



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

<http://www.vcfa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/VCFA.org>

JANUARY 2024

If the world were perfect, It wouldn't be ... Yogi Berra

After a year and a half we are finally back online with our website. It has been an adventure! As many of you know we have had some issues with our website. A year and a half ago, the designer of the website retired. You would think that would not be a problem with the number of people who hold degrees in the area of web development and that it would be easy to find someone to create a website we could manage ourselves. The search seemed endless. The designers were either looking for bigger organizations to work with, or the fees were beyond our scope, or the maintenance of the site would be proprietary and we would have to pay a monthly fee, and they would have control of updates and changes made to the site.

I had all but given up, when John Adametz took over and was able to get a company that could redo our site and give us autonomy to make changes and updates as we needed. In a flurry of action, we sent information back and forth to the designer who was able to get a lot of information off the old site. We added the new information and in a week, things went online. There will be tweaking and changes along the way, but hopefully, we can now keep things current and



moving forward for the club. Meeting information can now be posted again as well as events, trips, and other items such as your fish pictures and articles as submitted. We will have a blog page for various items pertinent to the club. A long and very frustrating item is now checked off the list and we can move on. Things are perfect!

Our new Board of Director's is now set to begin the business of the club on January 29. I am excited as we finally have a full board and complete with officers. I am happy that each member contributes to the club's advancement and we will be trying some new things and events throughout the year. We are still trying to consider club trips to organize that can be utilized by all our members. If you have suggestions, please speak up! Even better if you would like to organize a trip and invite other members along. Unfortunately, Harker's Island did not work out last year due to a lack of timely response to secure the house. Mike may try once more this year, but you need to confirm a spot ASAP in order to make things work out.

Our speakers for the year are coming together for the year and they will be listed later in the newsletter. There are a couple of months to fill and we will have some special events geared around casting and tying classes that are being

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, Chris Viano

organized and will be announced as details are finalized. Our dinner is set for January 20th at the Izaak Walton League in Chesapeake. As of this writing we have 50 persons signed up to attend and it should be a great evening of comradery and fishing lies. We hope to gather enough items for our popular bucket raffles and silent auctions. These are important as they support the events, building use, Fly Fishing 101, website, and other cost that we incur over the year. If you have gently used items you can donate to the cause, please let us know.

All in all, I look forward to a good year and enjoy serving the club. Being retired, this often feels like a full-time job and I keep up the best I can. I welcome your comments and suggestions (yes even criticisms) as they help to improve my shortcomings and keep things moving in a positive direction that benefits everyone. It is often difficult to organize things one way as there are many different skill levels within the group. That, though is what makes it worth the effort. Everyone sharing their skill and knowledge to further us all to a better enjoyment of the sport!

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

These are the items planned at this time. They are subject to change

JANUARY 20	ANNUAL VCFA BANQUET
FEBRUARY 25	WAYNE MACMASTERS
MARCH 21	STEVE ATKINSON
APRIL 18	CARL ALLEN'S ALASKA
MAY 23	PICNIC
JUNE 22	KEVIN DUBOIS
JULY 18	CASTING CLINIC INVITATIONAL
AUGUST 17	COLBY TROW
SEPTEMBER 19	
OCTOBER 17	
NOVEMBER 21	
DECEMBER	NO MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23: WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL CASTING EVENT FEATURING DALE MAZZERELLA. DETAILS WILL BE SHARED ONCE THEY ARE FINALIZED.

AUGUST 17: WE MAY BE HAVING A SPECIAL TYING SESSION DURING THE DAY WITH COLBY TROW. WHEN CONFIRMED, WE WILL OPEN IT TO THE FIRST 10 PERSONS TO RESPOND.

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



Fly Line and Rod Guide Maintenance for Improved Casting

“All hands stay clear of topside while the Ship is conducting a freshwater wash down!” Great advice from the U.S. Navy for removing salt from ships, and for improving your casting!

