

FOG ON THE JAMES

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.

1st Meeting of 2026

17 March 2026 7:00pm

The banquet went off without a hitch. Plenty of Scoots BBQ. One table did seem to win the majority of raffle prizes though, Personally, I won bupkis. There are numerous pictures inside. Also pictures from the Great Bridge fishing flea market from 7 March 2026.

Our first meeting of the year is nearly here so make sure you pay your yearly dues if you want to participate in the monthly biggest fish tournament (free with membership) and become eligible for our various year end awards like we gave out at the banquet.

See page 3 for options to pay your dues or come to the March meeting and pay in person. Don't be left out.

The March guest speaker is Matt Hargis. He'll be talking about changes to the **Citation Rules**.

See page 4 about the July Sheepshead Tournament. Should be on our web site soon.

Stay well, Mike the Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

Let me start off by thanking everyone involved in the annual awards banquet. Everyone I have spoken to has had nothing but positive comments on it. A lot of work went into making it happen. Some, but not all of the key players bringing the event to fruition do deserve special recognition. First, Milton for all the hours he put in keeping track of everyone's entries, tabulating points for angler of the year, tracking 1st, 2nd and 3rd place recipients of awards for youth and adults, ordering the plaques and preparing the banquet brochure that listed everyone's awards. Second, Darrell and Ronnie for running the raffle. Third, Christina for making the delicious coleslaw. Kevin for doing such a great job setting everything up for us. Scoots for the great food. Bill and Carol, Wes and Terry for all the items they so graciously donated to the raffle. Lastly but not least all of you who attended.

March 7th was the Great Bridge Fishing Flea Market, and we did have a table there and made a

few dollars for the club from the Cooler Raffle. A big shout out to Mike, Johnny, Darrell and David for helping set up and selling raffle tickets there. We will have the cooler at the Poquoson Flea Market Saturday March 14th and need a couple of volunteers to help sell raffle tickets there. The cooler raffle will be completed, and the drawing will be at the March club meeting.

March 17th is the first general membership meeting for 2026, and I hope you will all be there. The guest speaker will be VMRC's Matt Hargis. He is the new VA Saltwater Tournament Director and hopefully will be able to give some insight into fishing prospects/forecast for 2026.

As I stated last month, Chris Harris has taken over programs and already has a good list of speakers for 2026. He has an idea for something new that should be of interest to the club members, but you'll need to be there to find out what it is.

February fishing was pretty much limited to seabass here in

Continued on page 3

2024 Club Officers

Stan Simmerman
President

Milton Hudgens
Vice President

Wally Veal
Secretary

Dave Brabrand
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 Layman
Darrel Cummins
Chris Harris

Please Note: March is here and dues are due. If you can't make it to the meeting or the banquet, click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser. It is also available on our site at PSWSFA.Com.

Click this link: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2026-pswsfa-annual-membership/items>

Or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



PSWSFA 2026 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

Virginia or going down to the outer banks and catching bluefin, blackfin or king mackerel.

It's been a bitter winter but that seems to be mostly behind us now and the water temperature is beginning to warm a bit. Hopefully with spring arriving we will see things picking up. I do know that stripers have shown up in the bay and some are definitely citation size. They are following the big bunkers in from the ocean and heading up the rivers to their spawning areas. The black drum, bull reds and flounder won't be far behind.

A big goal for this year is to grow the club and it's incumbent upon all of us to do whatever we can to do just that if we want to keep this club alive. I've spoken with all of the other fishing clubs and they too are having a problem attracting new members. We have a few ideas but if each of you could entice a friend or acquaintance to join you at a meeting it would go a long way toward growing this organization.

For those of you who don't fish over the winter, I encourage you to take this time to get your gear prepped and your boat ready for spring so that when the bull reds show up you are ready to tangle with them.

