



CHUMLINE

December 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.



The next meeting will be on Dec. 17th and the speakers will be two special guests from the Eastern Shore, **Martin Freed** and **Ruta Vaskys**, who are freelance writers (members of the The Outdoor Writers Association of America). They will be giving a presentation on "Alaska Then and Now."

Martin and Ruta divide their time between Virginia and Alaska. Credits include *Fish, Fur and Game*, *Mid Mid-Atlantic Fisherman*, *The Chesapeake Angler* and the *Eastern Shore News*.

The couple met on top of Mount Abraham in 1976 and have been climbing mountains together ever since. They have published numerous books on a variety of topics including sustenance living, mushroom gathering, and *'Fishing Virginia, An Angler's Guide to More Than 140 Fishing Spots.'*



from Wes Blow.....

The VA Saltwater Sport Fishing Tournament Advisory Committee voted to end part of the citation program. All levels of master angler past One have been eliminated for 2014. The system was set up so at each level Master level I, II, III etc. you had to catch 25 citation and only one citation per species per year would count towards the 25 total. Also to qualify for each level you would have to have a certain number of different species .After getting level one you would need five more different species in your total count, level II 10 different species in the total count from level I and II. Then level III 15 different species from the total count of 75 citation from level I, II and III. Because there are only so many species the levels would end. It is my understanding a level was given that mathematical

was impossible so the committee decide to eliminate the program instead of fixing the problem. It is also my understanding that every committee member was not in favor of this action, as well as Lewis Gillingham who is head of the citation program (Also it is my understanding Lewis does not vote, only the committee members vote on it). If you are in favor of the different Master Level programs I am asking you to send Lewis a letter (e-mail is fine) and tell him you want the program back.

Now why did I post this. I used the program to set goal and push myself to fish for different species out of my comfort zone and to go fishing when I would want stay in when it is to cold, to hot, to calm, to windy, to sunny, to rainy or any other excuse.

Sample letter from Rick Wineman.....

Lewis,

I would like to see the different VA Master Angler Program levels remain. I am using this program as a personal challenge and was also challenging my fellow anglers who are already Master Angler Level I to move on to the next level.

Let me know what we can do to keep this program in place for 2014 and beyond.
Thanks,

Send letters to vsuft@mrc.virginia.gov

CURRENT 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

NOAA HOME WEATHER OCEANS FISHERIES CHARTING SATELLITES CLIMATE RESEARCH COASTS CAREERS Search NMFS Site ... GO!

NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Endangered Species Act Turns 40 #esa40

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Look Who's Back: Sturgeon are Spawning Again in the Chesapeake Bay

Atlantic sturgeon are spawning again in the Chesapeake Bay. But they've been gone so long that we've forgotten the basic life history information that scientists need to boost their recovery. A species recovery grant from NOAA Fisheries should help.

In 1997, Dave Secor was a young fisheries biologist just starting his career at the University of Maryland. Like almost everyone else, he believed that Atlantic sturgeon, a species that has survived since the age of the dinosaurs, had been long gone from the Chesapeake Bay. But that year a small number of juvenile sturgeon turned up, and they were too small to have immigrated from elsewhere.

"That was a major surprise," Secor said.

Though sightings were rare back then and still are today, the population of sturgeon that spawn in the Chesapeake Bay has grown. In 2012 that population was added to the endangered species list. Usually a listing is bad news, but in this case it was cause for celebration.

Now scientists are racing to find out what's driving the recovery so they can reinforce it. Their efforts recently got a big boost when NOAA Fisheries awarded a three-year, \$1.75 million species recovery grant to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Atlantic sturgeon were prized for their flesh and for the caviar made from their roe. But fishing for them in the Chesapeake peaked in the 1890s, and no one alive today has seen a healthy run of sturgeon in the Bay. Even basic information about their life history was forgotten long ago, and this is a problem for the scientists working to protect them.

"We need to find out where they're spawning so we can protect that habitat," Secor said. Scientists also hope to locate their nursery grounds and to identify the biggest threats to their recovery. Ship strikes and poor water quality are among the top suspects.

"This recovery may be part of a cycle," said Secor. "If we don't pursue this now, we may not see it again for another 20 or 30 years."

A Fish That's Hard to Follow

But finding their spawning grounds is difficult, not least because there are so few of them out there. To solve that problem, scientists will use the new funding to tag about 240 sturgeon with acoustic transmitters. That will allow scientists to track their movements in the Bay.

