



April 2018



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# Upcoming Events

## Monthly Meeting:

**When:** Thursday April 5, 7:30pm.

**Where:** Foundry United Methodist Church, 2801 Virginia Beach Blvd. in Virginia Beach next to Beach Ford.

**April Meeting Subject:** Catching Big Catfish

**April Meeting Speaker:** Captain Brian Liverman of Split Shot Sound Charters

## **April & Future Information Notes:**

### **1. Crab Creek Cleanup April 7<sup>th</sup>**

### **2. Kids Day Event at West Marine!**

- A) **Looking for VBAC Volunteers:** Kids Day Event at West Marine; Saturday April 28th. **10AM to 2PM (or any portion).**
- B) We have been invited to assist West Marine on April 28th with their annual Kids Day event. West Marine will arrange all supplies- we will supply people. VBAC will support three booths (located out front)
- C) 1. **Some sort of static fishing game-** rods and reel with magnetic ends tossed at fake fish
- D) 2. **Tackle and knot tying tips.**
- E) 3. **Conservation and releasing fish booth.**
- F) Lastly, we will boil and dispense hot dogs and snacks (again provided by WM).
- G) If you are interested in helping out on this worthwhile event, please let Bob Burstein or Butch Eason know. Come out and help us develop and nurture future anglers.  
**Bob: 267-994-7423 Butch: 757-681-6019**

### **3. Hunt for Hardheads May 19, 2018! Give your name to Bob Burstein or George Gabriel to be a sponsored boat.**

This is an annual friendly competition between the Virginia Beach Anglers Club, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association, Portsmouth Anglers Club, and Norfolk Anglers Club. The date is May 19 and "Lines In" is at 7:00 AM and "Weigh in" is at Portsmouth City Park 12:30 PM till 1:30 PM. Fishable area is the area bounded on the east 500 yards east of the HRBT and west to include the Elizabeth, James, and tributaries. Species of qualifying fish include: croaker, flounder, and bluefish. Fish will be measured by length only and in the event of a tie, a girth measurement will decide. The longest legal fish of each species will earn 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> longest legal fish earns 4 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> longest legal fish earns 3 points, 4<sup>th</sup> longest legal fish earns 2 points, and the 5<sup>th</sup> longest legal earns 1 point. The club with the most points wins, **The club with the least points has to cook the following year! WE DON'T WANT TO BE LAST!** The club is sponsoring 5 boats of 3 anglers. The captain must enter the boat. **First come, First served!** You can have more anglers, but at an additional \$10.00 each. Bob Burstein 267-994-7423, George Gabriel 757-619-1638.

# VBAC Fishing Roulette 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>Current Leader</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Croaker		
Puppy Drum		
Sea Bass	James Eisenhower	4# 2oz
Bowfin	James Eisenhower	6#
Sunfish		

## Catch-A-Ride

### BOAT

Preston Mangum (757) 582-1450  
Jeremy Maguire (757) 407-0493  
Rich Maguire (757) 619-4851  
Rob Stommel (703) 244-1282  
Bob Stuhlman (757) 374-7372

### CREW

Pete Federico (908) 887-3113  
Ronnie Hillin (757) 848-3535  
Kelly Hoggard (757) 416-8817  
Victor Minak (703) 888-8992  
Gerald Segelstrom (724) 809-7868



# Our 2018 Banquet



## 2017 AWARDS BANQUET AWARDS

### 2017 TOP FISH CAUGHT SALTWATER

Black Sea Bass	Beth Synowiec	4 lbs 12 oz
Bluefish	Beth Synowiec	15 lbs 4 oz
Blueline Tile	Beth Synowiec	11 lbs 1 oz
Cobia	David Smith	56 lbs
Golden Tile	Beth Synowiec	36 lbs 10 oz
Puppy Drum	Beth Synowiec	7 lbs
Roundhead	Butch Eason	1 lb 8 oz
Sheepshead	Beth Synowiec	10 lbs 6 oz
Spadefish	James Eisenhower	7 lb 8 oz
Spanish Mackerel	David Smith	3 lbs 1 oz
Speckled Trout	David Smith	4 lbs 8 oz

### 2017 TOP FISH SALTWATER RELEASE

Bluefish	David Smith	32.5 “
Black Drum	David Smith	20.25”
Bull Shark	Beth Synowiec	75”
Hammerhead Shark	Beth Synowiec	90”
Puppy Drum	Beth Synowiec	28”
Red Drum	Kevin Synowiec	49”
Sheepshead	Beth Synowiec	24”
Speckled Trout	David Smith	20”
Thresher Shark	Kevin Synowiec	126”

### 2017 TOP FISH SURF RELEASED

Roundhead	Robbie Parks	15”
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### 2017 TOP FISH CAUGHT FRESHWATER

American Shad	George Gabriel	1 lb 11 oz
Blue Catfish	James Eisenhower	27 lbs 4 oz
Chain Pickerel	Steve Harding	3 lbs 2 oz
Channel Catfish	Melanie Bayford	16 lbs 12 oz
Crappie	Joshua Regula	2 lbs
Hickory Shad	Joshua Regula	1 lb 9 oz
Shellcracker	Russell Willoughby	1 lb 11 oz
Yellow Perch	Steve Harding	15 oz