Enter your fish in the monthly tournament and especially the youth entries. I look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Tight Lines,
Stan

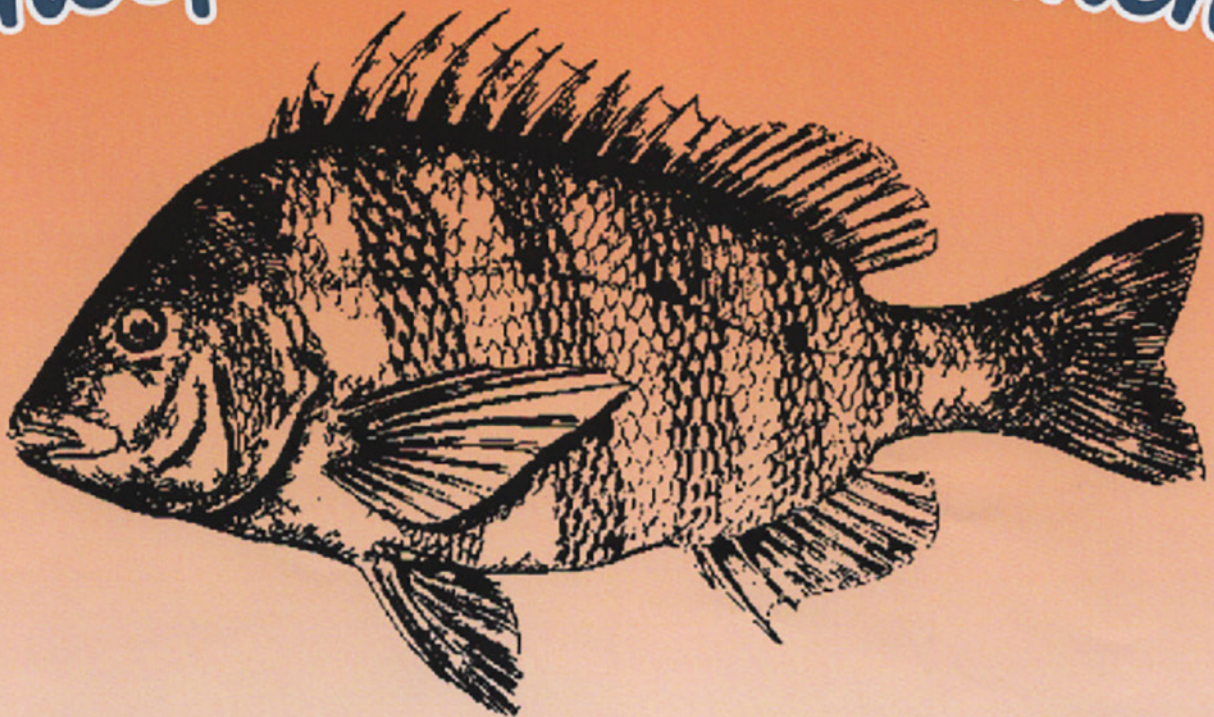


More Picture on pages 13 & 14

PSWSFA



Sheepshead Tournament



July 18th, 2026

For information go to PSWSFA.com

Hosted by:

Wallace's Bait & Tackle

WWW.PSWSFA.COM

We are planning on having weigh stations at Lynhaven Inlet and up on the Northern neck. Locations to follow. However, **All Captains** must attend the captains meeting at Wallace's Bait and Tackle in Hampton off Back River on Friday 17 July 2026.

by Jeremy Cox for Bay Journal

One of the largest wastewater spills in U.S. history continues to unfold along the Potomac River just upstream from the District of Columbia, transforming the “Nation’s River” into an open sewer.

Hundreds of millions of gallons of raw sewage began gushing into the river Jan. 19 after the collapse of a 72-inch sewer line, known as the Potomac Interceptor. A massive effort got underway almost immediately to stop the spill, but the sewage poured out unabated for nearly a week until a diversion could be installed.

By then, as much as 300 million gallons of sewage had escaped from the broken pipe, according to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). That’s enough to fill 400 Olympic-size swimming pools. Despite the temporary fix, the site continued to experience occasional overflows. As this issue of the Bay Journal went to press, the last overflow was reported Feb. 8 amid high wastewater usage during the Super Bowl.