Atlantic sturgeon spend most of their time at sea, travelling up and down the shelf break where they plow the bottom with their snouts, eating worms and crustaceans. Like salmon, they return to their natal streams to spawn.

Unlike most salmon, however, which spawn once and die, sturgeon make the spawning run repeatedly. They can live up to 60 years and can grow up to 14 feet (4.3 meters) and 300 pounds (370 kg).

Matt Balazik, a postdoc at Virginia Commonwealth University, is doing most of the tagging. The acoustic tag, about the size of a Sharpie marker, is inserted into the belly of the fish through a small incision. The minor surgery takes less than five minutes, and the unharmed fish are quickly sent on their way.

The tag emits a coded sound roughly once a minute, a signal that's recorded whenever the fish passes within range of a receiver. Each tag has a unique acoustic signature, allowing scientists to track individual fish.

"You can think of the tag as like an EZPass," said Matt Balazik, referring to the device that motorists in the Northeast attach to their windshields, "and of the receivers as toll booths."

An acoustic signal is used because sound waves travel well underwater. Radio waves would dissipate quickly in the murky Bay.

Collaboration is Key

Scientists have tagged sturgeon all along the Eastern seaboard, but the Chesapeake is uniquely difficult because it's a meta-estuary—an estuary comprised of many smaller estuaries—and it's the largest one in the nation.

"In the Hudson it's a piece of cake," said Dave Secor. "A few receivers bank to bank and you've got the river covered at that point." The mouth of the Chesapeake, on the other hand, is 20 miles wide.

But the tagging project got a big boost from the Navy, which recently installed an array of 58 receivers, most attached to Coast Guard buoys, throughout the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Naval Base at Norfolk, Virginia is the largest in the nation, and it's one of several naval installations in the lower Chesapeake Bay. As a federal agency, the Navy is required to minimize interactions with endangered species.

"We want to know where and when sturgeon are utilizing the Bay," said Carter Watterson, a Navy biologist. "Once we know that, we can work to minimize any impact we have on the species."

The Navy will benefit from the tags that Maryland and Virginia researchers deploy because they increase the value of the receiver array. And the state researchers will benefit every time Watterson sends them tracking data on their fish.

The buoys the receivers are attached to also record environmental data, allowing scientists to correlate sturgeon activity with ocean conditions. This will be key to understanding how those conditions affect the fish, and in particular how sensitive the fish are to the low oxygen levels that plague the Bay every summer.

A Living Fossil

Sturgeon have existed in pretty much the same form for at least 85 million years. A living fossil, they survived the meteors that killed off the dinosaurs and many other catastrophes since. "They're designed to handle anything," Matt Balazik said. "Except humans."

But don't write them off just yet. "The fact that they're still hanging in there makes me a bit more optimistic than I was earlier in my career," said Dave Secor, the biologist who was surprised to see juvenile sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay in 1997.

"What sturgeon have taught me as a scientist," he said, "is that sometimes it can be delightful when you're wrong."

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Look
Who's
Back.....

Assault on Cape Hatteras

Note from Dick Harris.....

I just signed the petition "Southern Environmental Law Center: Stop your assault on Cape Hatteras, NC" on Change.org. It's important. Will you sign it too?

Here's the link: http://www.change.org/petitions/southern-environmental-law-center-stop-your-assault-on-cape-hatteras-nc?share_id=GbCRONtMI&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

Thanks!
Dick

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



George Wojcik



Stan Simmerman



Deven Simmerman



Hunter Southall



Wes Blow



Ken Neill



Gaston Shepard



Matt Rinck...
when you can't fish, hunt



Salt Water Kids

Recognizing kids who represent sportsmanship, passion and proficiency in saltwater fishing.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTOR
Johnny Bingham, 12
*Fredericksburg, Virginia/
 Frisco, North Carolina*

Johnny spends his summers fishing and running his 21-foot Carolina skiff off Hatteras Inlet. He caught this 61-pound Virginia citation fish out of Wallace's Marina in Chesapeake Bay. As a member of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association — which was founded in 1957 to promote recreational saltwater fishing and education — Johnny donated his fish to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for research.



Junior club member makes Saltwater Sportsman Kids page..

