



# CHUMLINE

October 2013

Newsletter of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association



Ruth McCormick, editor  
bayrunner@cox.net

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (March-December) at 7:00pm at the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 540, 7812 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23607, across the street from the Peninsula YMCA. The meetings are free and you do not have to be a member to attend. You even get a free door raffle ticket. For directions, go to [www.pswsfa.com/meetings.htm](http://www.pswsfa.com/meetings.htm). The next meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Elections for Board Members will be coming up soon. A few of the current board members are stepping down so if you feel like you would be interested in helping out, please let us know.



The one-month-long Don Forman Cobia Tournament has concluded. This event is sponsored by Bishop Bait and Tackle. It is named after the captain of the "A Team" which was one of the top cobia boats in the Chesapeake Bay. Their knowledge and passion of cobia fishing and their willingness to share both had a great influence on many of the more successful cobia anglers to follow. Their work with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science greatly improved our understanding of cobia in the Chesapeake Bay. This year's winners:

1st Place: Charles Southall: 81 pounds 8 ounces

2nd Place: Jorj Head: 55 pounds 7 ounces

3rd Place: Spencer Elford: 40 pounds 8 ounces

## Spot Tournament Winners!

### Overall

1st Place – Steve Martin - .51lb.  
2nd Place – Chris Nelson - .48lb.  
3rd Place – Rachel Nelson - .47lb

### Youth Division

1st Place Youth – Lexi Sava .30lb  
2nd Place Youth – Caleb Sava .48lb

Lexi Sava



FIRST PLACE YOUTH

Caleb Sava



SECOND PLACE YOUTH

Steve Martin



FIRST PLACE

Chris Nelson



SECOND PLACE

Rachel Nelson



THIRD PLACE



## The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program identified as a model for angler-based tagging programs

Susanna Musick

We've all heard fishing stories of "the one that got away." These stories are usually told with great enthusiasm and a sense of wonder regarding the status of the fish that escaped. This sense of wonder extends to the majority of undersized fish that are released, as most anglers never know what happens to their fish once they disappear below the surface of the water. Tagging programs allow anglers to follow the story of their fish when the fish is recaptured and reported.

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) is one such program. A cooperative project of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the program trains experienced, volunteer recreational anglers to tag and release their fish while enhancing data-collection efforts. Since 1995, the VGFTP has been supported with revenues from Virginia's saltwater recreational fishing license and funding from VIMS. Each fish that is tagged in the program receives its own individual number that is tracked through time and with accompanying length and location information, tells the story of how much a fish has grown and where it has traveled.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has developed a voluntary certification process for tagging programs to endorse good tagging methods and sharing of tagging information among scientific and fisheries management groups. As part of the review, tagging programs provide information about their objectives and methods, and experts from the ASMFC Interstate Tagging Committee review the information to determine whether the study is scientifically sound and worthy of certification. The Committee is made up of scientists from state and federal agencies and academic institutions. More than 70 tagging programs are featured on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Cooperative Tagging Registry. Of these programs, only 5 are currently certified by the Interstate Tagging Committee (ITC), and the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program recently joined these ranks. The VGFTP scored 116 out of a possible 120 points and was recognized for its sound program objectives and strengths. Some of the program's benefits identified included unique data collection, hands-on training, program commitment and strong communication and outreach.

The final decision to endorse the VGFTP was made by the ITC with the input of the ASMFC Red Drum, Black Drum, Tautog, Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Technical Committees (TC) and the Spotted Seatrout Development Team (PDT). Evaluators highlighted the program's scientific design, noting that the VGFTP provides information on recreationally important species and non-legal sized fish that lack other sources of data. The program was commended for the training provided to taggers and the commitment of program personnel and anglers to the program. Evaluators also recognized the VGFTP's role in improving communication between fishery scientists and managers and the recreational fishing community while obtaining quality tagging data.

To learn more about the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program visit <http://www.vims.edu/vgftp/> and for information regarding the ASMFC Cooperative Tagging Program & Registry see <http://www.fishtag.info/index.htm>.