The disaster triggered swimming and shellfish harvesting warnings as far as 72 miles downriver. And it sparked concerns over the possible long-term consequences that bacteria and nutrient pollution would pose to the health of the river and the Chesapeake Bay farther downstream.

Sewage could be seen and smelled at the Mason Neck area, about 30 miles downstream from the spill site, said Brookie Crawford, a Virginia Department of Health spokeswoman.

Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks said proper maintenance would have prevented the disaster, which he called “one of the largest sewage spills in U.S. history [and] one of the most disturbing things I have ever seen in 25 years as a riverkeeper.”

The Potomac Interceptor is a 54-mile-long sewer pipe extending from near Dulles Airport in northern Virginia to the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant in southeast DC. Before the collapse, plans were in the works to conduct a 10-year, \$625 million upgrade to sections of the line, including the site of the rupture, to prevent such failures.

As the spill entered its fifth week, President Donald Trump weighed in with a series of social media posts, blaming Democrats in Maryland, Virginia and DC for the disaster. He directed some of his sharpest criticism at Maryland’s Democratic governor, a potential presidential candidate in 2028.

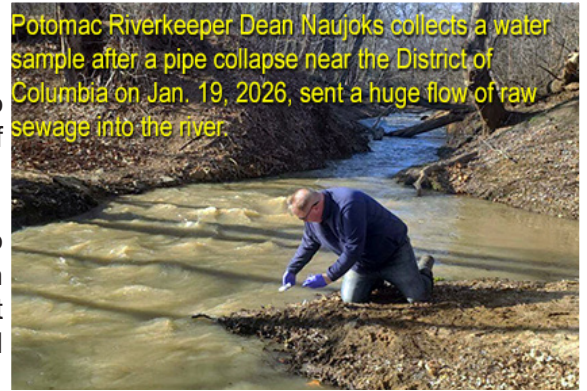
“There is a massive Ecological Disaster unfolding in the Potomac River as a result of the Gross Mismanagement of Local Democrat Leaders, particularly, Governor Wes Moore, of Maryland,” Trump posted Feb. 16. “It is clear Local Authorities cannot adequately handle this calamity.”

He added that he was directing the federal government to assume control of the response.

“The president is lying to the public,” Moore responded in a Feb. 18 post, one of several pushing back against Trump’s assertions.

While the break occurred within Maryland’s borders, Moore and state environmental officials noted, the entity responsible for maintaining the pipe is DC Water, a water authority based in the District and regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. And the site where the rupture took place lies within the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which is federal property.

DC Water didn’t make a representative available to comment for this story. But in a Feb. 11 open letter, DC

*Continued on page 6*

Water CEO David Gadis took responsibility for the break and acknowledged the river's importance.

"We take seriously the calls from community members and environmental partners for accountability, transparency and long-term solutions, and we are committed to engaging constructively as this work continues," Gadis wrote.

Asked for comment, the EPA press office pointed to a Feb. 17 social media post under Administrator Lee Zeldin's X account in which the former New York congressman called the incident a "sewage crisis of historic proportion."

Zeldin said that DC Water was leading the cleanup and monitoring efforts and that Maryland was providing regulatory oversight of the pollution exceedances in the Potomac. Meanwhile, the EPA has been offering support "from the onset."

"This mess must be completely addressed as fast as humanly possible," Zeldin added.

Authorities on both sides of the Potomac emphasized that drinking water isn't being impacted by the spill. The region's intake pipes are located at Great Falls upstream from the collapse site, which is just east of Interstate 495 between the river and the Clara Barton Parkway.

Emergency repairs are expected to be completed by mid- to late March. Work was delayed after the discovery of an unexpectedly large "rock dam" stretching 30 feet downstream from the rupture site, according to DC Water. In the meantime, the utility has installed a dozen large pumps to divert the sewage into and out of an ordinarily dry section of the C&O Canal, bypassing the spill site.

