



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

<http://www.vcfa.org>

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DECEMBER 2023

Happy Holidays! As we end the year and look forward to 2024, I am somewhat excited to see what things may come. Our new board is in place and we have a couple new faces that will add a fresh outlook to club. First is John Adametz. He is our Vice-President who is a credentialed Mast-ing Instructor with the International Fly-Fish-ing Federation. He has started a role of Casting Chair in the club and will be readily available to help bring everyone's casting stan-dard to a higher level. John has also taken the lead in getting our website updated and eventually will introduce a new site that is more accessible for us to keep updated. Another new board member (and VCFA member) is Gordon Meek (Tres) who has volunteered to be our treasurer. We have a complete Board and ready to get things moving in the new year.

First up, we will again do our Fly Fishing 101 course for the Chesapeake Parks and Recreation on the first Saturdays in January, February and March. We always welcome volunteers to help out with these events. The class is split into four segments. First is a PowerPoint presentation that provides a good



understanding of fly fishing, equipment, flies and fish. Then we split up into three groups. One ties a fly (Wooly Bugger), another demonstrates knots and rigging, and the third is a casting class so the participants can get the feel of throwing a fly line. Each group has about 45 minutes, then they switch to another class until each has had the chance to do each activity. It is a fun time to promote the sport and club.

Ihope you can make the annual banquet on January 20. It will again be at the Isaac Walton League in Chesapeake, VA. Last years dinner was a wonderful event and very well attended. The décor was outstanding as put together by Lee Ownes and Mark Kirkby and wives). They have once again stepped up to organize the 2024 dinner and it should be another great event. We are looking for donations for our raffles. They are our main source (outside of dues) that generate the funds we need to operate. Any item/s that are new, gently used, or in good shape will be appreciated and put toward our raffles or silent auctions. Please contact me ASAP if you can contribute something to the cause and I will arrange to pick it up (lawrenceclemens@gmail.com)

Presidents message continued on next page

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lawrence Clemens, President: Vice-President, John Adametz: Treasurer, Gordon Meeks: Secretary, Lee Owen and Jim Saddler: MEMBERS AT LARGE: Carl Allen, David Dembicki, Gary Green, Mark Kirkby, Chris Malgee, Ed Pacheco, dChrisViano

We are lining up our speaker for the new year and so far, things are looking good. A lot of fishing local and far. So far, we have Wayne MacMasters, Colby Trow, Carl Allen and others lined up for presentations at our monthly meetings. We will continue to offer our fly tying course as we have in the past 21 years, and we look to up our game a bit with John Adametz organizing the Casting Chair.

I hope this is the year that we can get more new blood involved with the club. There are a lot of members that have experience fishing that can step up and help out in many areas of interest – casting, tying, giving a presentation to the club about your experience on a trip, or event that you attended. It does not have to be a whole meeting; a ten-minute presentation gets you involved and sharing your knowledge. We are all here because we love to fish – fly-fish in particular. Most do not have a fly fishing only policy and your experience can be just the thing to level up someone else's game.

I hope your holidays are filled with joy and happiness. Enjoy the things that make our lives filled with meaning and enrichment. Spend quality time with family and friends as well as yourself!



The Legends of the Fly Tournament had one ladies team participating. Laura and Mary are participants of Project Healing Waters and it looks like they had a great day on the water!



James and Robert fished with Captain Wayne MacMasters and came in 5th place with some nice catches of Specks, and Reds



VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

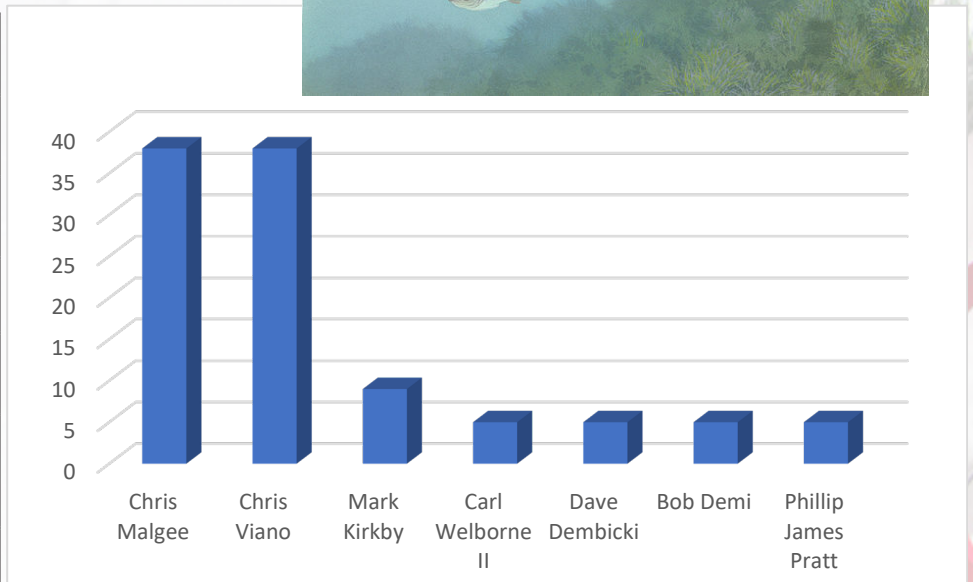
Each month will be a specific fish as listed below. Where listed as a club vote, we as a club will vote at the prior month's meeting for which fish we intend to seek. Points are also listed below with extra points awarded for citation size fish. You may register as many citation size fish for points as you catch for the month. We will grade by length so all fish must be pictured with an accurate measurement. In the event of a questionable picture or matching size fish, 3 members of the VCFA will decide the length. Members will be chosen at random to ensure fairness. This is for fun, and we are an honest group with integrity.

In the event of a tie for length, points will be awarded by time of entry. Please post pictures to VCFA going fishing page and to email to VirginiaCoastalFlyAnglers@gmail.com. If you do not have access to a computer, Facebook etc..., bring your photos to the monthly meeting. This should give us plenty of pictures to compose for our annual banquet. **GOOD LUCK and GET FISHING!**

December is Striper month. Turn in your catches and get on the board. Year end results will be posted in the January Newsletter



Chris Malgee	38
Chris Viano	38
Mark Kirkby	9
Carl Welborne II	5
Dave Dembicik	5
Bob Demi	5
Phillip James Pratt	5





VSSA Position Striped Bass
Draft Addendum II Amendment 7

November 30, 2023
Emilie Franke
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201



RE: Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Dear Ms. Franke:

On behalf of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), I am writing to provide our comments on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). VSSA represents over 600 Saltwater Anglers and six (6) affiliated fishing clubs in Virginia.

VSSA has serious concerns on the probability of rebuilding to the biomass target by the 2029 deadline. The actions proposed in Draft Addendum II project 14.5% reduction in 2024 vs 2022 removals. We are cognizant other factors such as lack of prey, more specifically menhaden, several years of low recruitment (juvenile abundance index), pre spawn commercial netting, and the effects of climate change all play a role in this rebuilding process. We do not believe the proposed measures will be enough to allow rebuilding by the 2029 deadline. Therefore, VSSA will support the most conservative measures proposed. Moreover, we believe both the recreational and commercial sectors must share in the rebuilding process. Our comments on the proposed options are as follows:

Section 3.1.1 Ocean Recreational Fishery Options:

VSSA supports Option B - allowing 1 fish at 28'-31" with 2022 seasons (all modes). Given, the last strong year class (2015) is now available to many anglers, VSSA believes Option B is the most conservative option proposed with a 14.1% reduction and is the most appropriate action considering all factors.

We do not support options providing sector separation within the recreational fishery. This only allows disparities within the sector. All recreational anglers, whether fishing from shore, private boat, or charter boat should contribute equally to reducing the harvest and restoring the Striped Bass stock to abundance.

Section 3.1.2 Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery Options:

VSSA support Option B1 - We can support either Option B1 or B2 for the Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery. Options B1 and B2 are the only options that meet or exceed the required reductions. We prefer Option B1 because it will provide the largest reduction and provide consistent minimum size, maximum size, and a consistent bag limit for all jurisdictions in the Ches Bay.

VSSA has long been a proponent for uniform and consistent regulations across all jurisdictions in the Chesapeake Bay. We believe consistent regulations for all Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions will not only provide parity but will also lead to improved compliance as well as enforcement.

