



# Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

**JANUARY 2011**

**VISIT US AT VCFA.ORG**

## Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is \$30.00 annually and includes all family members. Please complete this form with a check made payable to VCFA. You can bring the completed form and check to the next meeting, or mail it to or club treasurer at VCFA, P.O. Box 2866, Virginia Beach, VA 23450-2866

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle:    **New Member**    **Renewal**

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

### **2011 Fly Fishing Shows**

**Garden State Convention Center  
Somerset, NJ  
January 21, 22, 23 2011**

**Show Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 8:30 - 6:00; Sun 9 - 4:30**

**Admission: Adult: \$15 for one day,  
\$25 for two-day pass,  
\$35 for three-day pass;  
Children under 5 free, under 12: \$2  
Scouts under 16 in uniform: free  
Active Military: \$10**

### **The Fly Fishing Shows**

#### **2011 Fly Fishing Shows**

**NC State Fairgrounds  
Reliegh, NC  
January 29, 30 2011**

**Show Hours: Sat 9:00 - 5:30; Sun 9 - 4:30**

**Admission: Adult: \$15 for one day,  
\$25 for two-day pass,  
Children under 5 free, under 12: \$2  
Scouts under 16 in uniform: free  
Active Military with ID: \$10**

**Visit their website for schedule of speakers, Tiers and events  
[http://www.flyfishingshow.com/Fly\\_Fishing\\_Show\\_Home\\_Page.html](http://www.flyfishingshow.com/Fly_Fishing_Show_Home_Page.html)**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Mike Buss, President; Ed Owens, Vice-President; Kendall Osborne, Treasurer;  
Mike Lahorner, Secretary; **MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Lawrence Clemens, Spencer Hayes, Noel  
Horne, George Hughes, Mitch Osroff, Scott Reppert, Ron Russell, Kyle Sawyer  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT;** Kevin Dubois

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL BANQUET

*Saturday, January 8, 2011*

*6:00 PM - Doors open*

*7:00 PM - Dinner*

**\$20.00 per person**

*Bayside Presbyterian Church*

**THE EVENT WILL BE DRESS CASUAL.**

**Mark your Calendars** for January 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2011. The board has decided that the membership number, and having to meet a minimum of 50 people to commit to a formal venue, the January banquet will be a pot luck dinner. The main entree items will be provided, but everyone will be asked to bring a side dish or something else vital to the evening. Kevin Dubois will give a powerpoint presentation, there will be raffle items and lots of fish tales to be told. If you have questions or wish to donate a raffle/door prize, please contact me at [lawrenceclemens@gmail.com](mailto:lawrenceclemens@gmail.com). Cost for the dinner is \$20.00 per person and will take place at **Bayside Presbyterian Church**. Mike Lahorner will coordinate the side dishes. You can contact Mike at [2dwater@gmail.com](mailto:2dwater@gmail.com).

**PLEASE, RSVP** as soon as possible! You can do so by hitting replying to this E-Letter, or send an email with a subject of **VCFA Dinner**,

**RSVP:** [lawrenceclemens@gmail.com](mailto:lawrenceclemens@gmail.com)

Kevin DuBois will give a presentation during the dinner recapping the events and adventures of the past year. If you have any pictures of your fishing excursions, please email them to Kevin with the behind the scenes story so he can include them in the show. Preferably, the items should be of saltwater interest, but if you have something special, they would be appreciated. You can email Kevin to the address below:

[KevinDuBoisPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:KevinDuBoisPhoto@gmail.com)

Have a safe, happy and healthy new year,  
with lots of of fishes and good cheer!



**The River Rabbit**

# CONSERVATION ALERT!

## Industrial Menhaden harvesters beyond 3 miles threaten Rockfish spawning stock?

This subject has just come up along with the threat that recreational anglers pose in fishing beyond the 3 mile limit!

Industrial Menhaden vessels , which have caused so much consternation and friction between the Menhaden reduction industry in Virginia and recreational fishing interests continue to abuse nature by moving outside VA jurisdiction (falling under some Federal Management Council --?) and are presently, legally, harvesting Menhaden up until a week before Christmas (I have been told) in the EEZ near and among migrating Rockfish schools .