A permanent fix will involve accelerating the upgrade plans already on the books. Completion is expected within nine months.

Potomac Riverkeeper Network president Betsy Nicholas said she was troubled by the canal being temporarily turned into what she called an "open-top sewage conveyance."

"I understand this is essential for the emergency need, but this is parkland," Nicholas said. "It's just all mush now of sewage mixed in with sediment, and it's going to take a lot to fix that. And we're going to make sure it is fixed."

Her group estimates that the spill unleashed 75,000 pounds of nitrogen, a form of nutrient pollution, into the river in a matter of days. That's the equivalent of a yearly load from one of Maryland's largest wastewater treatment plants. She worries that the influx of pollution will lead to large algae blooms as temperatures climb later this year. The resulting "dead zones" could hamper fish spawning this spring in the river, Nicholas warned.

MDE water testing showed E. coli levels spiking in the river near the rupture site in the weeks after the spill, with some days exceeding 1,000 times above the safe-swimming threshold. High concentrations of the bacteria can cause gastrointestinal illnesses, skin and ear infections as well as conditions that can be life-threatening for some people. But bacteria levels quickly tapered off downstream, suggesting that the river's flows are diluting the pollution, said MDE deputy secretary Adam Ortiz.

"The reality is that currently the site is very stable," Ortiz said in a Feb. 19 interview with the Bay Journal. "Overall, we're seeing bacterial levels decreasing. As long as the material is controlled and being channeled back into the pipe, that's what we would expect to happen."

Hillary Harp Falk, president and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said the disaster should serve as a wake-up call for the federal government and states to invest in modernizing the region's aging wastewater infrastructure. She pointed out that Trump's 2026 budget request included a 90% cut for the federal fund that helps cities and states finance such projects. "We can't afford a repeat catastrophe," she said.

Feb 23, 2026

By Lauren Hines-Acosta for Bay Journal



Thousands of gallons of jet fuel spilled into the James River at Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding division near Newport News, VA, Feb. 13 during a fuel transfer to the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79). The ship is the Navy's new Gerald R. Ford class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, which has been undergoing "pre-commissioning" trials since 2019.

The initial estimate of spilled fuel ranged from dozens of gallons to almost 8,000 gallons. But on Feb. 17, shipyard engineers calculated that no more than 4,722 gallons could have been spilled because the rest is accounted for in the ship's piping and storage tanks.

There is no evidence that drinking water has been impacted. But the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommends that residents and boaters avoid water with odor or oil sheen. According to the agency, odors from jet fuel can cause headaches, nausea and throat irritation, especially for those with respiratory conditions.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) found that one red-throated loon died due to the fuel spill on Feb. 16. The James River Association and Chesapeake Bay Foundation are concerned about other impacts on wildlife.

"This major fuel spill is a not only a threat to people, but also a danger to the health of the river," Joe Wood, Virginia senior scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said in a statement. "Fuel spills, even after they are cleaned up, can continue to disrupt wildlife communities for many years."

As of Feb. 17, hundreds of gallons of jet fuel have been removed from the James River. Cleanup efforts are ongoing by the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, DEQ, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, VDH and the cities of Newport News, Hampton, and Suffolk.

The cause of the spill is under investigation.

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program awards will be held in partnership with Bass Pro in Hampton on March 13, at 7:30 p.m. We'll be celebrating the achievements of our top taggers and all are welcome!

There are also a few spaces available for the Virginia Charter Boat Workshop. See page 10.

Save the Date!

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program Awards

Bass Pro Shops Hampton
March 13 at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome!! Come discover our new Top Tagger!
452,000 TAGS AND COUNTING!

Interested in club membership, visit our new [website](#) to find out more!

The Kiwanis Club of Poquoson Presents

BOATING - FISHING

— Nautical Arts & Crafts —

Flea Market

SAT MARCH 14, 2026

Raffles
Vendors
Speakers
Food
& More



Poquoson High School
8:00 am to 1:00 pm



Vendor Reservations and Tickets, [Click Here](#) or Scan!