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**Mark Your Calendar.....**

## **2014 PSWSFA ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014**

**Crown Point Plaza  
950 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard  
Newport News, VA 23601  
6:00pm – 10:00pm**



*E-mail your fishing photos to [bayrunner@cox.net](mailto:bayrunner@cox.net) (Appreciate date and names of folks in picture)*

**Baylor Rinck**



**Gaston Shepard**



**Hunter McCormick**



**Chris Boyce**



**Martin Freed**



**Ruta Vaskys**



**Barclay Shepards crew OBX**



**Hunter Southall & Chris Boyce**



**Ken Neill**



**Stan Simmerman**



**Danny Taylor**



**Barclay and Glenn Shepard**



**"Congratulations to Chris Boyce who has made Level 2 Master Angler"**

## UPCOMING CLUB TOURNAMENT

**Wilcox Bait and Tackle  
Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament**

**December 1-31, 2013**

**Register with Rick Wineman prior to fishing....  
\$20/each member & \$30/each non-member**

**All entries due by January 14, 2014**



## **CCA Virginia Action Alert on the Possible Opening of the Crab Dredge Fishery for 2013-2014 Season After A Five Year Closure**

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) will hold a public hearing to consider whether to close the 2013-14 Crab Dredge Fishery in its entirety, as required by Section 28.2-707 of the Code of Virginia at the VMRC Meeting on October 22, 2013 at 12:00 Noon.

CCA Virginia believes the crab dredge fishery is extremely destructive to the mostly female crabs that hibernate in the bottom of the southern Bay over the winter and should remain closed. Also, the crab dredge fishery is harmful to the flora and fauna, sponges, mussels, coral, sea worms and other bottom dwellers and structure that provide food and shelter for crabs and finfish. Furthermore, the female crabs that are harvested from the crab dredge fishery are a very low quality commercial product. A percentage of the mostly female crabs that are landed by the crab dredge fishery are broken and killed by the dredges.

**Please send a letter or email to Robert O'Reilly requesting that the winter crab dredge fishery remained closed for the December 2013 through March 2014 season.** A personal letter in your own words concerning the closure of the winter crab dredge fishery would be the best way to communicate your desires regarding the blue crab fishery. If you believe the crab dredge fishery should remain closed on a permanent basis then you should put that statement in your letter. If you do not have the time for a personal letter then there is a sample letter provided below. **Please send your letter or email by October 18, 2013 so that your opinion on this issue can be copied and given to the members of VMRC by their meeting date.**

Address your letter or email to:  
Robert O'Reilly, Chief, Fisheries Management  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23607  
Email [rob.o'reilly@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:rob.o'reilly@mrc.virginia.gov)

### **Sample Letter:**

Robert O'Reilly, Chief, Fisheries Management  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2066 Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,  
I would like to provide my support for continuing to protect the portion of the female crab population that winter in the lower Chesapeake Bay by keeping the crab dredge fishery closed for the winter of 2013-14.  
Sincerely,  
Name  
Address  
City State Zip  
Phone

### **Background Information:**

VIMS and the state of Maryland have been conducting a Bay-wide Winter Dredge Survey (WDS) for a number of years. The 2013 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Committee issued a final report in May of 2013 and the following are some quotes from that report.

"The WDS measures the density of crabs (number per 1,000 square meters) at approximately 1,500 sites around the Bay. The measured densities of crabs are adjusted to account for the efficiency of the sampling gear and are expanded to reflect the area of Chesapeake Bay, providing an annual estimate of the number of over-wintering crabs by age and sex." "In 2013, the total abundance of female crabs, as measured by the WDS declined 48% to 206.4 million crabs from the 2012 estimate of 400 million crabs." "The female exploitation fraction in 2012 was below the recommended target of 25.5% for the sixth consecutive year. Although the abundance of adult female crabs has increased in 2013, recruitment was low in 2013 and the **exploitable female stock declined by 66%**. Additionally, the survival of 2012 recruits seems to have been very poor. Future catches could depend heavily on the survival and successful reproduction of the 2013 age-1<sup>+</sup> females. Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) finds this as further justification for a risk averse and cautious management approach that ensures harvest is adequately constrained relative to abundance."

This CCA VA alert was provided as a public service by the Coastal Conservation Association Virginia (CCA VA). Feel free to forward it to your friends and associates. If you have any comments concerning this subject, send an email to [info@CCAVA.org](mailto:info@CCAVA.org). CCA VA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose goal is sustainable saltwater fisheries for this and future generations. We are active in legislative, regulatory, and educational activities affecting marine resources. Please visit our website <http://www.ccavirginia.org/> for more information.