## 2017 TOP FISH RELEASE FRESHWATER

Blue Catfish	Robert Stuhlman	40"
Bluegill	Kris Lozier	9.5"
Bowfin	Melanie Bayford	24"
Chain Pickerel	Preston Mangum	22.625"
Channel Catfish	Melanie Bayford	31"
Long Nose Gar	Melanie Bayford	39"
White Perch	Melanie Bayford	10"
Yellow Perch	Melanie Bayford	10.25"

## EXPERT ANGLER AWARDS

Melanie Bayford	Channel Catfish, Bowfin
Butch Eason	Roundhead
David Smith	Speckled Trout
Beth Synowiec	Red Drum, Speckled Trout

## MASTER ANGLER AWARDS

Beth Synowiec	Red Drum, Puppy Drum, Black Seabass, Bluefish, Bull Shark Hammerhead Shark, Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tile, Sheepshead
David Smith	Red Drum, Puppy Drum, Spanish Mackerel, Speckled Trout, Cobia, Black Drum, Bluefish
Melanie Bayford	Bowfin, Channel Catfish, Crappie, Long Nose Gar, White Perch, Yellow Perch

## MOST OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Saltwater Catch: Kevin Synowiec – 126" Thresher Shark  
Freshwater Catch: Robert Stuhlman – 40" 48 lb Blue Catfish

## ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Female Angler of the Year, Saltwater: Beth Synowiec  
Release Angler of the Year, Saltwater: Kevin Synowiec  
Male Angler of the Year, Saltwater: David Smith  
Female Angler of the Year, Freshwater: Melanie Bayford  
Release Angler of the Year, Freshwater: Melanie Bayford  
Male Angler of the Year, Freshwater: Joshua Regula

## JAY SMITH MEMORIAL SURF FISHING AWARD

Male Surf Angler of the Year Butch Eason

## GENE FARRAR MEMORIAL SURF FISHING AWARD

Female Surf Angler of the Year Patty Searby

## VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB, MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Gary Doerhoff

## DR. JAMES C. WRIGHT CONSERVATION AWARD

Chris Moore, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

### PRIZES/RAFFLES DONATED BY:

1st Landing Kayak Fishing Service      Melanie Bayford      Chris Schneider      Pete Federico  
Jerry Hughes      L. B. Huntington Drone Co.      Ronnie Nixon      Sea Tow  
Long Bay Pointe Bait & Tackle      Walmart      Murphy's Pub      Cheeseburger in Paradise  
Red Robin      Lucky Oyster      Golden Corral      Harris Teeter      Chili's Senior Fox  
Carrabbas      Egg Bistro      Waterman's      Red Lobster      Wild Wings      Coastal Breeze  
Bob's Fishing Hole      Citrus      Kiln Creek Golf Course      Rudee Angler      Stan Sutliff  
Bob Burstein      Marshall Weathers      Bob Stuhlman      Maureen Gabriel      Preston Mangum  
Chris Schaffer

and

### THE VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLER'S CLUB

#### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Larry Regula

We would like to welcome our special guests:

PORTSMOUTH ANGLERS CLUB  
GREAT BRIDGE FISHERMANS ASSOC.  
TIDEWATER ANGLERS CLUB  
NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

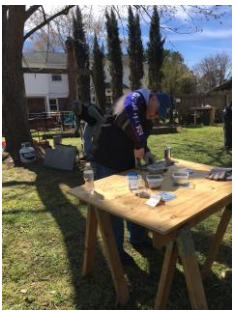
VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO  
JERRY MARIANO and his CREW  
FOR ORGANIZING TONIGHTS  
BANQUET

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST A SPECIAL THANKS  
TO **EVERYONE** WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY TO MAKE OUR  
BANQUET A GREAT SUCCESS!



# The 2018 Lead Pouring

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, Mike Andersen was kind enough to host our 2018 lead pouring in his back yard. Fourteen of our members braved the cool temperature and breezy conditions to spend their morning melting lead in a number of electric and propane melters. All together, they melted in excess of 165 pounds of lead and poured it into a variety of molds making all sorts and sizes of lead weights. Just after 12:00 noon everyone broke for lunch, delving into the 6-foot submarine sandwich, coleslaw, potato salad, chips, and drinks accompanied by great conversation and “fish” stories. All the participants split up the majority of finished weights with everyone taking home all they wanted. If you couldn’t be there, make plans to attend the next one!



# VBAC Classified Page

**Propeller: Mercury Black Max.** New in box.

Diameter 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", pitch 21, Rotation - RH, aluminum, with hardware. New on internet, discount price is \$144.00.

