



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.

2nd Meeting of 2026
21 April 2026 7:00pm

Greetings and welcome to April 2026.

Our speaker this month will be Captain Chris Malgee of VB Backwater from Virginia Beach. Chris is a charter captain specializing in bay fishing from Hampton Roads to the Eastern Shore. He will be speaking on the fish he usually targets, Reds & Trout, his techniques and where to catch more fish. <https://www.vbackwater.com>.

The raffle for the Cooler and all the stuff in it, held at the March meeting, was won by John Aboc from Great Bridge. John, once again proves that buying one ticket is good enough to win a great prize. John could hardly believe his luck that he won. Congratulations John. See John's picture on page 16.

See page 4 about the July Sheepshead Tournament.

Stay well,

Mike the Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

I believe winter has finally moved on and allowed the water temps to rise enough to entice some fish start feeding. Although the winter was extremely hard on our trout population, the speckled trout are feeding and aggressive if you can find them. They have started moving out of the creeks and rivers. If you target them, just remember that it is only catch and release until July 1 st . Grey trout are here and some are nearly citation size (24 inches or over 5 lbs). Tog are being caught in the bay and on the offshore wrecks/structure.

Bull red drum are around as are some puppy drum. I don't think the puppy drum bite is going to be anywhere near as good as last spring but only time will tell. Black drum are also available.

Continued on page 3

2026 Club Officers

Stan Simmerman
President

Milton Hudgens
Vice President

TBD
Secretary

Dave Brabrand
Treasurer

Danny Forehand
Past President

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Charles Randolph
Mike Frielingsdorf
Richie Moore
Paul Downey
Nicole Ambercrombie
Johnny Boyd
Gerald Abrams (alt)
Rob Layman
Darrel Cummins
Chris Harris

Please Note: March has come and gone and dues are due. If you can't make it to the meeting, 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

Decent sized croakers have shown up, and we may very well see some quality size croakers this year. Flounder are showing up.

There are large stripers almost everywhere if you can get them to eat. Just remember that they too are only catch and release for now. Bluefish are starting to show.

As stated last month the 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. The board approved a plan to invest in advertising the club through social media along with some other incentives to try to raise awareness.

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.

Enter your fish in the monthly tournament and especially the youth entries. I look forward to seeing you on the 21st.

