



CHUMLINE

February 2015

Newsletter of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association



2015 PSWSFA ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Crown Point Plaza

950 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard

Newport News, VA 23601

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Adult meals: \$15 Children's: No Charge

Details & Reservation form: Page 10

=Regular Membership Meeting - Guests Welcome

- ✦ Held 3rd Tuesday of the Month – March through December – 7:00 p.m.
- ✦ Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 540 – 7812 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23607
- ✦ Across from Peninsula YMCA – Directions: <http://www.pswsfa.com/meetings.htm>
- ✦ Door Prize Raffle Ticket for All Attendees

The Kiwanis Club of Poquoson is hosting their second Boating and Fishing Flea Market on Saturday, March 21st from 8 - 1. Admission is \$2 per person 13yrs old and up. Location is 51 Odd Rd. at Poquoson High School. Additional information and a Vendor Application is available at PoquosonKiwanis.org and click on Flea Market at the top of the page.

Top Taggers!



Susanna Musick (VIMS), John Knight, Jim Robinson, Lewis Gillingham (VMRC), Troy Reynolds, Susan Harrell, Ed Shepherd and Sheldon Arey. From: Susanna Musick, Marine Advisory Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

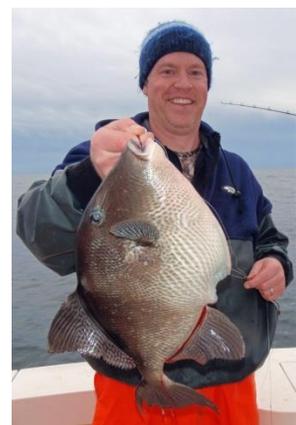
[See the article and video clips from Daily Press online by Ryan Murphy, Feb. 14th: Virginia Marine Police arrest two accused of poaching thousands of protected fish](#)



It was too rough. We went fishing anyway. Tagged and released 6 tautog, getting DNA samples from each. Then we decided that we had had enough and went in for lunch. Ken Neill, III, Feb. 8th.



Per Ken Neill, III, Feb. 7th: Hunter Southall and myself went out for a short tog trip today. We only caught 7 tautog up to 19 inches long. We collected DNA from each for VIMS.



The VSWFT Awards were given out last night. Two of the species award winners were caught on the Healthy Grin. Stan Simmerman caught the largest wahoo in Virginia in 2014. Dr. Hamish Small caught the largest gray triggerfish in the state. These make a total of 14 annual species awards won on the Healthy Grin.



While we were fishing for tautog on Super Bowl Sunday, Johnny Boyd caught a hake. There are numerous species of hake and I cannot tell them apart. Typically, we clean the fish at the dock when we get in. Being in a hurry to get home for the Super Bowl, we just took the fish home to clean later.

Doug Olander, Sport Fishing Magazine, saw a photo of the hake and said that he thought it was a Carolina hake and if so, it would be a new world record. Jason Schratwieser, IGFA, agreed that it was a Carolina hake.

It was probably going to be too late but we contacted Johnny to see if he had cleaned his fish yet. It was still in the cooler and he was going to clean it after work for his dinner. Well, don't do that.

We took the fish to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission where the fish was weighed by Tournament Director Lewis Gillingham and witnessed by the VMRC Commissioner, John Bull, and the Fisheries Chief, Rob O'Reilly. We then took the fish to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science where the species was confirmed as *Urophycis earlii*, the Carolina hake.

The application is being filled out and if approved, Johnny's 5.68 pound hake will be the new, IGFA All-Tackle World Record Carolina hake and it will be the 11th All-Tackle World Record caught on the Healthy Grin. VIMS really wanted to keep the fish to add to their collection. Johnny said that he could eat something else for dinner and he donated his fish.

[See the article by Lee Tolliver of the Virginian Pilot online, Feb. 8th: Don't eat that fish! It could be a new world record.](#)



Late January, Early February fishing...
Stan Simmerman, Wes Blow, and Ken Neill, III

AMAZING!!!