VSSA does not support sector separation in Chesapeake Bay for recreational fisheries (Options C1 and C2). Again, we believe all recreational anglers, whether fishing from the shore, private boat, or charter boat should make an equal effort to reduce the harvest and restore the Striped Bass stock to abundance.

Section 3.1.3 For-Hire Management Clarification (if For-Hire Mode-Specific Limits are selected):

VSSA does not support mode splits. Additionally, given the status of the stock, we do not believe the Captain and/or Crew should be allowed to harvest fish, when carrying passengers for hire.

Section 3.1.4 Recreational Filleting Allowance Requirement:

VSSA supports Option B. VSSA believes it should be left to the states to determine whether or not to allow "at-sea/shore-side filleting." If the state chooses to allow, VSSA believes, at the minimum, the rack and skin must be retained to ensure compliance

Section 3.2.1 Commercial Quota Reduction Options:

VSSA supports Option B with no less than a 14.5% reduction. Given the status of the stock, we do not believe the status quo is a viable option. Striped Bass is a shared resource between the commercial and recreational fisheries. All participants in this fishery need to participate in the recovery.

We are cognizant the board will select the specific reduction between zero and 14.5%, but we are also cognizant that any reduction less than 14.5% will have less than a 50% probability of success. Therefore, VSSA strongly encourages the board to select the largest possible reduction of 14.5%.

Section 3.3 Response to Stock Assessment Updates

VSSA Supports Option B. Unfortunately, VSSA believes additional future management measures will be required to meet the 2029 rebuilding deadline. Given the choice between a normal year long addendum process or giving the board the flexibility to quickly act based on a stock assessment is a simple choice. VSSA supports Option B giving the board the ability to respond without going through a full addendum process.

Section 4.0 Compliance Schedule

VSSA supports implementation dates being put in place as soon as possible.

In summary as previously stated, VSSA does not believe the proposed measures will be enough to allow rebuilding by the 2029 deadline. Therefore, VSSA supports the most aggressive and conservative measures proposed. Accordingly, VSSA strongly encourages ASMFC adopt the Addendum II options with the greatest probability of success in achieving the target levels in 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

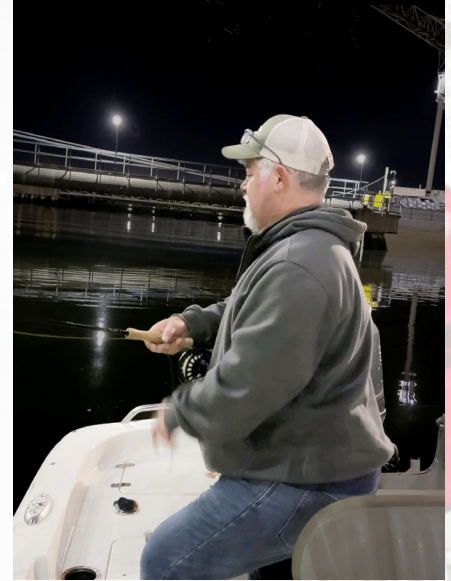
Respectively,

John J Bello

John J. Bello

Chairman Government Affairs

PROJECT HEALING WATERS



FLY FISHING RESOURCES

CASTING CORNER



JOHN ADAMETZ

John Adametz is passionate about fly fishing and is a credentialed Master Casting Instructor with Fly Fishers International. He is a member of Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers club where he volunteers as Vice President and Casting Chair and is the Founder of Adametz Fly Fishing Academy. Contact information: john.adametz@gmail.com, cell 240.818.6787

Mastering Fly Casting from a Kayak

As avid fly anglers, our pursuit of the perfect catch often takes to diverse waters, including the tranquility of kayaking. Fly casting from a kayak presents unique challenges, but with the right techniques, it can be a highly rewarding experience. This article provides some basics that will help you get started. For more advanced tips, hit up club member Chris Viano!