Two of my precepts are simplicity and efficiency, and what a better way to kick off the new year and the winter months with a couple basic gear maintenance tips that will help your casting and extend the life of your equipment.

Tip #1. Maintain your fly line. There are many fly line “conditioning” products out there from all the major companies that claim to rejuvenate the line from effects of leaching, and to smooth nicks and micro cracks. These products have their place, especially when you are out on the water, and/or need to clean in a hurry at the end of the day. With that said, my go to favorite, time permitting, is cleaning the line with warm, soapy water (mild dishwashing liquid) and a soft cloth after each use. After fishing or casting practice, (1) strip your line off the reel into a bucket with warm soapy water and pull through the soapy cloth a few times with some tension until the line no longer produces “dirt streaks” on the cloth, (2) then pull the line through a clean wet cloth to remove the soap (especially with floating lines), (3) let dry and place back on the reel.

Tip #2. Clean your rod guides. Guides can get gunked up with salt, dirt and other organic matter. When your rod guides are dirty, you will hear a louder gurgling “krrrrr” sound as your line moves through the guides, and the increased friction will negatively impact distance.

Cleaning your line and rod guides will help with efficiency by enabling you to cast farther with less effort, and less time spent on shopping and purchasing replacement gear. Additionally, it will help with casting consistency and accuracy.

Do's:

- Clean your line, rod, guides and reel while fishing and after each use. Your preference of line conditioner or soap and water...just don't blow it off!
- Avoid fly line contact with insect repellent, sunscreen, solvents, etc.
- Avoid long term storage in direct sunlight
- It's ok to store fly lines in the hot or cold (garage, trunk, shed, and on the reel). Modern fly lines do not require you to remove them from the reel to store. Short-term coil memory can be easily removed by tensioning each section of the fly line between your arms for a few seconds

Continued on next page

Don'ts

- Step on your line....especially during your best cast of the day!
- Practice on concrete or other abrasive surface
- Say you will clean your fly line and guides later
- Forget to also clean your flies, tools, rod/reel, and leader/tippet



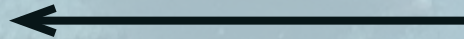
<https://www.vcfa.org/>



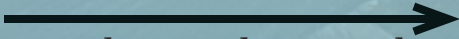
In Case you missed it, our website is new and online. You can click the link above to visit us and get the most out of the club. Updates will be posted on meetings, events and general happenings of the club. We will archive the newsletters so you can revisit them, or explore ones you may have missed. You will find fly tying videos, fishing tips and tactics and updated fishing reports as they are submitted. It will be your site. Open for feedback and suggestions. Please take the time to make use of the site and visit it regularly. A lot of effort has gone into making it relevant, fresh and appealing to all our members - past, present and future!



Chris Viano Banging the Drum at night



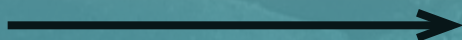
Kevin Dubois with a Trophy



*Kendall Osborne:
Drone shot of Drum*



Kendall Osborne with a Baby Tarpon



VIRGINIA SCIENTISTS OUTLINE PLAN TO SAVE COLLAPSING AMERICAN SHAD POPULATION

WRITTEN BY KATHERINE HAFNER

[CLICK LINK FOR FULL ARTICLE](https://whro.org/news/local-news/43497-virginia-scientists-outline-plan-to-save-collapsing-american-shad-population?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=e-news&utm_term=text&utm_campaign=231215)

https://whro.org/news/local-news/43497-virginia-scientists-outline-plan-to-save-collapsing-american-shad-population?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=e-news&utm_term=text&utm_campaign=231215

American shad was once one of the most plentiful and profitable fish on the Atlantic Coast.

The species served as an important food source for Indigenous peoples, early colonists and generations of Virginians.

Legend has it that shad, often called America's "founding fish," fed George Washington's starving troops at Valley Forge and propelled them to victory, according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

But the species is now in danger of disappearing from the James River. The nonprofit James River Association calculated this fall that the population has dropped to virtually nothing.