Tight Lines,
Stan

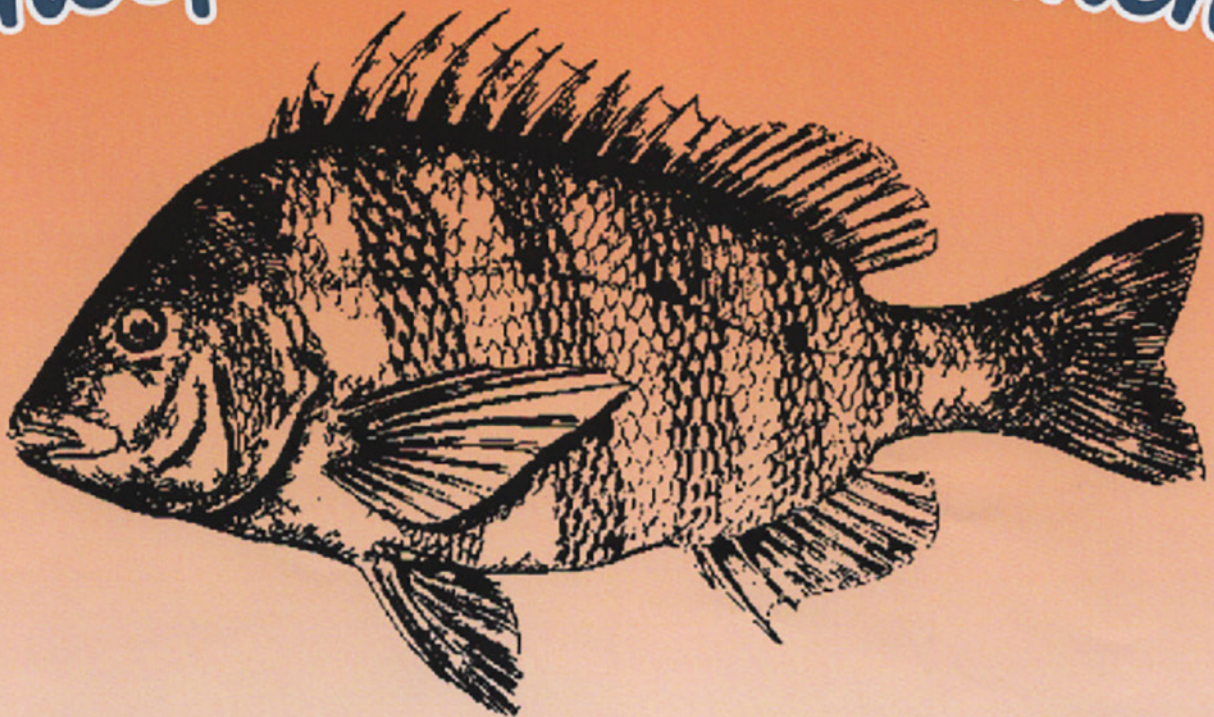
PIRATES AND PARROT FISH



PSWSFA



Sheepshead Tournament



July 18th, 2026

For information go to PSWSFA.com

Hosted by:

Wallace's Bait & Tackle

WWW.PSWSFA.COM

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 John Page Williams, 31 March 2026

The question of localized depletion has been the heart of Virginia's debate over Atlantic menhaden management for several decades. Does the concentration of industrial-scale purse-seine fishing for "reduction" in the Commonwealth's waters of the Chesapeake Bay (more than 100 million pounds of menhaden annually—around 300 million individual fish) have an outsized effect on the stocks of these ecologically vital forage fish throughout the Bay ecosystem? Even though the Menhaden Technical Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has maintained for some years that the coastwide stock is not being overfished, there has been nagging anecdotal evidence of localized depletion in the Chesapeake, with corresponding concern about other creatures that feed on these nutrient-dense fish, including striped bass (rockfish). For the past ten years and more, the only company fishing menhaden for reduction on the Atlantic coast is Reedville, VA-based Omega Protein. Reedville, in fact, has been the center of Atlantic menhaden processing since the 1870s.



To be fair, the question of localized depletion is complex, as Atlantic menhaden range from Maine to Florida. Estuaries along the coast serve as vital nurseries, with the Chesapeake the largest of them. At the same time, Virginia is the only Atlantic state that allows purse seine fishing in state waters, including the Chesapeake, and within three miles of its Atlantic coast. With Omega Protein based in Reedville, it obviously makes economic sense for the company's fishing partner, Ocean Harvesters, to base its fleet there and make a high proportion of its net sets in the Chesapeake or the inshore waters just outside in the Atlantic.

Even so, ASMFC's Menhaden Board has had to make management decisions based on data that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) considers "woefully inadequate." Pressing evidence of the problem has become more obvious recently, especially in what appears to be wide-scale starvation of osprey chicks in salty sections of Chesapeake waters and in plummeting pound net catches of menhaden for crab pot bait in Maryland's Bay waters just above the Virginia state line. Then, in October of last year, ASMFC's Menhaden Management Board reduced the coastwide catch quota by 20% after revising its assessment of the overall stock as being "smaller than we initially thought." The Board did not, however, reduce the 51,000 metric ton cap on the fish the industry could catch each year in Virginia's Bay waters.

Three years ago, a broad-based group that included representatives of the reduction industry, VIMS, recreational anglers, conservation organizations, and the general public came together to draw up a plan to develop and fund the science necessary to discover if localized depletion of menhaden is occurring here. Unfortunately, legislation to move that research forward has died in the succeeding sessions of the Virginia General Assembly, with ongoing pressure to delay the study for a decade or more from industry lobbyists.