It is appropriate for recreational anglers to contact Jack Travelstead and any Federal Fisheries Management Councils which regulate the Industrial harvest of Menhaden in the EEZ and that also manage the rules and regulations related to Striped Bass.

Travelstead is well aware of the anecdotal evidence that the ASMFC / NMFS success story of Striped Bass management is in jeopardy and Striped Bass population may be again on a decline.

Rob O'Reilly, at VMRC has already notified concerned recreational anglers to prepare for a reduction in allocation of Striped Bass in the next couple of years because of the decrease in spawning success in Maryland Striped Bass recently.

We are self-critical of recreational anglers who slip out into the EEZ. Should we not sound the alarm to fishery managers that Industrial harvest of Menhaden is presently endangering the spawning stocks of migrating stripers as much or more than recreational activities in EEZ?

I do not believe there is much that can be done about what is going on this month in the EEZ by the Menhaden fleet. But we sure can begin to soften up the opposition by alerting authorities to the potential additional damage that can result from continued abuse against nature in the EEZ by allowing industrial harvests of Menhaden at the time the stripers are migrating off VA in the EEZ.

There may have to be some adjustments in legislation to prevent Virginia Menhaden vessels from landing (at Reedville) EEZ caught Menhaden from Thanksgiving until December 31.

I urge that a dialog begin among local angling clubs , CCAVA and Recreational Fishing Alliance to attempt closing the management loopholes that threaten the migrating/over-wintering striped bass spawning biomass.

Dr. Bob Allen  
VCAC & PSWSFA  
Hampton VA

## NORTHAM AND COSGROVE INTRODUCE MENHADEN MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

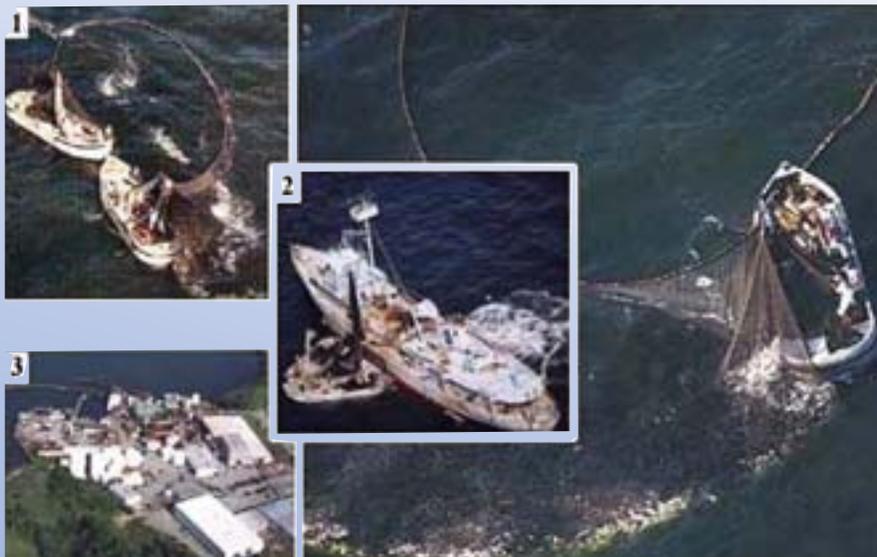
### Commonsense Transfer to VMRC Will Increase Regulatory Certainty, Protect Jobs