"To have such an iconic species decline to this level is truly alarming," Bill Street, president of the nonprofit James River Association, said at the time.

The decline comes from a combination of factors including overfishing, predation, pollution, changing ocean conditions and the effects of damming the state's rivers.

But a new report from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary outlines a path forward for restoring American shad in the James to historical levels. The General Assembly allocated \$290,000 for it last year after a push from the James River Association.

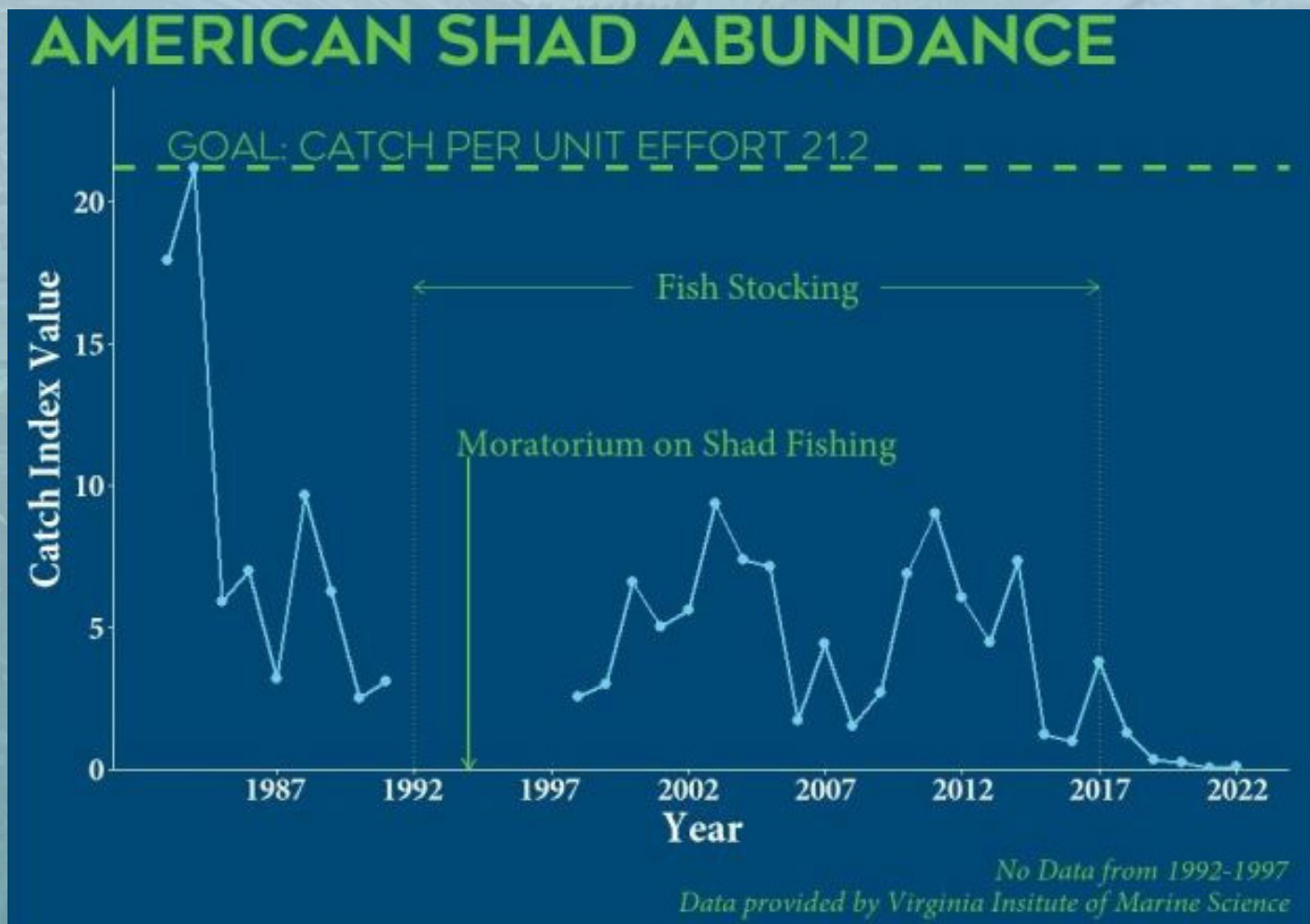
"There's no silver bullet," said biology professor Eric Hilton, lead author of the recovery plan.