Admission to Market: \$5.00 | Add On: \$5.00 for Speakers | 12 & Under: Free

For more info or for pickup of donated items, contact Rick Neff
757-303-8923

By John Page Williams

Those of us who were teenagers or young adults celebrating 1976's Semiquincentennial Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence saw it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, so we might be forgiven for being amused to find that it's coming around again. The [MD250](#) and [VA250](#) American Revolution Commissions have been busy planning their commemorations for several years, and special events have already begun, touching especially on the role of the Chesapeake and the contributions of her people in the Revolution.



The most obvious are [Sail250 festivals](#), elements in a global gathering of tall ships and military vessels to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States. [Virginia's edition](#) runs in Norfolk and other Lower Bay ports June 12-23, while Maryland's runs in Baltimore Harbor June 24-30. Also obvious will be waterside events at [George Washington's Mount Vernon](#) on the Potomac below Alexandria, [George Washington's Birthplace National Monument](#) further down the Potomac on the Northern Neck, and the [Colonial National Historical Park's Yorktown Battlefield](#) at the mouth of the York River. There are, however, multiple sites for smaller—but still significant—river-related skirmishes, such as [Benedict Arnold's raid on Richmond](#) and the [Battle of Osborne's Landing](#) on the James in Chesterfield County (opposite today's Osborne Park & Boat Landing). In Maryland, the largest battle was the repulse of a [Lord Dunmore raid on St. George's Island](#) at the mouth of the Potomac in St. Mary's County (for a video seminar on that battle, [click here](#)).

Even more significant, though, was the approach to revolution that was at once thoughtful and vigorous among the men and women from the Chesapeake who led the drive for the American colonies' independence. Maryland had its share of patriots. Charles Carroll, Samuel Chase and William Paca of Annapolis and Thomas Stone of Charles County signed the Declaration of Independence.

Besides General Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the [Lee Family](#) of Virginia's Northern Neck were arguably the most influential thought leaders. The first place to learn about them is spectacular Stratford Hall on the Potomac. Two members of the fourth generation, brothers Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, signed the Declaration of Independence. It was Richard Henry Lee, in fact, who made the first motion proposing independence from Great Britain on June 7, 1776 at the Second Continental Congress.

Note, however, that this year's Semiquincentennial is considered a commemoration, not a celebration. In addition to these well-known patriots, that distinction carefully recognizes the many people who contributed to our country's origin, including those enslaved who built, maintained, and fed plantations like [Stratford Hall](#) and [Mount Vernon](#), and towns from Annapolis to Williamsburg.

Stay tuned. There are many more stories coming up to remind us where our country came from, with lessons for how we keep our republic in the coming years. Here's just one example:

An Historical Footnote: The Leedstown Resolves of February 27, 1766

The Lees and families like them were products of the Chesapeake's unique geography, largely planters whose ancestors had begun farming tobacco along the Bay's big rivers as immigrants from Great Britain a century and a half earlier. Those rivers allowed them to ship directly to England from local wharves sited on the [deep-water outer meander curves](#) from the James and the Rappahannock to the Patuxent and the Chester. Richard Henry Lee was no stranger to the language of his motion for independence. Ten years earlier, he and another Lee brother organized a "No taxation without representation" protest at the local port of [Leedstown](#) on the Rappahannock and wrote a protest document signed by "the Sons of Liberty," more than one-hundred local planters. That document, the [Leedstown Resolves](#), included language that Thomas Jefferson built into the Declaration of Independence. The 260th anniversary of the Resolves is coming up next week, on February 27.

Winter Crab Surveys Delayed Due to Freezes

By Joel McCord

Finally, daytime temperatures are moderating after longer than usual sub-freezing snaps this winter and the ice floes are disappearing. That means the crews from Maryland's and Virginia's natural resources departments who conduct the annual winter crab dredge surveys have some catching up to do.

"We had a couple of weeks where we just couldn't get out because of the weather and that put a damper on our survey," says Mandy Bromilow, the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's blue crab program manager. "There were days when the ice was in the slip and we couldn't even get the boat out."