Will sell for \$60.00. Melanie Bayford 804-210-1212 3/18

**10' by 20' camouflage netting.** Good condition except 2 - 4"-6" holes. \$40.00 Call Preston Mangum 757-582-1450 4/18

**14' Flat Bottom Jon Boat. No trailer.** Doesn't leak. No trailer. Clear title. \$300.00. Call Gary Doerhoff 757-404-4727. 4/18

**10" Sears Craftsman radial arm saw,** mounted on moveable frame. Craftsman carbide tipped adjustable dadoes blade and original instruction manuals for both. \$150.00 for all. (\$180-\$200 on eBay) Call Bob Stuhlman if interested 757-374-7372 4/18

**2013 Metallic gold Ford 150 XLT** North Carolina Edition, 4x4, crew cab, V8, new tires, wheel well liners, floor mats, spray bed liner, bed cover, brush guard, 61K miles. Excellent condition. \$22,800.00 Call Steve Lockyear (757) 456-5105 4/18



## Participation Needed!

Listed below are many of the committees and their respective captain (or co-captains) that represent each committee. All of these hard working club members need help fulfilling their goals for the events that are planned during the year. No matter your current role in the club, everyone is encouraged to help in any way possible. There are no special skill requirements needed... It just requires a little bit of time and input. Take an active part in the club and help make a difference in our community.

Thank you all for your consideration - VBAC Officers and Directors

### 2018 Virginia Beach Anglers Club Committees:

Boat Show:	<b>Chair – Russell Willoughby</b>
Calendar:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair – Ronnie Nixon</b>
Crab Creek Clean-Up:	<b>Chair – Ronnie Nixon</b>
Great Bridge Flea Market:	<b>Chair – Preston Mangum</b>
VBAC Flea Market:	<b>Chair – Bob Burstein</b>
Banquet/Oyster Roast:	<b>Chair – Jerry Mariano</b>
Seton Youth:	<b>Chair – Dave Anderson</b>
Raffles:	<b>Chair – Preston Mangum</b>
Audit Committee:	<b>Chair – Mike Anderson</b>
Surf Tournaments:	<b>Chair – Robbie Parks</b>
Club Tournaments:	<b>Chair – George Gabriel</b> <b>Co. Chair – Bob Burstein</b>
Pier Tournaments:	<b>Chair – Gary Doerhoff</b>
Prize Fish:	<b>Chair – David Reynolds</b>
Nomination Committee:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair Kelly Hoggard</b> <b>Co. Chair Beth Synoweic</b>
Conservation and Regulations:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair – Kelly Hoggard</b>
T-Shirt Committee:	<b>Chair – Patty Searby</b>



# *Saltwater Fishing News*

## *Our March West Marine Table*

VBAC had a membership table at West Marine on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm, during their 3 day spring sale. The West Marine store is on Virginia Beach Blvd., in the Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center. Karen Roberts, West Marine's store manager, gave us an Okuma Custom Black 7' one piece spinning rod with a Custom Black spinning reel (retail value \$110.00) and an Okuma 30A Custom Black deep drop reel with lever drag (retail value \$120.00) to raffle off to store patrons that visited our table. VBAC members manning the table with me were: Ronnie Nixon, Pat Searby, and Butch Eason. It turned out to be a great day. We had a decent turnout, many of our members came by to say Hi and fill out a raffle ticket. I won the 7' spinning rod & reel, which has now become a Seton Youth prize. We did manage to take two new member applications.

Your club is planning another membership table at 511 Tactical in the same Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center. This one is scheduled for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm. We need 3 or 4 members to set up and man the table. If you have the time to spend there that Saturday, please contact me @ 267-994-7423. Thanks, Bob Burstein



## *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

The following report was submitted by Dr. James "Ike" Eisenhower;

Black Sea Bass Fishing with Capt. Will Bransom:

28 FEB: With a great weather forecast so I was invited to head to the offshore wrecks on the last day of the February Black Sea Bass season aboard Captain Will Bransom's boat with other Norfolk Anglers; Mike Hubert, Ray Sexton, and Greg Rogers. The Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) opened Black Sea Bass in February when the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) made that option available for the first time in a number of years. Opening the season came with a condition though. The recreational harvest had to be monitored with a special permitting process and a required voice report to the Marine Operations Station before returning unlike other times during the year. VMRC made the permitting process very easy with the online (FREE) sea bass permit and calling in the report was a piece of cake. We provided my VMRC ID number, boat description, our catch, and when we'd be at the ramp. We were greeted at the Owls Creek Public Boat Ramp by a Virginia Marine Police Officer exactly on time and he checked out our catch. The entire process went quick and easy. We next provided our catch to the Marine Recreation Information Program (MRIP) for documentation. They measured & weighed the catch for fisheries management. Another easy process that benefits our fishery.

On to the report...we departed out of Owls Creek around 7:00 am and once cleared the Rudee Inlet jetties we made a quick run offshore. The weather was fantastic and we were on the wrecks in only two hours. Using Capt. Will's sidescan units we were able to pick out different areas of the wrecks that had concentrated areas of fish. Ray was the first to land a sea bass weighing in at 4 lbs 13 ounces on the boat. Shortly after that I had a 4 lb, 2 oz sea bass in the boat as well. Most of these fish on that wreck were between 3-4 lbs. but we had to deal with the spiny dogfish sharks during the day no matter where we went. It's just the way it is this time of year. After an hour or two we moved on to the second wreck and boated more fish. We spotted a large school of Atlantic Dolphin coming toward the boat and like a light switch the bite turned off. So, on to another wreck about 15 miles away and more sea bass. We fished with squid, mackerel, bluefish, green crabs, and used vertical jigs; everything caught was sea bass. We did try to catch some Golden Tilefish but had no luck there and had a fast surface current and wind to deal with which probably explains our lack of success. Sea Bass under 13 inches were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) and released near the bottom using Capt. Will's Seaqualizer throughout the day. All in all it was a nice day fishing for sea bass and our ride we were flying at 38 knots on calm seas.