Meanwhile, this Spring, ospreys have returned to the Chesapeake, paired up, and begun rebuilding their nests; rockfish are staging to spawn in the Bay's big rivers; and crabbing season is gearing up in dozens of watermen's communities. The need for these essential forage fish is rising with the water temperature.

But Virginia does not yet have a budget for the next two years. Governor Abigail Spanberger has called a special session of the General Assembly for April 23 to vote on the proposed new one. It includes \$2 million that the members of the House Appropriations Committee included to fund menhaden research in the Bay. The special session offers lawmakers an opportunity—finally—to invest in this necessary science. Recent polling shows that 80 percent of Virginia voters support state funding for this study. "Given the lack of action on much-needed menhaden legislation thus far, we are grateful that the needed science funding is proposed in the House budget. The long-overdue effort is the only way we can ensure not only a robust ecosystem but also a healthy economic outlook for all of those that depend on a thriving population of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay for their livelihood," said Chesapeake Bay Foundation Virginia Policy Manager Jay Ford.

April 7, 2026 By John Page Williams

Maryland's new striped bass seasons are in force, permitting catch-and-release fishing (C&R) in the Bay's main stem (excluding the spawning reaches above Worton Point). Harvest season is open May 1 through July 31. August is closed to C&R as well as harvest, but the season reopens September to run through December 5, when C&R begins again. (Virginia's harvest season, by the way, closes June 16 and reopens October 4).

There's plenty of data documenting low rockfish/striper mortality from C&R in cool winter/spring water—with good handling practices—and high C&R mortality in the water temperatures common in high summer

in the upper Bay. Some anglers, however, have argued that springtime C&R fishing affects the behavior of large cow rockfish, causing them to turn away from their spawning grounds or spawn less effectively. It's a reasonable question, though history tells us that large year classes, especially in the 1990s, occurred when C&R was common, especially on the Susquehanna Flats.

In any case, the scientists at the University of Chicago's Striped Bass Initiative have developed an innovative tagging program that tracks fish behavior after release. At the end of March, they brought it to the Chesapeake, tagging twenty rock from 38" to 47" in the Bay's main stem and a couple of tributaries between Point Lookout and the mouth of the Choptank. The first task, of course, was to capture some big fish. For that, they hired Griffin's Guide Service for five days, along with enlisting several fisheries scientists from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and operating under a DNR scientific collecting permit. Griffin's crew provided tackle appropriate for large rockfish, from lures like large jerkbaits (with treble hooks changed out to online singles) and 7" soft swimbaits to high quality rods, reels, and lines sized to keep fight times short. The team picked up the fish at boatside with both rubber and woven nylon nets, placed them on a bump board for processing and tagging, covered their eyes with wet chamois to calm them, and released them always within two minutes (the fastest turnaround was one minute, 5 seconds).

On the Chesapeake, the Striped Bass Initiative employed a combination of two tagging techniques. First, the Initiative used dorsally implanted "data logger" tags that continuously log and archive depth, temperature, light, and location estimate data. The Initiative's scientists program these tags to release from the fish at set dates, float to the surface, and transmit their stored data via satellite, providing massive, fascinating continuous records of behavior outside the range of the ACT Network. These tags, however, provide only rough location estimates. For the precision required to track the behavior of this study's C&R fish, the Initiative's scientists used ingenious SPOT (Smart POsition and Temperature Tag) tags, satellite-linked devices that provide high-precision location data by pinging satellites each time a tagged fish surfaced, recording exact positions in near real-time. They are attached using a tether, so that anytime the fish is close to the surface, the SPOT tag bobs up and



Releasing a striped bass, with its tethered SPOT tag floating on the water beside it.

Continued on page 7

sends a location to the satellites.