There were other days when high winds made it too difficult to handle the boats and the dredging equipment. And crews in Virginia had the same problems, she added.

"After that nine, 10 days of cold, the weather did a complete 180 on us and we had temperatures in the 50s, but that brought that wind out of the south and we couldn't go out and work in that," says Chris Walstrum, a fisheries biologist with Maryland's DNR. He estimates they're about three weeks behind where they should be because of the weather. "So, we're kind of behind the eight ball now."

For more than 30 years, crews from Maryland and Virginia have been heading out onto the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from December through March, dredging the muddy bottom for crabs, not for the steamer, but for research. They sample the whole Bay—750 sites in each state chosen by a random computer program—to get an accurate picture. They carefully record the numbers, size and sex of the crabs they bring up with every swipe of the dredge, then toss them back into the water.

Scientists use the information they get to develop harvest regulations for commercial crabbers. Those regulations should come out a little later this year. Meanwhile, the information from previous year's surveys is being fed into a stock assessment to be released in March that will be aimed at guiding future management of the crab fishery. In that analysis, scientists will examine years of data to assess potential factors that could be affecting the blue crab population, including loss of oxygen, water temperature, the availability of habitat and the effects of those voracious blue catfish.

They conduct the survey in the winter because that's when crabs are hunkered down in the mud, Walstrum explained. They aren't moving around like they would be in the summer.

This year, however, "it's been a challenge," he said. "It was going along like it should until that snow event in late January and that nine, 10-day stretch of below freezing weather. The places we wanted to sample weren't capable of being sampled. It was those sheets of ice."

Walstrum says there's no playbook to decide whether to go or not. "We confer with the captain, and we rely on his extensive experience," Walstrum explains.

The captain is Roger Morris, a Dorchester County waterman who works under contract with DNR and skippers Mydra Ann, his 45-foot Bay workboat. Morris, who fished crab pots in the summer for more than 40 years, once dredged for crabs in the winter in Virginia waters until that was banned in 2008 as an environmental conservation measure. Then, he bid on the job with Maryland's DNR and has been doing it ever since. He says it's a bit easier than the work in Virginia.

Walstrum says that "9 out of 10 times you can make a decision the night before" the survey trip. "But there are times when you get to the dock and you look and decide not to go. It's not like we're the Coast Guard."

Those cold snaps may have had some effects on the crabs as well, DNR's Bromilow says. "It's too soon to say how the storms have affected the crabs, but in past years these kinds of cold snaps tend to increase morbidity."

Walstrum says they haven't seen anything "out of the ordinary" yet. "But there's still a lot of winter to go."

According to Bromilow, the crews from both states are a little more than halfway through sampling now and Maryland crews are aiming for sites in the Patuxent River and some open bay sites as well. But the weather delays don't mean they won't finish by the end of March, she added.

"We have built into the survey some buffer time. We just won't be able to finish as early as we would."

And those days when they can't get out? There's a lot of desk work to do, data entry and analysis.



DNR fisheries biologist Chris Walstrum measuring crabs on the deck of 45-foot workboat Mydra Ann.

Register now!

2026

Virginia Charter Boat Workshop

at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point

Saturday, March 21

Featured speakers: United States Coast Guard
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
& MORE!

Space limited, register for free:

<https://forms.gle/V2b6ZesV7YJtr8Td7>

Questions? susanna@vims.edu

Warm greetings from Gloucester Point, VA!

We're very pleased to announce that registration is open for our annual Virginia Charter Boat Workshop!