Thanks Capt. Will, Mike, Ray and Greg, great fishing with you all.

Ike



## *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

The following pictures are from Dr. Ike's report on the previous page.



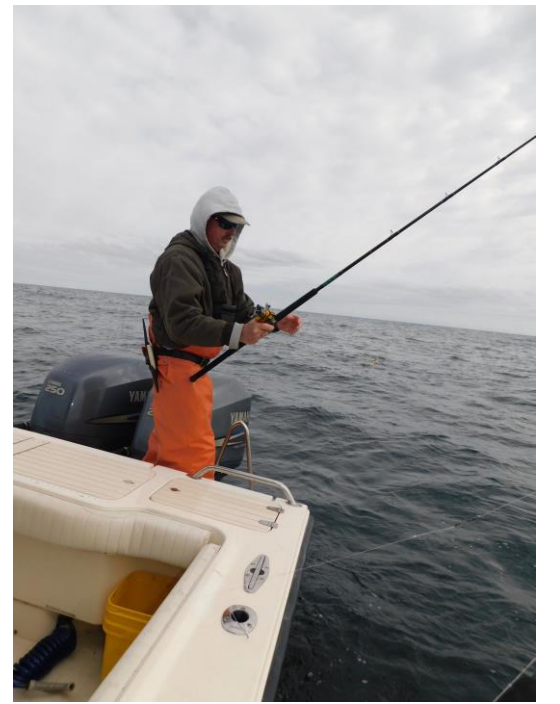
4lb 2oz Black Sea Bass - Ike



4lb 13oz Black Sea Bass - Ray



Black Sea Bass - Mike



Greg Rodgers

# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

John Bello op/ed: General Assembly must do more to protect menhaden

By John Bello

MARCH 17, 2018, 7:00 PM

Your state legislators missed an opportunity to do something meaningful for the Chesapeake Bay. Instead of enacting legislation to control the industrial harvest of Atlantic menhaden, they chose to refer the matter back to committee, essentially killing any chance for a change.

For years, recreational fishermen like me have attempted to reel in Omega Protein Inc., the industrial fishing operation out of Houston, Texas, with a facility in Reedville that catches hundreds of millions of Menhaden every year. Yet the company wants even more. That's why they hire well-connected lobbyists and a small army of attorneys to convince fisheries managers to increase their catch quota. Their efforts have paid off in recent years as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has increased the total coastwide catch limit three times.

But this hasn't been enough for the company. They argued to the Virginia General Assembly that they should be allowed to take even more fish than what the ASMFC has allowed (House Bill 1610).

To make matters worse, Omega Protein was recently acquired by a privately held foreign company, Cooke Inc, which appears to be following the same blueprint. Omega and Cooke seem to want to increase the total catch yet again, to levels exceeding those before any catch limits existed at all.

With their acquisition of Omega Protein, Cooke had an opportunity to chart a new course. They could have embraced a 21st-century conservation vision that considers the needs of the broader ecosystem. Instead, they decided to follow the same greedy path as their predecessor. So much for making a good first impression.

Virginia already holds over 75 percent of the coastwide quota for Atlantic menhaden, but Cooke argues that the state should get an even bigger piece of the pie. Instead of accepting a modest cap on the industrial catch in the ecologically vital Chesapeake Bay, Cooke wants to increase it. They want the ability to harvest more menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay than they have on average for the past five years.

Virginia will not see its allowable catch decline as claimed in a recent op-ed (Monty Diehl op/Ed on Atlantic menhaden: Fishery decision based on politics, not science and fact March 5). In fact, under the ASMFC's new management plan the industry will be allowed to land more menhaden than before, just not in the Chesapeake Bay.

Continued Page 13

# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

Continued

Atlantic menhaden are the “most important fish in the sea.” These fish play a vital role in the marine ecosystem because they feed many other marine species and feed on algae. Rockfish, bluefish, sharks, and many other gamefish survive on menhaden. Just ask any recreational fisherman.

Recreational fishing supports more than 5,000 jobs and contributes more than \$520 million to Virginia’s economy according to NOAA’s 2015 Fisheries Economics of the U.S. Think about it, thousands of jobs and millions of dollars being spent on recreational fishing in Virginia, including tackle shops, marinas and boat builders.

Cooke is focused on maximizing profits with little consideration of the environmental impacts. Last year, in Washington State, Cooke salmon farms allowed nearly 300,000 farmed salmon to escape, risking the health of local wild salmon populations. In response, state regulators canceled a substantial portion of Cooke’s salmon farm leases and more recently passed a bill to phase out salmon farming.