The Initiative's crew released all twenty fish they caught with SPOT tags but ten also "tandem tagged" with SPOT + data loggers. Early data is fascinating: all animals have survived surgery and are actively reporting in the Bay, appearing to indicate pre-spawning staging behavior. A careful analysis of the position data over the coming weeks will provide unprecedented insights into where and how they move about the Bay during spawning season.

This is obviously a continuing story. Chesapeake Bay Magazine will keep in touch with the Striped Bass Initiative as this year's spawning season progresses. The project is already providing fascinating insight into the behavior of the Bay's beloved rockfish, but there's much more to come. Stay tuned.

Dolphin Watch Sighting Season has Begun

8 April 2026 By Krista Pfunder



Bottlenose dolphins spotted in the Chesapeake by Chesapeake Bay Magazine

When dolphins move northward of Lower Bay, it's the start of dolphin sighting season, according to the Chesapeake DolphinWatch app, developed by a team at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's (UMCES) Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

Reports on the app from the Choptank River and Middle Bay say dolphins are now on the move.

The app—created in 2017—has more than 14,000 registered users. Members of the community can join for free and help UMCES scientists learn more about Chesapeake Bay bottlenose dolphins.

Registered app users can report dolphin sightings in real time. The observation network then shares information about dolphin distribution on the app.

To start logging sightings, sign up and log into the app via iPhone, Android or [ChesapeakeDolphinWatch.org](https://www.chesapeakebiological.org/dolphinwatch). Stay tuned over the next few months as UMCES makes changes to the app to improve the viewing experience and data retrieval procedures.

Mangrove crab outruns its namesake in climate-driven coastal shift

8 April 2026 By John Wallace



A mangrove fiddler crab in St. Mary's, Georgia. Photo by David S. Johnson.

A crab named for mangrove forests is leaving them behind.

New research from William & Mary's Batten School & VIMS shows the Atlantic mangrove fiddler crab (*Leptuca thayeri*) is settling into temperate salt marshes along the southeastern U.S. coast. Published in the *Journal of Crustacean Biology*, the study documents the species as far north as Beaufort, South Carolina, almost 200 miles north of its traditional range in Florida.

"You have the mangrove fiddler crab outrunning the mangroves," said co-author David S. Johnson, associate professor at the Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences & VIMS. "That's what makes this so fascinating. It's one of the clearest examples of climate change that you can see."

Driven by rising ocean temperatures, the expansion reflects a broader global pattern known as "tropicalization," where warm-water species move poleward into cooler regions. In this case, the crabs are adapting to an entirely new habitat as they migrate north.

"The crabs hatch their eggs on the highest tide of a new moon, and the larvae spend about a month in the water. Currents can carry them north, but the temperature has to be within a threshold

that allows them to complete their life cycle and move to land,” said lead author Valerie Acosta-Rodríguez, a laboratory specialist at the Batten School & VIMS. “Because of their flexible diet and behavior, these crabs have been able to move into salt marshes and thrive.”

Sea surface temperatures along the southeastern U.S. coast have risen steadily in recent decades, increasing by more than 1 degree Celsius over the past 20 years. Based on these trends, the researchers say the species could extend its range into North Carolina in about five years.

“Mangrove fiddler crabs burrow deeper than other species of fiddler crabs, which may help them survive the winter,” said Acosta-Rodríguez. “We also observed them next to hard structures like docks and around marinas where they have additional shelter.”

The findings build on a growing body of research from Johnson and colleagues at the Batten School & VIMS documenting climate-driven range shifts in marine species. This includes one of the earliest papers documenting the Atlantic marsh fiddler crab as far north as Cape Cod, Massachusetts, another study showing similar range expansion among lady crabs and ongoing research documenting the presence of stone crabs in Virginia waters.

“This is climate change you can hold in your hand,” Johnson said. “It’s happening now in ways people can observe for themselves. In fact, this study would not have been possible without citizen scientists.”

The research relied heavily on observations submitted to iNaturalist, a platform where users upload photos of plants and animals with location information. The scientists combed through the sightings and confirmed them with field surveys.