..Dick & Kathy Harris' Grandson Johnny Bingham



MONTHLY TOURNAMENT AWARDS

October 2013

Deadline for turning in your entry forms:

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	ANGLER'S NAME	LENGTH
Albacore Tuna	35 inches	Rick Wineman	42"
Amberjack	40 inches		
Bigeye Tuna	40 inches		
Black Drum	40 inches		
Blackbelly Rosefish	14 inches		
Blackfin Tuna	20 inches	John Hunt, Jr.	29"
Bluefin Tuna	45 inches		
Bluefish	25 inches		
Blueline Tilefish	20 inches	Jody Linthicum	28"
Blue Marlin	Release		
Channel Bass	40 inches	Barclay Shepard	49.5"
Cobia	40 inches	Hunter Southall	53"
Croaker	16 inches	Jody Linthicum	17"
Dolphin	35 inches	Matt Waddell	37.5"
False Albacore	25 inches		
Flounder	22 inches		
Golden Tilefish	30 inches		
Gray Trout	24 inches		
Grouper	16 inches		
Jack Crevalle	36 inches		
King Mackerel	35 inches	Ken Neill	49"
Pompano	12 inches		
Sailfish	Release	John Hunt, Jr.	80.25"
Sea Bass	15 inches	Jody Linthicum	20"
Shark	60 inches		
Sheepshead	15 inches		
Snapper	12 inches		
Spadefish	18 inches		
Spanish Mackerel	20 inches		
Spearfish	Release		
Speckled Trout	21 inches	Hunter Southall	24"
Spot	8 inches		
Striped Bass	36 inches		
Swordfish	Release		
Tarpon	Release		
Tautog	18 inches	David Agee	18"
Triggerfish	15 inches	David Agee	16.75"
Wahoo	40 inches	Charles Southall	65"
White Marlin	Release		
Whiting (Roundhead)	14 inches		
Yellowfin Tuna	35 inches		

Month of Entry:	Deadline by Mail or turn in at Board Meeting	Monthly Club Meeting Dates:
Nov.	Dec. 10	Dec. 17
Dec.	Jan. 14	-----
Jan.	Feb. 11	-----
Feb.	March 11	March 18
March	April 8	April 15
April	May 13	May 20
May	June 10	June 17
June	July 8	July 15
July	Aug. 12	Aug. 19
August	Sept. 9	Sept. 16
Sept.	Oct. 14	Oct. 21
Oct.	Nov. 11	Nov. 18
Nov.	Dec. 9	Dec. 16

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:

**MR. MILTON HUGGINS
1894 KATIE LANE
HAYES, VA 23072**

(e-mail: judygee03@gmail.com)

or bring them to the meeting!

Entry sheets can be downloaded from the club's forum's board.

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



*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful.
May you have all the three for this Christmas!*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mae and Rath McCormick

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

**Raffles
and a
Cash Bar**

Cash Bar: 6:00pm - 10:00 pm
Hors d'oeuvres: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Dinner: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Awards and Raffles to follow

PLEASE PRINT:

MEMBER: _____

SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER: _____

NAME OF GUEST/S OF MEMBER: _____

CHILDREN: _____

SELECTION: (\$10.00 per plate)

How many:

(_____) Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef; Jus Lje\$ _____

(_____) Boneless Breast of Chicken Piccata, Smothered in a White Wine, Lemon & Caper Glaze.... \$ _____

(_____) House Made Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes with Smithfield Ham.....\$ _____

(_____) CHILDREN'S MEAL (10 and under): Check Tenders, Mac n' Cheese,\$ FREE
Chief's Choice of Vegetables, Rolls/Butter, Milk or Fruit Punch

All dinners (including the children's meal) will have a tossed salad, shrimp cocktail and dessert.

Dessert station will have 1/3 Lemon Meringue Pie, 1/3 Carrot Cake, 1/3 Chocolate Cake

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail this form along with check payable to "PSWSFA" postmarked by Feb. 21st to guarantee dinner:

TO: Mac McCormick
209 Massell Court
Newport News, VA 23606-2124



Questions: Call Mac at 757-286-6580 (after 3pm)

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New Membership

Renewal

cash check

(Please Print)

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:

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.



2005 Regulator 26FS w/Twin Yamaha 250's

GET ANET

Capt. Rick Wineman

Fishing areas range from all over the Chesapeake Bay, Coastal waters off the Eastern Shore down to Ocracoke Inlet NC. Offshore from the Washington Canyon down to Hatteras Canyon.

Phone: 757-268-1539

Cell: 757-268-1539

E-mail: rick@getanetsportfishing.com



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PSWSFA
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