Virginia General Assembly should be acting similarly to protect the interests of Virginia’s recreational fishermen and charter boat captains that depend on abundant game fish. Given that Cooke will not accept the imminently reasonable Atlantic menhaden rules set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (by a vote of 17-1), it’s time for Virginia to defend its public resources.

Every other state on the East Coast has banned the antiquated practice of “reduction fishing,” where fish are scooped up in large quantities and “reduced” to fish meal and oil for use as a global commodity worth just pennies a pound. It seems clear that Cooke intends to use our Atlantic menhaden to feed their salmon farming operations in other states and countries. These fish are too valuable to the ecosystem and to recreational fishermen to be ground up for animal feed.

I applaud Gov. Ralph Northam for his leadership in attempting to bring the state of Virginia into compliance with the coastwide fishery management plan for Atlantic menhaden. His administration deserves kudos for recently withdrawing a misguided challenge to the management system. We must all stand up to this foreign company that’s exploiting our valuable fisheries. Recreational fishermen like me have been waiting years for change to conserve “the most important fish in the sea.”

Bello is chairman of the board of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, based in Henrico County. For more information, visit [joinvssa.org](http://joinvssa.org).

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This article is related to: Virginia General Assembly

# Saltwater Fishing News Continued

The following page reflects the Prize Fish requirements updated on March 15, 2018.  
Please save for your files.

Eligible Saltwater Species and Minimum Weights are:

\*\*\*\*\* Modified/updated March 15, 2018. Based on 75% of Virginia Citation Requirements.

## Virginia Citation Requirements

## 2018 VBAC Requirements

	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Release Length</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Release Length</i>	
Amberjack	Release only	50"	Release only	38"	
Bass, Black Sea	5 lb 0 oz	n/a	3 lb 12 oz	17"	
	*****				
Bass, Striped (SW)	40 lb 0 oz	44"	30 lb 0 oz	33"	
Bluefish	16 lb 0 oz	36"	12 lb 0 oz	27"	
Cobia	55 lb 0 oz	50"	41 lb 4 oz	38"	*****
Croaker	3 lb 0 oz	20"	2 lb 4 oz	15"	*****
Dolphin	25 lb 0 oz	n/a	18 lb 12 oz	35"	*****
Drum, Black	80 lb 0 oz	46"	Release only	35"	
Drum, Red	Release only	46"	Release only	35"	
False Albacore	Release only	32"	Release only	24"	
Flounder	6 lb 0 oz	26"	4 lb 8 oz	20"	
Gray Triggerfish	4 lb 0 oz	20"	3 lb 0 oz	15"	
Jack Crevalle	Release only	40"	Release only	30"	
Kingfish (roundhead)	1 lb 8 oz	16"	1 lb 2 oz	12"	*****
Mackerel, King	20 lb 0 oz	n/a	15 lb 0 oz	33"	
Mackerel, Spanish	4 lb 0 oz	26"	3 lb 0 oz	20"	
Marlin, Blue	Release only		Release only		
Marlin, White	Release only		Release only		
Pompano	1 lb 8 oz	16"	1 lb 2 oz	12"	
Sailfish	Release only		Release only		
Sharks	Release only	72"	Release only	54"	
Sheepshead	10 lb 0 oz	24"	7 lb 8 oz	18"	*****
Spadefish	9 lb 0 oz	22"	6 lb 12 oz	17"	*****
Spearfish	Release only		Release only		
Spot	1 lb 0 oz	13"	12 oz	10"	*****
Swordfish	100 lb 0 oz	Any	75 lb 0 oz	Any	
Tarpon	Release only	36"	Release only	27"	*****
Tautog	9 lb 0 oz	23"	6 lb 12 oz	17"	*****
Trout, Gray	9 lb 0 oz	30"	6 lb 12 oz	23"	*****
Trout, Speckled	5 lb 0 oz	24"	3 lb 12 oz	18"	*****
Tuna, Bigeye	70 lb 0 oz	n/a	52 lb 8 oz	38"	*****
Tuna, Bluefin	100 lb 0 oz	60"	75 lb 0 oz	45"	
Tuna, Yellowfin	70 lb 0 oz	n/a	52 lb 8 oz	38"	*****
Tilefish, Blueline	10 lb 0 oz	n/a	7 lb 8 oz		*****
Tilefish, Golden	30 lb 0 oz	n/a	22 lb 8 oz		
Wahoo	35 lb 0 oz	n/a	26 lb 4 oz	38"	
*****					

# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

Dear Robert,

It might not feel like it, but spring is just around the corner. And already, ospreys are returning to their summer homes in the Chesapeake.

Come learn about these incredible birds and other raptors at the first "flight" of CBF's Brock Environmental Center Learning Series!

[Click here to register!](#)

Known as the "Raptor Whisperer," Reese Lukei, a volunteer Research Associate at The Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William & Mary, along with Crystal Matthews, Curator of Birds at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, will share the latest research on the nesting habits of these birds of prey—right here in our backyards!

This free program features the description, behavior, nest locations, history, distribution, recovery, and current status of ospreys and bald eagles.

[Space is limited, register now!](#)

Please spread the word to family and friends. This promises to be an extraordinary evening!