Acosta-Rodríguez said public participation will continue to play a critical role as researchers monitor how far the species spreads.

“We can’t be everywhere,” she said. “When people take photos and document what they see, it helps us understand how ecosystems are changing.”

Despite its arrival in new areas, the researchers emphasize the species is not invasive but rather a native organism responding to shifting environmental conditions. The team now hopes to better understand what the crabs’ presence means for the ecosystem.

“Fiddler crabs are known as ecosystem engineers. They burrow into sediment, influencing plants and nutrient cycling,” Acosta-Rodríguez said. “They’re going to interact with other species, compete for resources and become part of the food web. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing. In fact, they may benefit the ecosystem.”

For Johnson, the takeaway is simple: “The world around us is changing, and anyone can help record it.”



Lead author Valerie Acosta-Rodríguez holding a marsh fiddler crab, another species that has expanded its range due to environmental change. Photo by Claire Curran.

14 April 2024, by Meg Walburn Viviano

Dozens of Claims Still Set for Trial

The owner and operator of M/V Dali has been settling lawsuits, one by one, over the collapse of the Key Bridge on March 26, 2024. But there are crucial cases yet to be decided. More than 60 individual claimants in four groups will see their cases go before a judge beginning in June.

On April 9, 2026, Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown announced a settlement “in principle” between the state and Grace Ocean Private Limited and Synergy Marine Pte Ltd., owner and operator of the Dali. The settlement resolves a lawsuit brought against the vessel on behalf of state agencies including the Maryland Transportation Authority, Maryland Port Administration, and Maryland Department of the Environment. The settlement details have not yet been released.



Crews removing the wreckage after the Dali crashed into the Key Bridge

“For two years, Maryland workers, families, and communities have carried the weight of a disaster that should never have happened. The Dali’s crash into the Key Bridge disrupted the Port of Baltimore, devastated livelihoods, and sent economic shockwaves across our State that are still being felt today,” said Brown. “Our work is not finished, but this settlement is an important step toward making Maryland whole.”

The newest settlement comes on the heels of a recent \$350 million settlement with the state’s insurance company and, back in October 2024, a \$101 million settlement with the federal government for their work to clean up the wreckage and reopen the port following the bridge collapse.

Now the focus shifts to the upcoming federal trial against Grace Ocean and Synergy Marine in which a judge will decide whether the companies can claim “limited liability” under an old maritime law. According to the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, vessel owners can limit their liability for maritime accidents provided they had “no privity or knowledge” of the negligence or unseaworthiness that caused the accident. If the judge determines that the captain and company leaders weren’t negligent and didn’t have knowledge of the Dali’s unseaworthiness, damages could be limited to the post-casualty value of the ship and any pending freight charges, which comes out to about \$44 million.

The final NTSB report on the crash, released in November 2025, traces the disaster back to just one signal wire among thousands that was loose in its terminal block, setting off a chain reaction that ultimately changed Baltimore forever. The NTSB calls the loss of the Key Bridge a preventable disaster.

If the judge finds that the captain and chain of command were negligent and should have known the ship was unseaworthy, Grace and Synergy could be found liable for substantially more than the \$44 million. What’s more, the judge must make this limited liability decision for four different groups of claimants. Attorney Jason Foster, who represents some of the claimants, explains that there are more than 60 individuals who brought cases against Dali’s owners, all waiting for trial.

Due to the impracticality of considering 60+ different cases, the judge had the claimants divide into groups, Foster says. First, the personal injury/wrongful death group includes the families of the six road construction

workers killed when the bridge crumbled, along with the surviving construction worker and inspector.

Next, is the public economic loss group, comprised of Baltimore City and Baltimore County, who are suing over the costly post-collapse response that tied up local emergency responders for weeks, along with the cost of damage to infrastructure under the bridge.

Then, the private economic loss group includes privately owned businesses and individuals hit by the loss of the bridge. For example, Ports America Chesapeake, the ships that were detained when the Patapsco River channel was closed, Domino Sugar, and the International Longshoremen from the Port all say they suffered economic losses.