The workshop will be held the morning of March 21st at the Gloucester Point campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

The workshop will include fisheries resource, regulatory, and US Coast Guard updates and will be open to member of the charter fishing and recreational angling communities. **Time: 0830-1300**

Registration is available here: <https://forms.gle/V2b6ZesV7YJtr8Td7>

There are only a few spaces left so get your name on the list ASAP

Way South Chesapeake Bay Fishing Report, March 2026

Fishing is still slow in the Way South region of the Chesapeake Bay. The good news is that we are right on the brink of several bites kicking off. Water temperatures are in the low to mid 40s, but once they reach that magical 50-degree mark, several species will offer excellent opportunities. There are puppy drum in Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlet, but anglers are reporting that these fish are still very lethargic. We had two skunk reports from the area this week, and another angler only had a few bites. They are also still seeing dead speckled trout from the fish kill last month, so don't have any high expectations for speck fishing at the moment. Some striped bass are being caught in the deeper waters of the Elizabeth River near bridges and docks, especially those with lights illuminating the water at night. The striper spawning migration should start soon when the big fish move up the Chesapeake Bay. We had reports of bunker schools moving in the Bay this week and the stripers usually follow this bait in the spring.

Water temperatures around 50 degrees turn on the nearshore tautog bite, which we should be approaching this month. The larger fish will still be hanging at wreck and reef sites offshore, but keepers and a lot of smaller fish will move inshore to areas such as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Crab baits on bottom sweeper jigs or small octopus hooks are the best way to catch them. These fish prefer rocky bottom structure, so be prepared to lose some rigs to rocks and other snags. Black drum should start to make their return to the surfside beaches by the end of the month, and by mid-April, the spring run should be in full swing. These fish will be running in the surf along the beaches, but will also move into the Chesapeake Bay where they can be caught around the CBBT, Kiptopeke concrete ships, and several other areas with bottom structure. These behemoths can grow to over 50 pounds, so make sure your gear can handle these giants.

The February Mystery Fish I know - Not a Fish Chilean Dolphin



The Chilean dolphin also known as the Black dolphin, is one of six dolphins in the genus *Cephalorhynchus*. The dolphin is found only off the coast of Chile; it is commonly referred to in the country as tonina.

The Chilean dolphin is small at around 1.7 metres (5 ft 7 in) in length, with a blunt head. Adults reach up to 60 kg, with females slightly larger than the male bulls. This dolphin is thickly shaped with its girth up to two-thirds its length. Their small and thick shape is often mistaken for other types of porpoises. The dorsal fin and flippers are small in proportion to body size in comparison with other dolphins. The throat, underside, and the closest part of the flippers to the body are white. The remainder of the body is a mix of greys. A black line connects their blowhole, eyes, and dorsal fin.

Humans pose the largest threat to the Chilean dolphin population. In addition to being caught for human consumption, the dolphins are also used as bait for long-line sword fishing and crab fisheries. It is reported that between 1,300 and 1,500 Chilean dolphins are harpooned in the Strait of Magellan each year. Use as bait was particularly popular until the 1990s, and hunting of Chilean dolphins is now illegal. Aquaculture farms for salmon, anti-sea lion nets, and boat traffic also pose as threats to the species. Since 2023, at least 14 Chilean dolphins have died as a result of widespread bird flu in Chile.



Great Bridge Fishing Flea Market 2026







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 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
- 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, 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>

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ BOATS



Andrea's
Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria



STERLING MARINE



L&S Bait Company 1415 E Bay Dr, Largo, FL, 33771

Phone (727) 584-7691 www.shopmirrolure.com

FISH TALES



Johnny Boyd and limit of big Seabass



Matt Waddell and 71.5" Bluefin



Matt with 34" King Mack



Ken Neill and 2 Seabass



Stan's 1st Tog of 2026

Monthly Tournament List January 2026

Blue Fin Tuna
Chris Baker 60"

Speckled Trout
Stan Simmerman 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, 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

Draft Version – Not Final

2026 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: winemanr@icloud.com or 757-268-1539