"You're managing everything from humans, to environments, to a changing climate. All of these aspects are coming from all of these different directions. ...

Continued on page 7

But I think we've identified some specific actions that can be taken to help." It's not an easy - or cheap - road to recovery.

Hilton said the shad population has been on a downward trend for decades. It briefly bounced back in the 1990s after a moratorium on shad fishing, but has steeply declined in recent years.



courtesy of James River Association

A GRAPH SHOWS THE ABUNDANCE OF AMERICAN SHAD IN THE JAMES RIVER OVER TIME.

For the new report, his team brought together "all of the stakeholders that we could think of," including state biologists, local universities and Indigenous tribes.

They also mapped the bottom of the James River where American shad usually spawn. Shad prefer a hard, rocky surface for their eggs, but researchers found that much of the area is now "silted over" with mud.

"So right there, it's a big challenge."

Then there are other major challenges for the fish. Manufacturers or power plants that take large amounts of water from the river can often suck up shad

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eggs or larvae. Invasive predators like blue catfish feed on shad.

Higher water temperatures driven by climate change are also bringing shad to the area to spawn several weeks earlier than in the past, which could affect the amount of food available for them to eat.

VIMS' plan proposes nearly two dozen actions, with a few common themes:

Improve habitat: Officials need to better understand how shad have historically used local habitat, and what they need to succeed in modern conditions. The report recommends a deeper historical analysis of shad habitat, as well as possible restoration work.

Reduce deaths: VIMS suggests policy actions that could help lower mortality of shad linked to both catch and release recreational fishing, and commercial facilities that remove water from the river, accidentally killing some shad in the process. The report recommends first studying the issues more to get more data. Then officials could consider new regulations for these water intake facilities, like making the industry submit better data about the volume of water they remove, or requiring the facilities to adopt technology to protect shad as a "fragile species."

Expand monitoring: The group recommends extending the length of time that officials currently monitor the amount of shad, in order to better evaluate changes in migrations linked to climate change. They also suggest starting genetic analysis of shad in the James to understand genetic diversity within the population - and developing benchmarks to evaluate ongoing recovery. "We won't know progress if we don't have the data showing that progress," Hilton said.

Create a shad hatchery: Hilton's team proposes to use some form of hatchery to boost the American shad population. A previous program run by Virginia and federal agencies re-introduced more than three million shad into the James River. That program was shuttered in 2017, but VIMS says the persistent failure of wild shad may require officials to try again. Stakeholders are reluctant to the idea of a state production-scale hatchery, according to the report, but authors suggest leveraging partnerships with universities and tribal communities to develop smaller programs instead.

Examine effects of climate change: Climate impacts could throw a wrench in efforts to revive shad, Hilton said. Virginia needs to know more about how changes to temperatures and water chemistry - both in the river and out in the ocean - affect the fish population.

If the state were to adopt all of the proposed actions, it would cost at least \$2.6 million.

Press Release: CLA Files Petition for Rulemaking to Save Menhaden and Bay Ecosystem



Menhaden are the most important fish in the Chesapeake Bay. This small, nutrient-packed forage fish is a keystone species -critical to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem- because they are a primary food source for many sport fish, including striped bass (rockfish), bluefish, and weakfish, osprey and eagles, and marine mammals, like dolphins and whales, throughout the Bay and the mid-Atlantic region. These fish are also vital because they act as efficient filter feeders, filtering several gallons of water each minute. The Bay is one of the most important nurseries for menhaden, helping to sustain the population along the Atlantic coast.