Per Ken Neill, III: *Remember this fish? We caught it at the Washington Canyon in 2007. We caught some yellowfin and bluefin tuna. We kept the yellowfin and our one allowed bluefin tuna. We tagged and released this bluefin. It was just recaptured in the Mediterranean Sea off of Spain. It had grown from about 40 pounds to over 600 pounds. We used a Billfish Foundation tag. They will be sending me the details of the recapture.*



We have had an interesting tag return. In the summer of 2007, we took the Healthy Grin on a tuna trip for Dr. John Graves of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. We were targeting less than 27-inch bluefin tuna that I had received some reports of between the Norfolk and Washington Canyons. We had Nelson and Di Ortiz onboard for their first tuna trip. They are fellow members of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association and at the time, Nelson was the President of the Peninsula CCA. We started at the Norfolk Canyon and trolled all the way up to the Washington Canyon where we found the tuna. We did not find the little bluefin we were looking for. We started catching yellowfin tuna in the 40-pound class and then one of the tuna that came over the gunnel was a bluefin tuna. We had a permit to harvest sub-legal bluefin but did not want to keep any more of that size. To make sure we did not mistakenly gaff other bluefin we just opened the tuna door, grabbed the leader, and slid them in. Yellowfin tuna went into the fish box while bluefin tuna were tagged and slid back out the door. Di caught a 45-inch bluefin tuna that we estimated at 40 pounds. The fish was tagged with a Tag-a-Tiny tag from Dr. Molly Lutcavage's Large Pelagics Research Center. The Billfish Foundation helps collect recapture reports through their tag reporting system and they called me to tell me the Di's fish had been recaptured. The fish was re-caught about 7 years later, June 2014, in the Mediterranean Sea and was taken to one of the fattening pens off Malta where it was kept until it was harvested in November. The fish was recaptured about 5,000 miles from where we had released it and it weighed 616 pounds when it was harvested.

A quick snapshot of the small bluefin tuna caught by Di Ortiz before Ken Neill tagged and released it back out transom door through which it had been pulled onto the deck (no gaff was used).

January 28, 2015 in [SPORT FISHING](#)

Bluefin Tagged Off Virginia is Recaptured near Spain

A tuna's odyssey: seven years, 5,000 miles and 576 pounds later

By [Doug Olander](#)

Fishing Washington Canyon off Virginia on July 18, 2007, Ken Neill and friends had a good day, catching yellowfin and bluefin. They kept one of the latter and tagged a second.

In June, 2014, fishermen recaptured that tagged fish — near Malta, in the Mediterranean, a straight-line distance of nearly 5,000 miles, according to information Neill just received from The Billfish Foundation.

The tuna was then kept in a pen until it was fattened and harvested in November of that year (2014). In seven and a half years, Neill's tuna grew from about 40 pounds to approximately 616 pounds.

Neill, an IGFA rep from Virginia Beach and avid angler, works closely with Dr. John Graves, a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. In fact, the primary impetus of Neill's July 18 visit to the canyon was the hope of tagging small bluefin for VIMS.

The bluefin's trans-Atlantic crossing is yet another instance of what scientists have come to realize — the free mixing of eastern and western bluefin tuna stocks. Graves says the tuna caught off Virginia was likely spawned in the Mediterranean, to which it had returned.

[See the article by Lee Tolliver of the Virginian Pilot online, Feb. 1st:
Researchers feed on tuna's 5,000-mile odyssey](#)



Wes Blow



Ken Neill, III

Per Ken Neill re: Jan. 25th We ended up catching 19 togs up to 18.5 inches long. Kept a couple, tagged and released the rest, got DNA samples from each.



Per Ken Neill, re: Jan. 24th: We went out after tautog yesterday. We had a slow bite, catching 5 tautog. We kept 4 between 18 and 20 inches long, tagged and released the 5th. We got DNA samples from each. We also kept a nice hake and we had to release some really nice sea bass.