## VIMS e-Tidings

**Happy Autumn! Help us kick off the fall season this week as marine science illustrator Val Kells shares her work during our September After Hours Lecture. In October, bring the family to our ever-popular Mad Lab and then join us to become more informed about the really scary topic of microplastics in the ocean. I'm excited about all these programs and look forward to seeing you there!**

**Want to become more involved with VIMS? This is a great time to consider volunteering in our outreach program. Outreach volunteers assist with campus tours, special programs, fairs and festivals, and more. To learn how you can become involved, call me at 804-684-7846.**

**See you soon,  
Susan Maples-Luellen  
VIMS Director of Outreach**

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### **Discovery Lab: Mad Lab Tuesday, October 22nd, 6-8PM**



Families are invited to explore the creepy, yucky, and slimy parts of science at this Halloween-themed event. Have a spooky fun time as you trick-or-treat your way through the lab stations. You are encouraged to dress up; prizes will be awarded for our favorite "marine-themed" and "most creative" costumes. There will be no speaker for this lab. No charge. Reservations required due to limited space. [Register here](#) or call 804-684-7878 for more information.

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### **October After Hours Lecture Ocean Plastics: Big and small Thursday, October 24th, 7PM**

Images of floating bottles and other plastic trash from the Pacific's "Great Garbage Patch" have long dismayed ocean lovers around the world. Join VIMS researcher Dr. Kirk Havens as he explores the source and fate of these ocean plastics, both the large items that catch public attention and the floating soup of "microplastics" that may actually pose a greater threat to ocean and human health. Havens directs the Marine Debris program at VIMS and is working with colleagues to develop and test a biodegradable replacement for one of the two main sources of microplastic--the "microbeads" found in scores of household products. Reservations required; no charge. [Register here](#) or call 804-684-7010 for more information. Can't be here is person? [Join the webinar](#).



Stay in the loop



# MONTHLY TOURNAMENT AWARDS

August 2013

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	ANGLER'S NAME	LENGTH
Albacore Tuna	35 inches		
Amberjack	40 inches		
Bigeye Tuna	40 inches		
Black Drum	40 inches		
Blackbelly Rosefish	14 inches		
Blackfin Tuna	45 inches		
Bluefin Tuna	45 inches		
Bluefish	25 inches		
Blueline Tilefish	20 inches		
Blue Marlin	Release		
Channel Bass	40 inches		
Cobia	40 inches	Charles Southall	62"
Croaker	16 inches		
Dolphin	35 inches	Rick Wineman	53"
False Albacore	25 inches	Nate Forrest	31"
Flounder	22 inches	Danny Taylor	25¼"
Golden Tilefish	30 inches		
Gray Trout	24 inches		
Grouper	16 inches		
Jack Crevalle	36 inches		
King Mackerel	35 inches		
Pompano	12 inches		
Sailfish	Release		
Sea Bass	15 inches		
Shark	60 inches	Lexi Sava	35"
Sheepshead	15 inches		
Snapper	12 inches		
Spadefish	18 inches		
Spanish Mackerel	20 inches		
Spearfish	Release		
Speckled Trout	21 inches		
Spot	8 inches		
Striped Bass	36 inches		
Swordfish	Release		
Tarpon	Release	Ethan Moore	65"
Tautog	18 inches		
Triggerfish	15 inches		
Wahoo	40 inches	Richie Moore	58½"
White Marlin	Release	John Hunt, Jr.	77½"
Whiting (Roundhead)	14 inches	Caleb Sava	12¼"
Yellowfin Tuna	35 inches		

Month of Entry:	Deadline by Mail:	Monthly Meeting:
May	June 11	June 18
June	July 9	July 16
July	August 13	August 20
August	September 10	September 17
September	October 8	October 15
October	November 12	November 19
November	December 10	December 17

Deadline for turning in your 2013 entry forms:

## MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:

MR. MILTON HUDGINS  
1894 KATIE LANE  
HAYES, VA 23072

(e-mail: [judygee03@gmail.com](mailto:judygee03@gmail.com))

or bring them to the meeting!