TIP #1: CHOOSING THE RIGHT GEAR

Lots of choices here and pros and cons to each choice, but here are a few to consider:

Rod and Line. 7'-8' rod length enables movement in the confined space of a kayak and easier to fight a fish. A medium stiffness rod combined with slower casting stroke and a weight forward line (shooting taper is even better) will help you load the rod quicker. Obvious benefits of distance and power to fight the wind with a longer, faster rod... life is all about choices! Overlining your rod is also helpful, for example, using a 9-10W line on an 8W rod.

TIP #2: CASTING TECHNIQUES

A. Master the roll cast! If you only knew one cast, this one will get you fishing!

B. Side Arm. This will help you get underneath structures such as boat docks, and good for keeping the fly away from your body.

C. Off Shoulder. Helpful with changing kayak positions with relationship to the wind.

D. Double Haul. Increased line speed to help with distance and helps spread the workload.

E. Roll Cast Pick Up. Roll cast away from the kayak and to bring fly to the surface, with an immediate pick up on the back cast.

E. Saltwater Quick Cast. A pickup, one or two back casts with hauls and let it go!

F. Constant Tension Cast. This one is helpful when casting a weighted fly. Constant tension and curved motion eliminate the chunk-chunk system reverberation you experience when you come to an abrupt stop with a heavy fly and in-plane front to back casting.

(Continued on page 6)

Tip #3: LINE MANAGEMENT.

Consider using a mesh stripping basket or towel across your lap to help prevent tangles.
Avoid getting your line tangled around your prop, anchor, etc.
Careful not to slap the water behind you with your back cast.
Only strip off the line you intend to cast.

Tip #4: PRACTICE

When on land, practice on one leg, kneeling, sitting (safety first please!)
Nothing beats practice on the water and when you get good, learn to cast from the standing position in your kayak. Perhaps wait until the water warms up for that one!

Lastly, remember, "Any day fishing is a great day! Any fish caught is a great fish!" Tight Lines!



JANUARY 20, 2024

Join us on on January 20, 2024 for our annual club banquet. It will take place at The Izaak Walton League in Chesapeake, Virginia. You can sign up by clicking the link below and completing the in-cognito form.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA62CA5F58-45871556-vcfa>



FRIENDS OF THE VCFA

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLOWING WHO ARE SO GENEROUS IN SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ANGLERS. THERE GENEROSITY HELPS US TO FUND OUR MEEETINGS, TYING CLASSES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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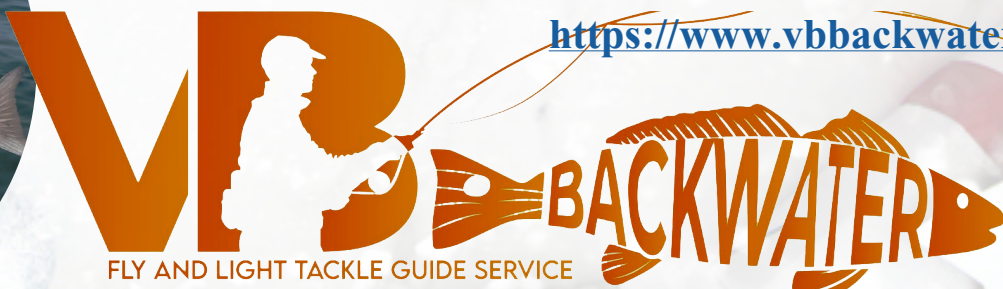


CAPTAIN CHRIS MALGEE

(757) 403-2045

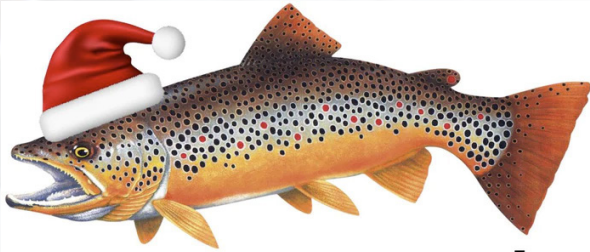
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CAPEVILLE, VA 23313

VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERSHIP

DATE: ____/____/____

RENEWAL

M D Y

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 any meeting, or mail it to our club treasurer at VCFA, P.O, BOX 2866, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23450-2866.

You can now join or renew your membership online by clicking the secure link listed below:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/VirginiaCoastalFlyAnglersInc/VCFAMembershipForm>

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS: _____

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