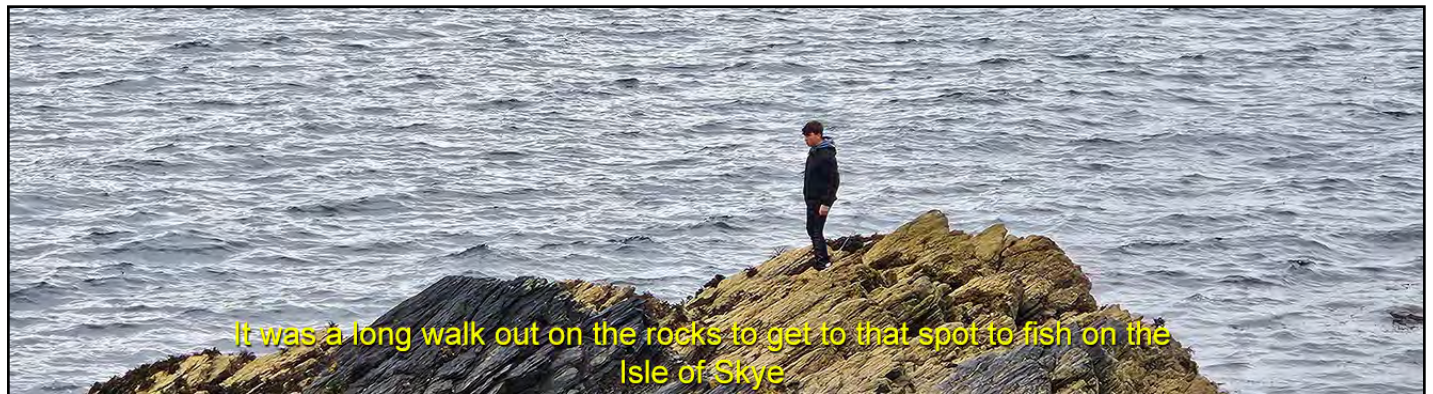
Finally, a picture of Stan with a trout



Wally and Triggerfish



Wally and his Mini Cobia



It was a long walk out on the rocks to get to that spot to fish on the Isle of Skye

Monthly Tournament List August 2025

Flounder		
Danny Taylor		23.25"
Triggerfish		
Danny Taylor		17"
Channel Bass		
David Brabrand		52"
Cobia		
Chris Harris		49"
Speckled Trout		
David Brabrand		24.25"

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"

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

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 Tahiti offers world-class deep-sea and reef fishing for species like marlin, tuna, mahi-mahi, and giant trevally, with opportunities for bonefishing in the lagoons and reefs. Anglers can hire specialized charters using techniques like trolling and jigging, or the traditional Polynesian “poito” (buoy fishing). A fishing permit is required for all of French Polynesia, and while fishing is year-round, peak seasons exist for different species.

What to Fish For

Tahiti provides diverse fishing opportunities with a variety of species available depending on the location and time of year:

Deep-Sea Pelagic Fish: Blue marlin, yellowfin tuna, dolphin (mahi-mahi), and wahoo are common targets, especially during warm summer months (December-June).

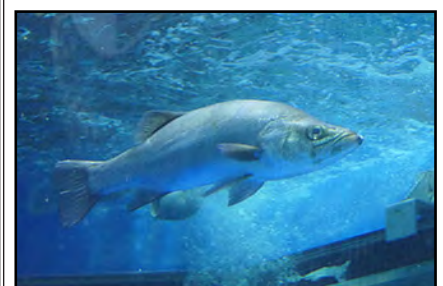
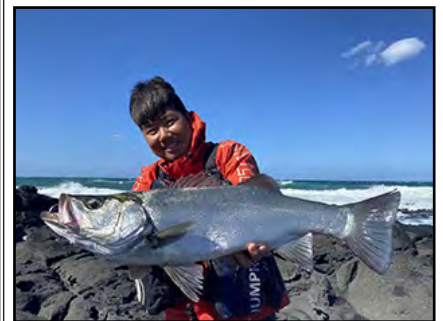
Reef and Lagoon Species: Bonefish and bluefin trevally are found in shallow waters, while napoleon wrasse, bohar snapper, and coral trout inhabit the reefs.

Other Species: Giant trevally, barracuda, and dogtooth tuna are consistently found near inshore reefs.

Tahiti fishing charters unlock unparalleled angling adventures in the heart of French Polynesia, where cobalt waters teem with iconic game fish across diverse habitats. The region’s volcanic islands and atolls create a mosaic of deep-sea trenches, thriving reefs, and expansive lagoons, establishing Tahiti as a premier destination for both novice anglers and seasoned big-game hunters.



So you think you know
your Fish
Name this Fish?





As a member of Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association
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at a special rate:

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

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

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BoatU.S. 9/11



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TRAILER RENTAL



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



Meeting 21 October 2025

NEW ADDRESS

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