#### NEWS RELEASE

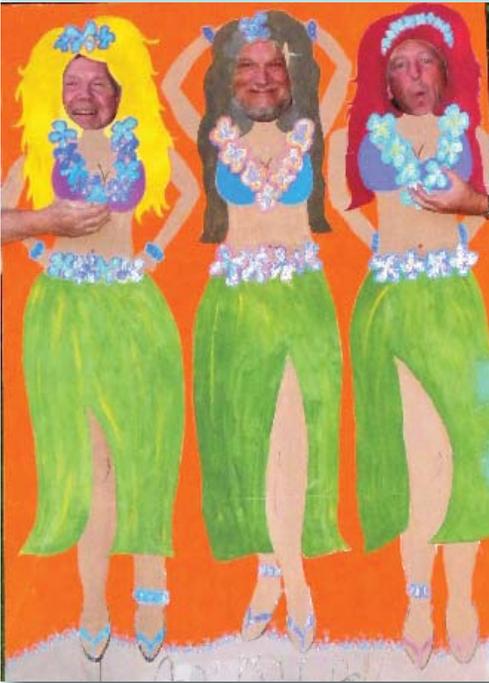
Senator Ralph S. Northam (D - Norfolk) has introduced SB 765 to transfer management authority for menhaden from the Virginia General Assembly to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Delegate John A. Cosgrove (R - Chesapeake) will introduce an identical measure in the House of Delegates. "This legislation is garnering rapidly increasing levels of bipartisan public support, because it is simply good government" Cosgrove said. "We budget over \$20 million a year for VMRC to manage our fisheries; we should let them do it."

Said Northam: "General Assembly members lack the time and scientific expertise necessary to make technical fisheries management decisions. I am much more confident in VMRC's ability to implement the quotas set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in a way that ensures sustainable harvest and protects fishing industry jobs now and in the future." The ASMFC is a federally authorized interstate management body that sets quotas for many marine fish stocks on the East Coast. In Virginia, ASMFC directives for species other than menhaden are executed by VMRC commissioners, with the support of an expert staff. ASMFC actions on menhaden are considered by the General Assembly

Omega Protein, Inc. is the largest harvester of menhaden, and operates a processing plant in Reedville, VA that employs approximately 300 people. "Let's be clear," added Northam: "the intent of this bill is not to do any harm to Omega Protein, or to jeopardize the livelihood of any of its employees. Omega and other harvesters have the right to source sustainably by eliminating restrictive conservation to be established by the government for help sustain employment."



A number of conservation groups are supporting the bills, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, the Coastal Conservation Association Virginia, and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.



Moe, Larry and Curly  
AKA  
Leslie Parr, Mike Buss, Kevin DuBois



HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH  
FRIENDS (NEW AND OLD)



THE HOST



THE GANG AT THE END OF THE DAY

## CLUB LUAU AT MIKE LAHORNERS HOUSE

*Taken from Noresat.com*

Fred Kettenbeil's 15-pound 6-ounce Peconic Bay fluke was more than enough to get the ball rolling. "Gotta go," Bob Wassuta at Wego Fishing in Southold said

"Wednesday," *Nor'east Saltwater* advertising manager Phil Scocca replied

"Me, too," Rich Johnson of *The Fishing Line* added

"Gotta try the fly," I chimed in. "How deep, Bob?"

"Thirty to forty feet," he said. "Maybe fifty."

Uh-oh. Time to board the *Deep Water Express*.

I fine-tuned all three of 3M Scientific Anglers' *Deep Water Express* shooting heads in preparation.

A Line Profile Chart is included with each so that the lines may be trimmed to suit individual fly rods. Each of the lines' front and back tapers are weighted differently. Using the chart to do a quick calculation can speed the tuning process along.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

I installed a temporary braided monofilament loop on the Back Taper of the 550, using a drop of a super glue to hold the loop in place during the tests. 3M's Bruce Richardson advises uses nothing less than a 12- or 13-weight rod for the full 550 grain *Express*. Though my rod was rated at an 11-weight, it normally loads a 40-foot Intermediate shooting head of about 430 grains (13-weight), so I suspected it would have little problem handling the 550 as is, but I started with some gentle casting strokes, just in case. Too much of a line load can snap a fly rod, so go slow when you test these heavy lines.

Remember, you're not looking for distance. You're looking for depth. Don't power a cast as you normally would. Actually, you don't have to. You'll find that the weight of the shooting head will pull along a lot of shooting line behind it and an easy casting stroke can result in a 50- to 60-foot cast.

The rod handled the 550 *Express* nicely. A little slow, yes, but I was still lawn-casting to 60 feet. I decided not to trim this head. The 550 sinks at about 7.5 inches per second. If I trimmed it down to a more castable 450 grains, I would have lost some of that sink-rate.

On to the 700 grain *Express*.