Finally, the cargo claimants are those who owned cargo being carried on the Dali when it left Baltimore and allided with the Key Bridge. The containers on board belonged to a wide variety of owners.

With four groups and dozens of claimants, it's very unlikely that these lawsuits will be settled ahead of the trial date on June 1, Foster says. The judge has set aside the entire month of June to allow it to play out.

The steps that follow the June trial will largely depend on whether each group is successful in proving that the ship's leadership was negligent.

Meanwhile, the state continues to work towards the rebuilding of the Key Bridge, a task that is now expected to take until 2030 and cost a staggering estimated \$5 billion.



The 2025 Tagging Program Winners



Way South Chesapeake Bay Fishing Report, April 17 Update:

Black drum are being caught around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
Photo courtesy of Ocean's East.



The other main bite happening at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is tautog. Water temperatures have warmed into the upper 50s and low 60s, and the warmer it gets, the more tautog will move into the Bay this spring. There are plenty of undersized fish and some keepers around the islands of the CBBT. There was a report from a boat this week that had eight keepers and several throwbacks. These fish prefer crab baits, so chunks of blue crab or fiddler crabs will work best. The fiddler crabs can be found on marsh banks throughout the Way South region. A reader who recently launched near Fisherman's Island said that the fiddlers were plentiful along the marsh banks as they were heading out. Further off the coast outside of Virginia Beach, there has been an excellent bite for big tautog. One boat had nearly a three-man limit, including a fish over 14 pounds.

The striped bass bite has been good in the industrial areas of the Elizabeth River. The fish are hanging out around bridges and larger docks near deeper channels. A kayak angler reported that he had an excellent week targeting stripers in the Norfolk area this week, catching over three dozen fish. Most of the fish were 20 to 30-inches, but a few were even over the 40-inch mark. They also caught five red drum ranging from 28 to 32 inches. Water temperatures on the west side of the Way South region are well into the 60s, so the shallow water bite should be good for our inshore favorites such as speckled trout, red drum, and striped bass. The flounder action in the coastal bays has been very good with the stretch of warmer weather this month, so there's a good chance these fish are also showing up in the Bay and tidal tributaries.

The February Mystery Fish Forktail Rabbit Fish



The Forktail Rabbitfish or The Streamlined spinefoot has a fusiform and laterally compressed body, typically reaching lengths of up to 40 cm (16 in), although sizes around 25 cm (9.8 in) are more common.

The Forktail Rabbit Fish has a wide Indo-Pacific distribution from the Red Sea south to Mozambique and Madagascar and east into the Pacific Ocean as far as Pitcairn Island, north to Japan and south to Australia.

They normally found in large, fast swimming schools on the water column clear of the seabed, every now and again they all dive down to the substrare to feed. Juveniles and adults may be encountered in small schools of 2–100 individuals near coral reefs, usually in the surge zone on the edge of the reef.

The Rabbitfish has a diet made up of red and green macroalgae and it is one of the few herbivorous fishes that is able to eat the chemically rich macroalgae *Chlorodesmis fastigata*, however, this algae may only be eaten opportunistically and is likely a minor part of the total diet. They have spines which can inject venom into an attacker.



Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Last Revised
March 2026



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: 5 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"

~~-Closed Season April 1 to June 30, 2026~~



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

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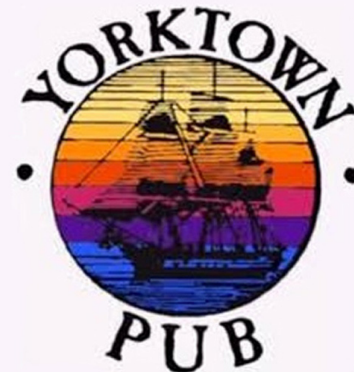