The best available science shows that menhaden populations in the Bay are in decline, and for years the public has called for more responsible limits on the amount of menhaden that can be fished to protect the Bay's delicate ecosystem. As overfishing of menhaden in the Bay continues, there is a strong and direct correlation with declines in the population of sportfish, osprey, and marine mammals, along with forced shifts in diet away from their primary food source of menhaden.

In May 2023, Chesapeake Legal Alliance responded by filing a challenge, on behalf of the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, against the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the agency charged with regulating Virginia's menhaden fishery. We challenged the VMRC's failure to develop and implement regulations that consider and incorporate statutorily-required conservation and management measures, including prevention of overfishing; consideration of the best available scientific, economic, and biological data; equitable allocation to users; and rulemaking that is not for the sole purpose of economic allocation.

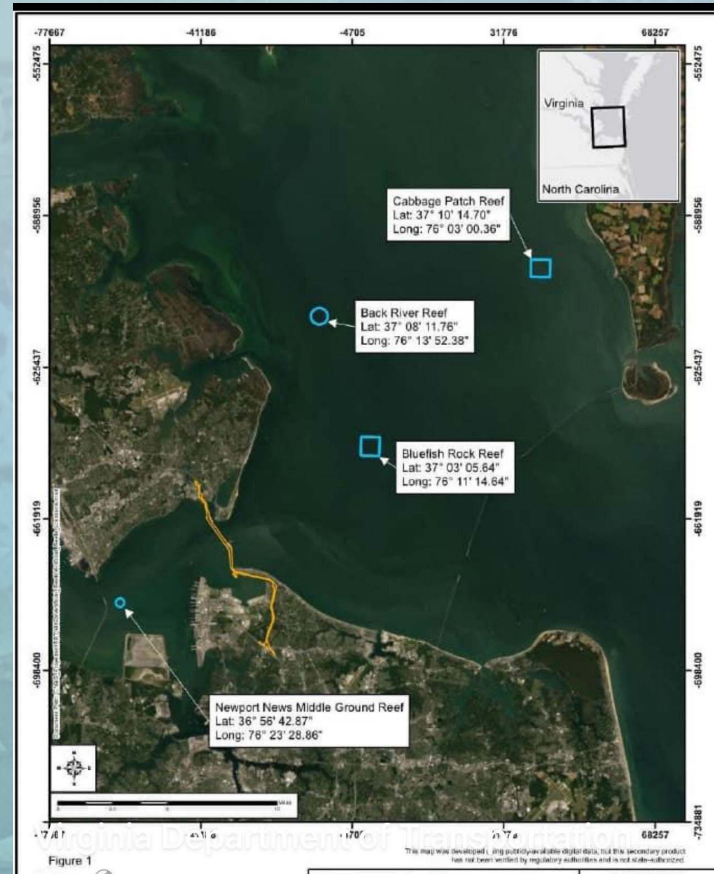
Now, and separate from the litigation to better regulate the menhaden fishery, we coordinated with fishing and conservation groups across the Bay watershed to file a petition for rulemaking to the VMRC. The petition lays out the blueprint for 'how' and 'why' the agency should be acting.

Virginia Department of Transportation HRBT EXPANSION PROJECT

With support from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the HRBT Expansion Project Team is converting demolition materials into marine havens. Repurposed concrete girders, caps, piles, slab, and parapets from the existing North and South Trestles will be used to construct artificial reefs at Bluefish Rock Reef, Back River, Cabbage Patch Reef, and Newport News Middle Ground Reef.

These man-made structures:

- Minimize waste at landfills.
- Increase biodiversity and support the formation of new habitats.
- Stabilize the ecosystem providing shelter, food, and environmental protections against erosion.
- Enhance and restore marine populations in specific areas.