Hope to see you there,

Christy Everett

**Join us for a discussion on the raptors of the Chesapeake, April 10!**



 **Register**

**What:** Raptor Life in the Lower Chesapeake Bay

**When:** Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** CBF's Brock Environmental Center, [3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach, VA](#)

**Cost:** Free (but please RSVP as space is limited)

*Photo by Jerry Hughes*



# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

## **FMAC Committee Members and Interested Parties**

Please see the note below from Jill Ramsey at the VMRC. She is asking for input on spiny dogfish regulations, especially landing limits. If you have a preference one way or the other, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Jeff Deem  
VMRC/FMAC Chair

This month at our Commission meeting, I will be doing a request for public hearing for regulation CHAPTER 4VAC20-490-10 ET SEQ. "Pertaining to Sharks", to address the 2018/2019 fishing season quota and modify trip limits for spiny dogfish. In this regulation, there is language specific to 2017 that needs to be updated.

At the FMAC meeting on September 19, 2016, a motion passed unanimously to set the vessel trip limit for spiny dogfish at 5,000 pounds with a 5% tolerance and if 80% of the quota was not met by February 15, 2017 then the vessel trip limit would increase to 6,000 pounds. The vessel trip limit has been at 6,000 pounds since February 2017 and the market is handling it well.

We would like to know if FMAC has any concerns about leaving the vessel trip limit at 6,000 pounds. If there are no concerns then staff will recommend amending the regulation to keep the vessel trip limit at 6,000 pounds.

Any comments or concerns can be emailed to me at [Jill.Ramsey@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Jill.Ramsey@mrc.virginia.gov)

Thank you,

Jill

### **4 VAC 20-490-42. SPINY DOGFISH COMMERCIAL QUOTA AND CATCH LIMITATIONS.**

A. From May 1 of the current calendar year through April 30 of the following calendar year, the commercial spiny dogfish landings quota shall be limited to 4,220,814 pounds.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, harvest, or possess aboard any vessel or to land in Virginia any spiny dogfish harvested from federal waters for commercial purposes after it has been announced that the federal quota for spiny dogfish has been taken.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, harvest, or possess aboard any vessel or to land in Virginia more than 5,250 pounds of spiny dogfish per day for commercial purposes. However, if landings are less than eighty percent of the quota specified in subsection A of this section, by February 15, 2017, it shall be unlawful to take, harvest, or possess aboard any vessel or to land in Virginia more than 6,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per day for commercial purposes.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest or to land in Virginia any spiny dogfish for commercial purposes after the quota specified in subsection A of this section has been landed and announced as such.

E. Any spiny dogfish harvested from state waters or federal waters, for commercial purposes, shall only be sold to a federally permitted dealer.

F. It shall be unlawful for any buyer of seafood to receive any spiny dogfish after any commercial harvest or landing quota described in this section has been attained and announced as such.

Jill Ramsey

VMRC

Fisheries Management Specialist [757-247-2243](tel:757-247-2243)

# ***Surf Fishing News***

## **Surf Fishing Committee for 2018**

**Robbie Parks - Chairman**

**Mike Anderson**

**Butch Eason**

**Carl McCoy**

**Bob Burstein**

**Jerry Hughes**

**Doug Wehner**

### **Surf Fishing Report:**

Just a Heads-Up and save the date reminder. Due to a conflict with the Hunt-for- Hardheads date, May 19<sup>th</sup>, the same date our intra-club surf fishing tournament was set for, we have moved the surf fishing tournament up 1 week to May 12<sup>th</sup>. We have several club members who would like to participate in both events – thus the change. Remember that the high scorer for the tournament gets to pick a spot on the tournament of their choice in the following year (along with the usual bragging rights). We fish at Sandbridge with lines in at 8:00am. We fish until 11:00am followed by lunch at a vacant shelter or truck tailgates as necessary. GREAT FUN! And a good way to learn about surf fishing from some of the club's best. Come give it a try.

Tight Lines!  
Robbie

### **Surf Fishing Report:**

**Congratulations and Good Luck to all who had their names drawn for the 2018 fall surf fishing tournament teams.** The tournaments are a lot of fun, hard fishing and good eating. The Ocracoke teams (2) will be going to Ocracoke at the end of the month to represent the club at the annual Ocracoke Island Invitational Surf Fishing tournament. As you might remember, we have two teams in this and lodging year's tournament thanks to the Sand Witches. The balance of the lodging (\$172.00) for the Ocracoke tournament is due at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The \$60 for the participation fee and lodging deposit for each tournament team you are on is due at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting also. 1 team \$60. 2 teams \$120. 3 teams \$180. 4 teams \$240. Please give your payments to me (Robbie) at the meeting so I can make sure your payments are credited to you. If payments are not received at the meeting and arrangements have not been made with me to get them paid you will be dropped from the team. If for some reason you decide not to fish in any of the tournaments you were drawn for please let me know as soon as possible so I can start trying to find an alternate. The rumor is that the drum and puppy drum fishing has been fairly good and consistent down at Hatteras. I haven't had a chance to go but it sounds good.