If you need a "blue sheet" for the monthly club tournaments, you can download a copy from the club's forums board.

If you have any problems accessing the forums board, contact Gary Donaldson at [gary66@cox.net](mailto:gary66@cox.net) and he will get you set up.



## NMFS Announces Closure of the Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark, Hammerhead Shark, Blacknose Shark, and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark Management Groups in the Atlantic Region

September 25, 2013

Commercial shark dealer reports indicate that the landings for the commercial Atlantic aggregated large coastal shark (LCS) and blacknose shark management groups have reached, or are projected to reach, 80 percent of the available quota. Therefore, as required by the regulations at 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2), we are closing the commercial aggregated LCS, hammerhead shark, blacknose shark, and non-blacknose small coastal shark (SCS) management groups as of 11:30 p.m. local time **September 30, 2013**. From the effective date and time of the closure until and if we announce, via a notice in the Federal Register, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, these management groups will remain closed, even across fishing years.

On July 3, 2013 (78 FR 40318), NMFS announced the final rule for Amendment 5a to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP, which, among other things, established new final adjusted 2013 quotas for aggregated LCS and hammerhead sharks in the Atlantic region. On September 2, 2013, NMFS transferred 68 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (149,914 lb dw) of non-blacknose SCS quota from the Atlantic region to the Gulf of Mexico region. Based on these two actions, the current adjusted quotas for the species noted above are as follows: the Atlantic aggregated LCS management group quota is 168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw), the Atlantic hammerhead shark management group quota is 27.1 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (59,736 lb dw), the Atlantic blacknose shark management group quota is 18 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (39,749 lb dw), and the Atlantic non-blacknose SCS management group quota is 193.5 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (426,570 lb dw). In addition, Amendment 5a linked the Atlantic aggregated LCS and Atlantic hammerhead shark management groups, and linked the blacknose and non-blacknose SCS management groups. This means that when the quota for one linked management group is reached and is closed, the other linked management group closes at the same time.

Dealer reports recently received through September 13, 2013, indicate that 135.2 mt dw or 80 percent of the available Atlantic aggregated LCS quota has been landed, 11.7 mt dw or 43 percent of the available Atlantic hammerhead shark quota has been landed, 13.7 mt dw or 76 percent of the available Atlantic blacknose shark quota has been landed and that 90.6 mt dw or 47 percent of the available Atlantic non-blacknose SCS quota has been landed. Projections indicate that 80 percent of the Atlantic blacknose shark quota will be landed by September 26, 2013. Based on these dealer reports, NMFS estimates that the 80-percent limit specified for a closure notice in the regulations has been reached or exceeded for the Atlantic aggregated LCS and Atlantic blacknose shark management groups.

During the closure, retention of aggregated LCS, hammerhead sharks, blacknose sharks, and non-blacknose SCS in the Atlantic region is prohibited for persons fishing aboard vessels issued a commercial shark limited access permit under § 635.4 - unless the vessel is properly permitted to operate as a charter vessel or headboat for HMS and is engaged in a for-hire trip, in which case the recreational retention limits for sharks and "no sale" provisions apply (§ 635.22(a) and (c)), or the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under § 635.32 and a NMFS-approved observer is onboard. During the closure, a shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may not purchase or receive aggregated LCS, hammerhead sharks, blacknose sharks, and/or non-blacknose SCS in the Atlantic region, except under specific circumstances as specified in § 635.32 (shark research fishery); § 635.28(b)(5) (sharks were harvested prior to the closure); or sharks were harvested by a state vessel that has fished only in state waters.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Peter Cooper at 301-427-8503. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

### Sign up for Atlantic HMS News

An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Douglas W. Domenech  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Jack G. Travelstead  
Commissioner

Sept. 30, 2013

Contact: John M.R. Bull  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
(757) 247-2269 (office)  
(757) 509-0969 (cell)

### Virginia Marine Police Targets Oyster Poachers

*~ Increased enforcement and toughened penalties aim to protect booming oyster stocks from unscrupulous thieves ~*

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. – The Virginia Marine Police will combat oyster theft by air, land and sea in an intensive effort to crush what has become an epidemic of poaching. The public oyster season opens tomorrow, Oct. 1.