Mark Kirkby

VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

JANUARY:
BRIM

FEBRUARY:
PICKEREL

MARCH:
LARGEMOUTH

APRIL:
SHAD

MAY:
BLUEFISH

JUNE:
LARGEMOUTH

JULY:
ALL GAMEFISH

AUGUST:
SPANISH MACK.

SEPTEMBER:
REDFISH

OCTOBER:
SPECK. TROUT

NOVEMBER:
SPECS/REDS

DECEMBER:
STRIPER

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT!

Annual fishing tourney for 2024 rules!!! With a bit of input from VCFA members, we will adjust the tourney a bit to hopefully get a few more members out fishing.

We will continue with the monthly specific fish, same fish each month as last year. Each month will be a specific fish as listed above. We will also include a running largest fish competition for points that will be awarded at the end of the year. The largest fish will be in every gamefish species, no lizard fish, puffers, croaker, chub, and such. If there are questions of species as we can't possibly list them all, it will be left to a vote by the VCFA board to be counted in the running tourney. Also, the monthly listed fish will be eligible for bonus points. For each consecutive month you have the largest fish, you will earn 1 extra point. For example, it's January and you catch a monthly listed fish, a speckled trout let's say, if in February no one catches a larger speck, you will be awarded 1 point. A point will be awarded each addition month until someone catches a bigger speck. You will not be awarded for largest fish, unless it is caught in the month it is fish of the month, until the end of the year but consecutive points will be earned monthly.

Largest fish competition is limited to fish caught in VA, NC and MD only. No FL tarpon, peacocks, oscars and such just to keep it fair to all.

We will continue to award points as last year as listed below with extra points awarded for citation size fish. You may register as many citation size fish for points as you catch, but points will only be awarded for 1 citation per species.

We will grade by length so all fish must be pictured with an accurate measurement. In the event of a questionable picture or similar size fish, 3 members of 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 don't 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!!!

1st place = 5 points

2nd place = 4 points

3rd place = 3 points

4th place = 2 points

any entry not placed = 1 point

citation fish = 5 points

THE ALBIE SNAX

I don't remember when I first saw this pattern, but it was at least 5 years ago. I heard it was attributed to Brian Horsely, but when asked about it, he did not know what the pattern was. Regardless, it was a simple fly to tie and required only three materials. There are only four steps to completing the pattern and it is durable. The head requires either a silicone finish, or Solarez UV resin so that it will maintain its shape and durability. I do not tie this pattern with any weight, but usually, I will make about five turns of lead wire on the shank to give it a little faster sink rate to counter the silicone. The fly was designed for False Albacore, but I have not used it for the Albies. I have caught a number of Speckle Trout on this fly as tied in Chartreuse. The color I originally saw was pink. The hook was a very large hook and I felt it would impede on the hookups with the smaller mouths of the Fat Alberts, so I adapted with a Gamakatsu SC15 in a 1/0 hook. The fly about 2 – 2.5 inches in length and casts very well as it is light.

Materials List:

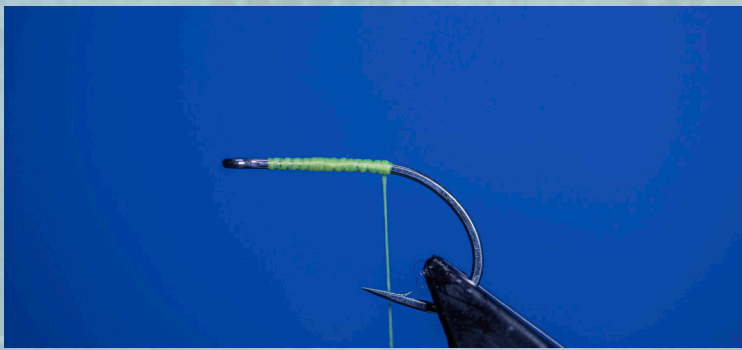
Hook:	Gamakatsu SC15, Size 1/0
Thread:	Mono or color matching the Craft Fur
Tail:	Chartreuse Bucktail
Rear Body:	Chartreuse Extra Select Craft Fur
MidBody:	Chartreuse Senyos Lazer Yarn
Head:	Chartreuse Extra Select Craft Fur
Eyes:	5mm Flat Stick on
Finist:	Solarez Flex Formula UV Resin