<p>Bishop's Trophy Red Drum Tournament April 1st – May 31st, 2026 Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. June 9, 2026 See Rules below for Catch and Release fish (Witness or photo)</p>	<p>Youth and Ladies Croaker/Flounder Tournament July 1st -31st, 2026 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 11, 2026</p>
<p>Sheepshead Tournament July 18th, 2026 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, 2026 Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. Sept. 8, 2026. See Rules below for weight tournament</p>
<p>Club Spot Tournament September 1st – 30th, 2026 Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. Oct. 13, 2026. See Rules below for weight tournament</p>	<p>Wilcox Bait and Tackle Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament December 1st -31st, 2026 Must Receive Completed Form no later than Jan. 12, 2026 See Rules below for Catch and Release fish (Witness or photo)</p>

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

2026 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on front):

- Entry Fees: \$20 for member & \$30 for non-member. Youth and Ladies croaker/Flounder tourney is free.
- Rules and Entry Fees listed below do not apply to the Sheepshead Tournament. This is a sperate paid entry tournament.
- You must register before fishing by e-mailing Rick Wineman: winemanr@icloud.com or call 757-268-1539.
- Leaving a message will be sufficient to register, give all anglers names (specify club members and club guest), and also give a phone number.
- Guest(s) must fish with at least one member on boat/shore/pier/kayak
- Use a club "Official Entry Form" and weigh in fish at any Va. Saltwater Tournament official weigh station for weight tournaments. Record the weight of fish, date and time caught and have the weigh master sign the form to verify catch. If two identical fish are caught on the same day, the earlier fish wins. That is why time is so important. Length tournament entries require witness or photo.
- All pertinent PSWSFA bylaws apply.

To register or ask questions, e-mail Rick Wineman, Tournament Director at winemanr@icloud.com or call Rick @ 757-268-1539

Measuring Instructions on page 22



- 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.



Fishing Around the World



Saltwater fishing in Madeira is a thrilling experience, with the island's unique geography and marine ecosystem offering a variety of fishing opportunities. Here are some highlights of what you can expect:

Blue Marlin: Known for their size and strength, blue marlin fishing is a top priority for anglers. The best season for blue marlin is from May to September, with peak catches from June to September.

Tuna and Wahoo: These species are also abundant in Madeira's waters, with the best fishing times typically between July and October.

Spearfish and Mahi Mahi: Common in May and June, and summer brings Mahi Mahi, adding flavor to the sportfishing mix.

Trout Fishing: Trout fishing is concentrated around the mountain rivers and streams, with the Ribeiro Friol being a main attraction.

Groupers and Amberjack: These species are also found around the island's rocky coasts, providing a variety of options for anglers.

Madeira's fishing charters offer a full set of equipment, bait, and licenses, ensuring a hassle-free fishing experience. With experienced guides and charter companies, visitors can enjoy the island's stunning scenery while fishing for some of the world's largest and most sought-after fish.

So you think you know
your Fish
Name this fish





As a member of Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association
a BoatU.S. Cooperating Group, you are invited to become a BoatU.S. Member
at a special rate:

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

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

CURRENT MEMBERS

Not receiving the discount? Email
Membership@BoatUS.com

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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

Visit BoatUS.com/Membership to learn about all benefits
and services offered to BoatU.S. Members.

MS11 8/11



INSURANCE



DISCOUNTS



MAGAZINE



SAFETY



ADVOCACY



TOWING



TRAILER ASSIST



DISCOUNTS

Directions to PSWSFA Meeting

**Former St Mark's Episcopal Church
Now used by Peninsula Baptist Church**

From 64 (either direction) take the Mercury Blvd exit towards the James River Bridge (West) stay in the right hand lane and turn right at the light onto Todds Lane. Go past Zaxby's chicken about 400 ft and the driveway to the church is on the right. A new Peninsula Baptist Church sign is on the lawn just short of the driveway.

If you come to the traffic light at the intersection of Cunningham you went to far. Turn right on Cunningham and look for the Cunningham entrance to the church (500ft). If you miss it you will need to do a U-turn on Cunningham and go left onto Todds Lane.

The church driveway is just short of the Bercuese Funeral home entrance or just after it if coming from Cunningham.

WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



1st Club Meeting 17 March 2026



Poquoson Fishing Flea Market 14 March 2026

NEW ADDRESS

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