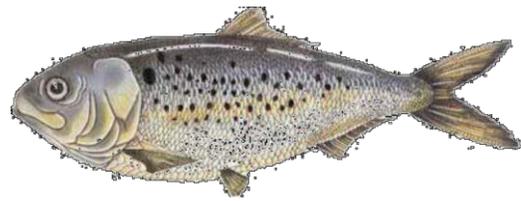
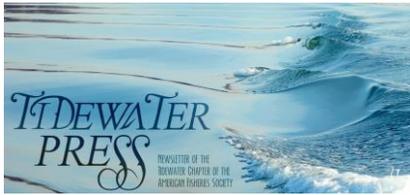


Wes Blow



Beth Synowiec

Jan 20: Wes Blow fished for tautog on one of the ocean wrecks. He said that the bite was great and they caught about 25 fish keeping their 2-angler limit. The fish they kept included 4 that weighed over 9 pounds with the largest weighing in at 16 pounds.



From Tidewater Press: Winter 2015; Volume 30, Issue 1

Menhaden Research

Alex Atkinson, a Master's student at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, is conducting her research on juvenile Atlantic Menhaden in tributaries of Chesapeake Bay, particularly the Choptank River. Atlantic Menhaden are sought after for their high oil content which is used to produce fertilizers, pet feeds, and supplements for human consumption. As filter feeders, Atlantic Menhaden are also a vital link in the food web, transferring primary production to higher trophic levels. They are an important food source for Striped Bass, Bluefish, tuna, and seabirds. Alex, working in the lab of Dave Secor, is particularly interested in the effect of winter temperature on the hatch dates of juvenile Atlantic Menhaden.

Historically, Chesapeake Bay served as the central nursery habitat for the shelf-spawning Atlantic Menhaden, but over the past two decades juvenile production has fallen to < 20% of its former level. Otolith-derived hatch dates have indicated that most recruits originate from spring-ingressed larvae, rather than larvae entering in early- and mid-winter. Alex hypothesized that prolonged exposure to low winter temperatures and low food availability in the Chesapeake was sub-lethal to larvae, shaping subsequent recruitment patterns. Hatch dates and back-calculated growth rates of juvenile menhaden from 2010 and 2013, years with varying winter temperatures and chlorophyll phenology, were compared. Average winter temperature in 2010 was 6.4°C and in 2013 was 8.8°C. Thus far, hatch dates earlier than January have not been observed in seine-collected samples from 2010 and 2013 and hatch date distributions were not significantly different. Trawl-collected samples will be added to the otolith analysis along with samples from 2011 and 2012 for added comparisons. Alex will be examining hatch dates and growth rates in conjunction with other environmental variables such as phytoplankton abundance and river flow.

VIMS Researchers Investigate Speckled Trout Population Connectivity in the Mid-Atlantic

VIMS fisheries scientists are working to untangle the stock structure of Speckled Trout in Virginia waters. Prior to this study, there had been no genetic studies of Virginia's Speckled Trout; as a result, there is no information available regarding genetic connectivity among locations either within Chesapeake Bay or between Chesapeake Bay and other locations. It is unknown if populations in Virginia are self-recruiting or to what extent recruitment relies on input from other geographic areas. Moreover, there has been no genetic comparison of Virginia Speckled Trout with those taken from North Carolina; they are currently assumed to be a single stock due to tagging data, but that assumption is based on a limited number of tag recaptures. Determining the extent of connectivity is especially pressing in light of cold-stun events (fish kills) that occurred in Chesapeake Bay in the winter of 2014, which caused Virginia to temporarily close the recreational fishery for several months in 2014 as a precautionary measure aimed at preserving the spawning stock. The magnitude of the increase in natural mortality that results from these events is unknown and since the stock structure of Speckled Trout in Virginia is also unknown, there is no way to estimate the impact that a cold-stun event in one region has on other regions.