TYING TIPS:

- Maintain a round shape with the materials equally distributed around the hook. This will help to balance the fly, however it has the same symmetry from any angle.
- When applying the eyes, I find it helpful to use an old clean bodkin. Stick the sticky back of the eye to the tip of the bodkin. Apply a small drop of LOCTITE ULTRGEL CONTROL superglue on the eye, then carefully apply it the side of the fly, just behind the hood eye. About 1/8 inch back. Remember, you will be covering the eye with the Solarez so the superglue is just a placeholder!
- Lead eyes are denser and sink faster, but you can use tin. For tin, I make about six to eight wraps on the hook shank before tying the fly.
- If you desire a more flashy fly, you can substitute Ripple Ice Fiber or another angelina type flash in place of the Senyo Lazer yarn. Either match the color of the Craft Fur for a more subtle sparkle, or use a pearl color that will add shine to the fly.

Other effective colors include All Pink, All White



STEP 1

Wrap your thread down the shank of the hook.



STEP 2

Tie on a sparse bunch of bucktail for the tail. It should be somewhat straight. This will help support the Craft Fur body.



STEP 3

Cut a generous amount of Craft Fur from the backing. It should be roughly the length as the bucktail or slightly longer.



STEP 4

Using a comb, remove the underfur from the base of the fur.



STEP 5

Tie the material slightly in front of the bucktail and wrap it evenly around the hook. It should cover the bucktail



STEP 6

Pull the base of the hair rearward, to the tail of the fly. Make a thread dam front of the hair - DO NOT bind any hair down. This will help to form the taper of the fly.



STEP 7

Tie in a small amount of Senyos Lazer Yarn. This helps fill a bit of the shank and gives it a touch of sparkle. I will often substituted Ripple Ice Fiber (matching color of the fly) if I desire more inner flash in the fly.



STEP 8

Form a collar by folding the lazer yarn to the rear. and again make a thread dam in the front of the material to keep it rearward and maintaining a wider profile.



STEP 9

You can see the fly taking shape. Now wind the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook.



STEP 10

Tie in another bunch of Craft Fur. This time, it will be reversed tied. Tie the ends on the hook and push it slightly into the lazer yarn. Fill the space with thread wraps.



STEP 11

Pull back the Craft Fur to evenly surround the hook. Again, build a thread dam to help keep the hair back, but DO NOT wrap over the hair



STEP 12

Use a hair clip, or quilting pin (shown here) to hold the hair in place. Attach a falt eye to each side of the head using superglue Gel (Loctite Ultra Gel Control used here).



STEP 13

Using silicone or Solarez, apply two light coats of finish from the eye to the bend of the hook. The head will be soft and easy for the fish to close their mouths on, yet make the fly more durable and prevent fouling. The Fly is finished!



Eastern Shore, Virginia

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.

Temple Fork Outfitters

<https://tforods.com/>

TFO. The Original Rod Company to offer the right tools at a sound price



SPEC FEVER GUIDE SERVICE

<https://specfever.com/>

Office (no text)
1-(252)-249-1520

A NC fishing charter owned and operated by Captain Gary Dubiel fishing from Oriental, New Bern and Beaufort

Spec Fever Guide Service
PO BOX 1029, Oriental, NC



CAPTAIN CHRIS MALGEE

(757) 403-2045

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GREAT OUTDOOR PROVISION COMPANY

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NAGS HEAD, NC 27959

EASTERN SHORE

(757) 331-3000

28316 LANKFORD HWAY

CAPEVILLE, VA 23313

VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERSHIP

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

RENEWAL

M D Y

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

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

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.

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____