Tight Lines!  
Robbie

# **Ocracoke Surf Fishing Team**

**2018**

## **Team 1**

**Returning from 2017: Jerry Hughes**

**Butch Eason**

**Steve Wray**

**Drawn for Team: Mark Wray**

**Russell Willoughby**

**Doug Wehner**

## **Team 2**

**Drawn for Team:**

**~~Jim Wisenberg~~ 3/20/18**

**John Germanos**

**Stan Sutliff**

**Carl McCoy**

**Bob Burstein**

**~~Cheryl Johnston~~ 2/3/18**

**~~Bill Peebles~~ 3/12/18**

**Patty Searby 3/12/18**

**Larry Regula 3/21/18**

**Alternates:**

**~~Bill Peebles~~**

**~~Patty Searby~~**

**~~Bob Stuhlman~~ 3/20/18**

**~~Gary Doerhoff~~ 3/21/18**

**~~Larry Regula~~**

# ***Surf Fishing News Continued***

## **VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB**

### **2018 TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

**3-1-2018**

**Hatteras Village:**

**September 6-9, 2018**

**Team "A"**

**Team "B"**

**Alternates**

Butch Eason

Larry Regula

Jerry Hughes

Russell Willoughby

Carl McCoy

John Germanos

Melanie Bayford

Robbie Parks

Chris Schneider

Jim Wisenberg

Jerry Mariano

Marshall Weathers

Patty Searby

Bob Stuhlman

Stan Sutliff

Bryan Watkins

**Long Beach Island:**

**September 22, 2018**

**Team "A"**

**Team "B"**

**Alternates**

Doug Wehner

Patty Searby

David Anderson

Jerry Hughes

Bob Stuhlman

Chris Schneider

Kelly Hogard

John Germanos

Robbie Parks

Melanie Bayford

Bryan Watkins

George Gabriel

Greg Wehner

Jerry Mariano

# *Surf Fishing News Continued*

## **VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB** **2018 TOURNAMENT TEAMS *Continued***

### **Nags Head:**

**October 3-7, 2018**

<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>Alternates</u></b>	<b><u>Alternates</u></b>
Jim Wisenberg	Jerry Hughes	John Germanos
Doug Wehner	Carl McCoy	Marshall Weathers
Robbie Parks	Melanie Bayford	
Stan Sutliff	Bob Stuhlman	
Bryan Watkins	Greg Wehner	
Gary Doerhoff	Patty Searby	

### **CHAC (Buxton):**

**November 1-4, 2018**

<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>Alternates</u></b>	<b><u>Alternates</u></b>
Robbie Parks	Doug Wehner	Patty Searby
Russell Willoughby	John Germanos	Marshall Weathers
Jim Wisenberg	Carl McCoy	
Bryan Watkins	David Anderson	
Stan Sutliff	Greg Wehner	
Jerry Hughes	Bob Stuhlman	



# Freshwater Fishing News

The following page reflects the Prize Fish requirements updated on March 15, 2018.  
Please save for your files.

## Eligible Freshwater Species, Minimum Weight, and Release Lengths.

\*\*\*\*\* Modified/updated March 15, 2018. Based on 75% of Virginia Citation Requirements.

### Virginia Citation Requirements

### 2018 VBAC Requirements

	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Release Length</i>		<i>Weight</i>	<i>Release Length</i>	
Bass, Largemouth	8 lb 0 oz	22"		6 lb 0 oz	17"	
Bass, Rock	1 lb 0 oz	12"		12 oz	9"	*****
Bass, Smallmouth	5 lb 0 oz	20"		3 lb 12 oz	15"	*****
Bass, Striped (FW)	20 lb 0 oz	37"		15 lb 0 oz	28"	
Bass, White	2 lb 8 oz	18"		1 lb 14 oz	14"	
Bowfin (Grindle)	10 lb 0 oz	30"		7 lb 8 oz	23"	
Carp	20 lb 0 oz	34"		15 lb 0 oz	26"	
Catfish, Blue	30 lb 0 oz	38"		22 lb 8 oz	29"	*****
Catfish, Channel	12 lb 0 oz	30"		9 lb 0 oz	23"	
Catfish, Flathead	25 lb 0 oz	40"		18 lb 12oz	30"	*****
Chain Pickerel	4 lb 0 oz	24"		3 lb 0 oz	18"	
Crappie	2 lb 0 oz	15"		1 lb 8 oz	11"	*****
Gar	10 lb 0 oz	40"		7 lb 8 oz	30"	
Muskellunge	15 lb 0 oz	40"		11 lb 4 oz	30"	*****
Northern Pike	6 lb 0 oz	30"		4 lb 8 oz	23"	
Perch, White	1 lb 4 oz	13"		15 oz	10"	
Perch, Yellow	1 lb 4 oz	12"		15 oz	9"	
*****						
Sauger	2 lb 0 oz	18"		1 lb 8 oz	14"	
Shad, American				(Release only)	12"	
Shad, Hickory	1 lb 8 oz	10"		1 lb 2 oz	8"	
Sunfish/Bluegill	1 lb 0 oz	11"		12 oz	8"	
*****						
Trout, Brook	2 lb 0 oz	16"		1 lb 8 oz	12"	
*****						
Trout, Brown	5 lb 0 oz	25"		3 lb 12 oz	19"	
*****						
Trout, Rainbow	4 lb 0 oz	22"		3 lb 0 oz	17"	
*****						
Walleye	5 lb 0 oz	25"		3 lb 12 oz	19"	
*****						