The VIMS team, which includes Dr. Jan McDowell, Susanna Musick, and Heidi Brightman, has joined forces with recreational fishermen who have been tagging Speckled Trout as part of the Virginia Gamefish Tagging Program to collect fin clips. Fin clips are currently being collected from several Chesapeake Bay sub-estuaries including Mobjack Bay, York River, James River, Elizabeth River, Ware River, Rappahannock River, and the Chesapeake Bay side of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. These samples are being compared to collections taken from North Carolina and South Carolina. Molecular markers are being used to analyze DNA isolated from these fin clips to further the understanding of the stock structure of Speckled Trout. The results of these analyses can be used to more effectively manage this important recreational angling resource.



It is unknown whether Speckled Trout caught in Virginia waters, such as this large specimen, are self-recruiting, or if they are part of a larger mid-Atlantic population. Virginia Institute of Marine Science researchers are employing genetic techniques to better understand the extent of population connectivity among Speckled Trout in the region (Photo courtesy of Hunter Southall).



Charles Southall



Hunter Southall



Jody Linthicum

Ken Neill wrote about Jan. 17th: ...we did go out in rather blustery conditions. We stayed close to the beach because it was just too rough to run anywhere else. We managed to catch 15 tautog up to 23.25 inches long. That fish was tagged and released after a DNA sample was taken. We tagged and released all but 3 fish and got DNA samples from each for VIMS. The carcasses of the kept fish were donated to VMRC. We caught one fish that had been tagged previously.



RE: Jan. 16th: Jody Linthicum fished the Elizabeth River with Wally Veal. They caught 15 speckled trout over 19 inches long. Their catch included fish of 25 inches, 27.5 inches and Jody caught a huge gator, 32 inches long! Hunter Southall was also on the river catching trout. Hunter said that he caught a dozen or so specks including one over 25 inches long. He also caught a nice puppy drum. Hunter's specks averaged in the 20-23 inch range. Both Jody and Hunter caught their fish casting jigs and those fish are still there as they released their fish...even that 32-inch monster!

As I sign off as newsletter editor, I wish the club great fishing! Much is done to protect recreational fishing by club members and important information is disseminated. I've learned a lot! Keep up the good work while having FUN!

....and meet my new grandbaby... Savannah!

Take good care,
Angie



PSWSFA 2014 MEMBERSHIP

Dues: \$30 per year for entire *family

(January through December - not prorated throughout year)

(Please Print)

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Membership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/>	cash
<input type="checkbox"/>	check

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**

Links to Information & Resources...

PSWSFA Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peninsula-Salt-Water-Sport-FishermansAssociation/343865285718776?ref=hl>

Flounder Bowl Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flounder-Bowl/124271620922637?ref=hl>

PSWSFA Club Webpage:

<http://www.pswsfa.com>

VA Marine Resources Commission:

<http://www.mrc.state.va.us/whatsnew.shtm>

The Recreational Fishing Alliance:

<http://joinrfa.org/>

VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/>

VA Institute of Marine Science:

<http://www.vims.edu/>

PSWSFA Members Only Forum:

For access contact Gary Donaldson: garyd66@cox.net
Gary supplies group # needed for 50% off annual membership.



FishNews Sign-Up: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews/fishnews.htm>

FishNews is an automated, e-mail-based newsletter that provides electronic notification of important actions, rules, policies, and programs that may be of interest to you. Participation is entirely voluntary and free of charge.



COOPERATING GROUP PROGRAM

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

50% OFF BOATU.S. MEMBERSHIP

Regularly \$30– Your Price: **\$15!**

Contact Gary Donaldson

BOATU.S. COOP #: @ garyd66@cox.net

New BoatU.S. Members:

Sign up online (www.boatus.com/join) or call **800-395-2628**.
Mention the BoatU.S. Coop# above.

Existing BoatU.S. Members:

If you are not currently receiving the discount, please email membership@boatus.com or call **800-395-2628**. Mention the code BoatU.S. Coop # above.



2015 PSWSFA ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

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: (\$15.00 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): Chicken 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: Stan Simmerman
202 S. Willard Avenue
Hampton, VA 23663



Questions: Call Stan at 757-870-1507 (after 5pm)
Please do not call in your reservation. Reservations
need to be in writing.