I didn't trim this one just yet, either, but instead of trying to cast the full line, I let out about 10 feet at a time and gently lifted the rod in a wide arc from front to back. Surprisingly, the 11-weight handled the load. This was most likely due to the 3-piece construction which makes for a much heavier and stiffer butt section than you'll find on a comparable 2-piece rod. I found I could lob all 700 grains, but for safety's sake, I trimmed about 75 grains from the back taper.

The Front Tapers are lighter than the Back Tapers, so reversing the head would work to increase the load on the rod. (Mass x Velocity = etc., etc.) In fact, I tried reversing the 550 and found that it practically overwhelmed the rod, so for most fly rods, I recommend trimming from the back.

The 850 grain head would have to be trimmed significantly. I removed 100 grains before testing and I wound up with a 24.5-foot line. Does this defeat the purpose of the 850 *Express*? Not really, because I've compressed that 725 to 750 grains into a short package that will sink more rapidly in a current.

I decided the heaviest head would be a "last resort." My fly rod would have to contend with the line weight plus water drag and, with luck, a big summer flounder. It might be too much.

I met Bob, Phil, Rich and Don Zieran at Wego Fishing last Wednesday morning. We would be taking Don's 25-foot *Taggy Too* Columbia to drift the Green Lawns, just a short run from the dock.

Don set up the first drift and I held back in order to get an idea of what I would be up against. We started in about 30 feet of water, but soon the depth finder soared to 55 feet.

"Humps and troughs all along here," Bob explained. "The fluke are in the deeper water."

"We don't usually get fluke on the ledges," Don added.

Uh-oh again. The bait boys were using 5-ounce sinkers, bouncing their offerings within a foot or so of the bottom.

The best scenario for a fly rodder at the Lawns would be fluke sitting on top of the humps. Summer flounder aren't scavengers. They attack moving targets and I felt I could have been able to work a pattern at 30-feet, but a 50-foot dead drop was something else again.

Rips set up the best fluke situation for fly rodders. You can use a fast-sinking head and let the current do most of the work as it carries your pattern along in a thoroughly natural presentation.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

For the next drift, I rigged my rod with the 550 head, a 3-foot 30-pound-test butt leader, a 1.5-foot 18-pound-test tippet and Glen Mikkleson's *Acrylic Squid*. There were no baitfish in the bay last week, but some squid were still around. I figured a squid pattern was my best shot.

The *Deep Water Express* lived up to its name. After a few casts, I found that the best method was to get the full head and about 20 feet of shooting line in the water on a cast, then feed out more line on the drift. The line quickly sank out of sight.

Knowing whether or not I was touching bottom proved to be the hardest part. The sinker-bouncers could feel bottom easily and their baits were automatically within a fluke's strike window when that lead hit bottom. I had to do a lot of guesswork, but a snagged spider crab told me I was in the right neighborhood. The 550 was doing its thing, down to at least 45 feet.

But my line was practically straight down in the water. There was little wind and both Bob and Don agreed that the ebb current wasn't setting up the way they hoped. To compensate, I tried some longer and more frequent casts up current of our drift, allowing the line to sink and swing around as I worked the pattern in short strips, trying to imitate a squid's movements.

On our fourth drift, the wind and current picked up. My line was now angling off the stern. To compensate, I fed out more until I had 75 to 80 feet in the water and *Whack!* Missed. *Whack-whack!*

We returned with fourteen fluke. Phil Scocca limited and Don Zieran had the biggest at 4.25 pounds. Jack Duerew picked up a 13-pound 10-ounce doormat next to us aboard the *Peconic Star II* and we watched Pat Peck reel in a 28.5-inch fluke. As for me, I missed that fluke and the current never set up quite the same way again for the rest of the day. Bob and Don said the fluke weren't all that aggressive. They were just "laying on the baits," and the lack of a good current might have been the cause.

Still, I learned a lot. The 550 *Express* can get down to fluke in 50 feet of water. You can make Mikkleson's *Squid* do life-like things in the water. A fly rodder needs more speed on a drift than a bait angler (a trolling motor might help) and you can catch deep-water fluke on a fly, if you're quick enough.

Wait 'til next time.

**RSVP**

**NOW FOR THE  
VCFA DINNER  
ON JANUARY 8**