## ***Freshwater Fishing News Continued***

**From: Dr. James (Ike) Eisenhower**

**Catfish Fishing with Capt. Petey in the James River, 3/9 & 3/16:**

Russell Willoughby, Jerry Hughes and I went fishing with catfish charter Capt. Petey on the James River on 3/9/18. Weather was windy and cold sunny in morning but cloudy in the afternoon and the water was only 45 degrees. Despite our hanging in there from 7AM to 4PM fishing one spot after another we managed only one blue catfish, a 10 lb. fish that Russell brought to the boat. That fish was kept for eating but no pic was taken. Capt. Petey was just as frustrated if not more than we were since we had caught citation sized cats over the last two previous years with him and that was our expectation for this trip. So he offered us another trip for free the following Friday.



Fishing 3/16 was practically a mirror image of the previous week with cold temps in the morning but this day was much calmer and sunny. Water temp at surface was 46 degrees. Again we fishing multiple spots on the James River east of Hopewell and even fished half of the day west of Hopewell in shallow water that had 47 degree temperature. Jerry picked up; a 5 lb blue catfish and I picked up a 12.11 oz lb bluecat measured on my scales. Both were caught in about 5-7 ft of water. At one point Capt. Petey put his gill net out for some more shad for bait and when we went to pull it we found it was moving. Sure enough that meant there was a big catfish in the net which turned into a 25 lb blue catfish the biggest of the day released. Oh well, we will have to try another time when the water is much warmer to catch some citation sized fish.

**Blessings,**

**Ike**

Fishing information has been sporadic but here is what has been heard so far. Some anglers are finding good hauls of crappie and some largemouth bass biting in the Suffolk lakes. Bob's Fishing Hole reports largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, catfish, and white perch biting in the Northwest River. Lake Smith anglers report some crappie and largemouth bass.

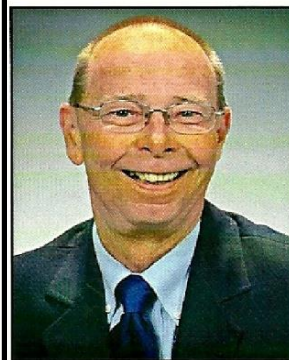
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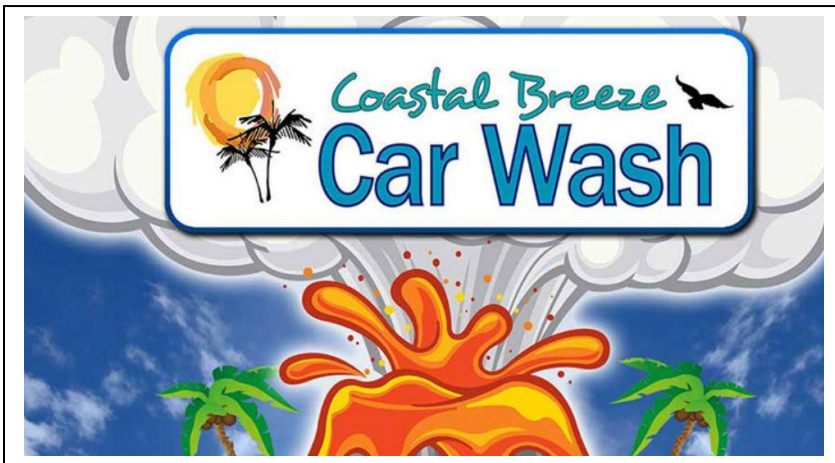
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# VBAC MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the VBAC is to encourage sport fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, while supporting prudent governmental and other policies that promote the preservation, conservation and ecology of all marine life.

## Our Objectives:

- ❖ Monitor legislative and regulatory activities relating to management of local and regional fisheries and participating actively, where appropriate, to assure the adoption of sound management policy and practices that best serve the interests of VBAC members.
- ❖ Promote interest and participation in recreational angling by conducting programs and activities that encourage sport fishing.
- ❖ Educate members and others in the techniques of sport fishing to enhance their enjoyment of the sport.
- ❖ Conduct social activities that create a wholesome climate for deriving the maximum pleasure from sport fishing by members, their families and guests.
- ❖ Plan and conduct fund raising activities to provide the revenues needed to support these objectives.

## 2018 VBAC Elected Officials

### Officers:

President: George Gabriel

First Vice President: Bob Burstein

Second Vice President: David Reynolds

Treasurer: Mike Anderson

Recording Secretary: Russell Willoughby

Corresponding Secretary: Bob Stuhlman

### Board of Directors:

Gary Doerhoff

Jerry Mariano

Preston Mangum

Ronnie Nixon

Patty Searby

Butch Eason

Mark Lozier

David Anderson

Peter Federico

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