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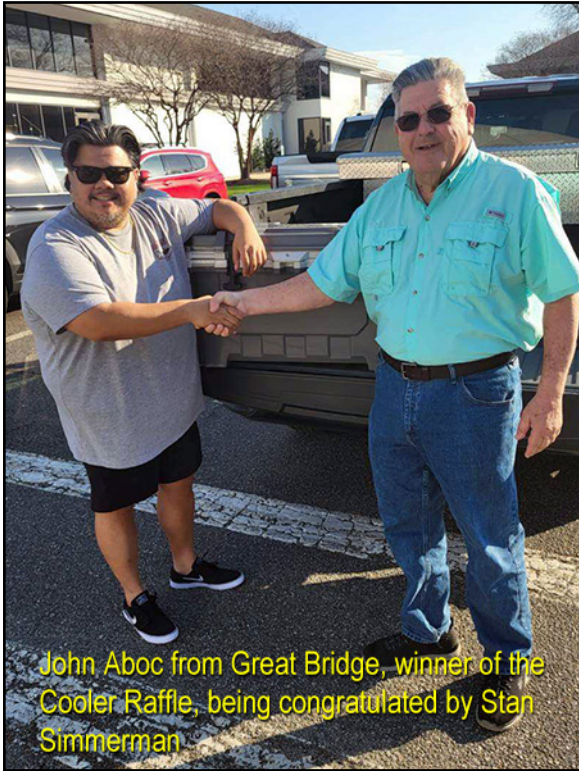
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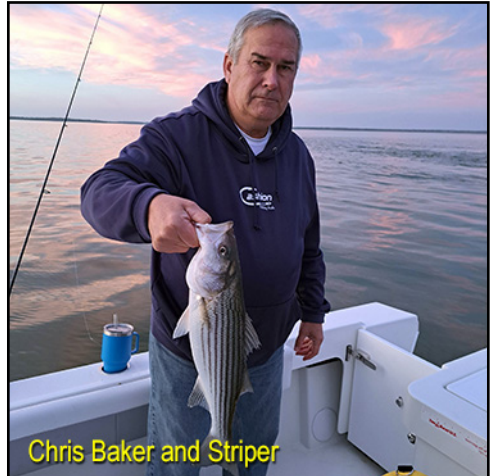
FISH TALES



John Aboc from Great Bridge, winner of the Cooler Raffle, being congratulated by Stan Simmerman



My only fish of the year so far



Chris Baker and Striper



Ben Burdic and Trout



1st meeting of 2026



Stan and Speck



Monthly Tournament List February 2026

Blue Fin Tuna

Chris Baker 90"

Sea Bass

Stan Simmerman 21.5"

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.



Saltwater Fishing in China

China's 14,500 km of coastline offers rich saltwater fishing opportunities, from tropical islands to open sea charters www.fishingworldguide.com. Saltwater fishing is generally organized through charter boats, as individual licenses are not typically issued for saltwater fishing — the local fishing authorities handle permits, and charter captains arrange them.

Key Saltwater Fishing Areas

Hainan (Sanya) – Known as “China’s Hawaii,” Hainan is a top destination for game fishing (GT), jigging, and big game species like tuna, marlin, and sailfish. The South China Sea nearby also offers excellent saltwater fishing www.fishingworldguide.com.

South China Sea – Vast and diverse, with tropical and subtropical species. Best seasons are May–August, but some areas have seasonal moratoriums www.fishingworldguide.com.

Xiangshan County, Ningbo – Features seven sea fishing areas with tropical fish species

Popular Species

- Tuna, Marlin, Sailfish – GT and big game fishing hotspots.
- Mackerel, Snapper, Trevally – Common in tropical coastal waters.

In summary: For saltwater fishing in China, focus on Hainan, the South China Sea, and Ningbo’s coastal areas. Always arrange through a charter boat, check local regulations, and plan for the best seasonal windows to maximize your catch.

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)

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MS11 8/11



INSURANCE



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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



2nd Club Meeting 21 April 2026

NEW ADDRESS

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