“We mean business. We will vigorously pursue anyone who violates the oyster regulations, and we will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law,” said Virginia Marine Police Chief Rick Lauderman. “Stealing oysters from the public oyster grounds, private leased grounds or from oyster sanctuaries in particular will not be tolerated. Oyster poaching in Virginia will stop.”

A number of Marine Police Officers have been dedicated to search for oyster violations as their top priorities. An airplane will prowl the skies, patrolling for suspicious activity on both public and privately leased oyster grounds. Other techniques and equipment will be used as well.

And the Virginia Marine Resources Commission comes armed to this fight with a renewed commitment to revoking violators’ commercial fishing licenses and with a new tool: Revocation of all saltwater fishing privileges, as allowed by a new state law that went into effect on July 1. The Marine Police is the Commission’s law enforcement division.

In fact, the Commission recently adopted new sanction guidelines that call for the revocation of commercial fishing licenses for even a single egregious offense. This is a tougher standard from prior guidelines, which called for a license suspension hearing on a third court conviction of fishery regulations within a calendar year.

Just last week, on Sept. 24, the Commission voted unanimously to revoke the fishing licenses of five commercial oyster harvesters who had pleaded guilty in criminal court to repeatedly harvesting more than their daily allowable bushel limits of oysters. Two of those five watermen saw their licenses revoked for a year, followed by a year of probation, and three were revoked for two years, which is the maximum allowed under current state law.

“Those who violate our oyster laws will face arrest as well as the revocation of both their licenses and their right to fish in tidal waters,” said VMRC Commissioner Jack Travelstead. “They could be banned from any type of commercial fishing activity, even packing fish someone else caught. They’ll need another line of work for awhile. We anticipate a good oyster season this year, and law-abiding watermen should not have to suffer because of thieves.”

Oysters are ecologically and economically important, and the Commission is committed to preserving a resurgent oyster stock and to protecting a substantial investment in oyster replenishment, Travelstead said.

A single adult oyster can purge up to 50 gallons of water a day, and help clean the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Oyster reefs provide important forage and refuge habitat for invertebrates, as well as juvenile crabs and finfish species.

Over the past decade, the oyster harvest in Virginia has increased ten-fold, from 23,000 bushels in 2001 to an estimated 250,000 bushels in 2012. In that time, the dockside value of the oyster harvest increased from \$575,000 to more than \$8.26 million. The harvest is projected to jump to 320,000 bushels this year, which would make it the largest oyster harvest in Virginia since 1987.

“Oyster stocks are on the rise. We have invested a lot of time, effort and money into making that happen,” said Travelstead. “More oysters in the water may tempt some unscrupulous watermen. If so, this is a warning. We will not allow these stocks to be plundered.”

The Marine Resources Commission spent \$2 million on oyster replenishment this summer, thanks to a historic level of funding from Gov. Bob McDonnell and the General Assembly.

Roughly 1 million bushels of oyster shells were planted on public oyster, which was an estimated 1 billion individual empty oyster shells, enough to fill approximately 4,000 dump trucks.

Every \$1 spent by the state to plant oyster shells yields \$7 in economic benefits in the form of larger harvests and increased jobs for oyster shuckers and oyster packing houses when the oyster larvae that attach to the shells grow to market size in three years.

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*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD



## PSWSFA 2014 MEMBERSHIP

### **Dues: \$30 per year for entire \*family**

(January through December - not prorated throughout year)

\_\_\_\_\_ New Membership  
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\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_ check

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Dependents Names and Ages:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_

\*FAMILY – must be living with you

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name/Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number in your membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PSWSFA  
P.O. Box 5194  
Newport News, VA 23605**

*Attention Charter Captains: If you are a paid dues member of the club and would like to list your charter service with the Chumline, please send us the information to [bayrunner@cox.net](mailto:bayrunner@cox.net).*



### **2005 Regulator 26FS w/Twin Yamaha 250's GET ANET**

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Coastal waters off the Eastern Shore down to Ocracoke  
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Cell: 757-268-1539

E-mail: [rick@getanetsportfishing.com](mailto:rick@getanetsportfishing.com)



### **23' Dusky Center Console Skiff**

### **Fish Head Charters**

**Capt. Jorj Head**

**(757) 262-9004**

*"Fish for Cobia, Flounder, Drum, Rockfish, Spade Fish, Spot and Croaker."*



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