



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

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

JUNE 2023

Here we go again! Remember the good old 80's. Songs like "Total Eclipse of the Heart", and "Wake me up before you GoGo". And the movies, "Indian Jones", and Ferris Buellers Day off". And how can we forget the ever so popular ban on harvesting Striped Bass! Yeah, that was a real hit – NOT! In the ASMF meeting there was a vote to greatly reduce the slot limit for striped bass. The slot would be 28" - 31". There is an article by Salt-water Fisherman Magazine that highlights the ruling and reasoning later in this newsletter, but the simplified justification is overfishing. It is believed (by many, but not all) that the current catch rate will have a devastating effect on the stock in 2029. So far, the ruling does not affect the Trophy Bass in the Chesapeake Bay. Of course, we have our own issues with the actual health of the Bay and Menhaden Fishery out of Reedville. Our population has been in decline for a decade now with no REAL change to set the course straight.

There is a letter (included later in this newsletter) asking Governor Youngkin to consider appointing two upcoming vacancies Virginia Marine Resources Commission to non-commercial individuals. As it stands now the committee is skewed toward the commercial industry and the appointments could help balance the committee in a manner to get our concerns as recreational anglers addressed in big decision rulings. The Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers has agreed to lend our name to the petition joining many of the the state fishing clubs and organizations.

Don't forget we have our annual picnic on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the Izaak Walton League in Chesapeake. It should be a lot of fun with some special activities being planned for the day. There

is no cost to attend, but you do need to RSVP so we can have a head count and have enough food and drink for everyone. You will be asked to bring a desert or side dish. There is shelter at the site and plenty of room to spread out. The event will be held from 11:00 – 5:00. THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL MEETING IN JUNE!



Our Poquoson Flats trip was called off due to the weather. Ed is thinking about rescheduling a trip in the Fall. Keep posted and details will be shared once things are confirmed. In the meantime, get out and fish. If you do not own a boat, you still have options. You can wade / shore fish in many of the spots that Chris Viano shared with us in the May meeting. You can also look into local parks to see if they have rental boats to fish their lakes and ponds. For example, in Williamsburg (where I live) there is Waller Mill Park. You can use your own (electric motor only) boat or rent one at the park for \$20.00 per day. 14' Jon boat, trolling motor etc. If have base access, Cheetham Annex has three ponds (Jones Pond, Penniman Lake and Cheetham Pond). You can only fish from their boat (electric trolling motor) for \$15.00 per day. Let members with a boat know you are looking to get out and fish through our VCFA Going Fishing page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/664397580641806>). You need to sign up for this member only site, but it can be a venue to hook up with a boat owner, or a boat owner to find a passenger to share expenses and maybe catch some fish.

Presidents message continued on next page

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lawrence Clemens, President: Vice-President, OPEN: Treasurer, OPEN: Secretary, Lee Owen and Jim Saddler: MEMBERS AT LARGE: Carl Allen, David Dembicki, Gary Green, Mark Kirkby, Chris Malgee, Chris Viano

As always, we are working to make this club relevant to YOU! We would like to hear your ideas of what type of programs you would like, activities that you would be interested in doing (such as fishing trips, casting clinics with special guests, fly tying classes, or patterns you would like to learn at a monthly meeting). We can't read your mind and you know your needs and interest better than anyone. GET INVOLVED!

Emergency Striped Bass Regulations Enacted

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries has declared a state of emergency and has enacted regulations to protect the reported declining stock of Striped Bass. The following statement was released after the meeting on May 3, 2023.

The motion was brought forth by Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Dr. Michael Armstrong, and seconded by David V.D. Borden, of Rhode Island. After the votes were tallied, the measure was approved 15 to 1, with the sole nay coming from representatives of New Jersey. The motion exempts the Chesapeake Bay trophy fishery.

The decision gives states less than a month to enact new regulations that would effectively make the striped bass slot size 28 to 31 inches, though the official motion states that they should be put in place as soon as possible. Once enacted, the regulation is to extend for 180 days. It may be extended for another 180 days if such an extension is approved at the October ASMFC meeting.

The below link will take you to an article written by Joe Albanese for the Saltwater Fisherman. It is a more detailed look at the actions taken.

<https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/news/emergency-striped-bass-regulations-enacted/>



RULING FROM THE ASMF:

<https://saltwaterguidesassociation.com/asmfc-spring-2023-meeting-recap-historic-action-on-striped-bass-part-1-2/>



May 2nd, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

info@saltwaterguidesassociation.org

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Board Takes Decisive Action to Ensure Striped Bass Rebuild by 2029

ASGA applauds The Striped Bass Board's unprecedented action to implement emergency action to address 2023 fishing season.

Arlington, VA—Earlier today, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Management Commission's Striped Bass Board approved two historic actions to conserve the prolific 2015-year class and to improve the probability of rebuilding the striped bass stock by 2029. The Board initiated Addendum II and enacted an Emergency Action, which will implement a 28-31" slot for the entire coast effective as soon as possible and no later than July 2nd, 2023. Development of Addendum II will progress throughout the summer, but the included language has great promise. Had the Board not acted today, the odds of rebuilding would have remained unacceptably low at around 11-15% due to the dramatic increase in recreational harvest in 2022. While the road to striped bass recovery is still a long one, the Board's strong conservation-minded action today can give the entire striped bass community hope that this stock will rebuild and that the Board can make the hard but necessary decisions to manage striped bass.

ASGA is incredibly thankful for the thousands of anglers, brands, and fishing guides who spoke up for the health of the stock and called on the Striped Bass Board to take action. For a full list of those who signed on to ASGA's letter, click this [LINK](#). The Striped Bass Board was not required to make any changes today—the Board's action today represents an incredible moment for conserving and effectively managing the striped bass fishery.

"The conservation community spoke, and our voice was heard", said Tony Friedrich, ASGA's VP and Policy Director. "Fisheries management is a long arduous process. Science informed us that there was little to no chance of rebuilding the stock under the current system. We unified the community with one voice that demanded a better future for the resource and our children. Thanks to every angler, brand, and guide who spoke up and to the conservation-minded Striped Bass Board members who voted for the health of the resource."

Over the next few months, ASGA will continue to monitor and provide updates on the ASMFC's work on Addendum II. Rest assured, the striped bass stock is in a far better place today than a month ago, but it is far from rebuilt and out of the weeds. Thank you to everyone who shared their voice throughout this process and to those on the Striped Bass Board who took the bold step to ensure this iconic species remains on track to rebuild. ASGA will be following every step of the Addendum II process this summer and keep the entire striped bass community updated.

Sincerely,

The Entire ASGA Team



Shawn



Larry Westling



Larry Westling

Left - Right:
Larry, Shawn, Steve,
Carl, Ron



Dave



VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

~~JANUARY:
BRIM~~

~~FEBRUARY:
PICKEREL~~

~~MARCH:
BUCKETMOUTH~~

~~APRIL:
SHAD~~

~~MAY:
BLUEFISH~~

JUNE:
LARGEMOUTH

JULY:
CLUB VOTE

AUGUST:
SPANISH MACK.

SEPTEMBER:
REDFISH

OCTOBER:
SPECK. TROUT

NOVEMBER:
CLUB VOTE

DECEMBER:
STRIPER

- 1ST PLACE = 5 POINTS
- 2ND PLACE = 4 POINTS
- 3RD PLACE = 3 POINTS
- 4TH PLACE = 2 POINT
- ANY ENTRY NOT PLACED = 1 POINT
- CITATION FISH = 5 POINTS



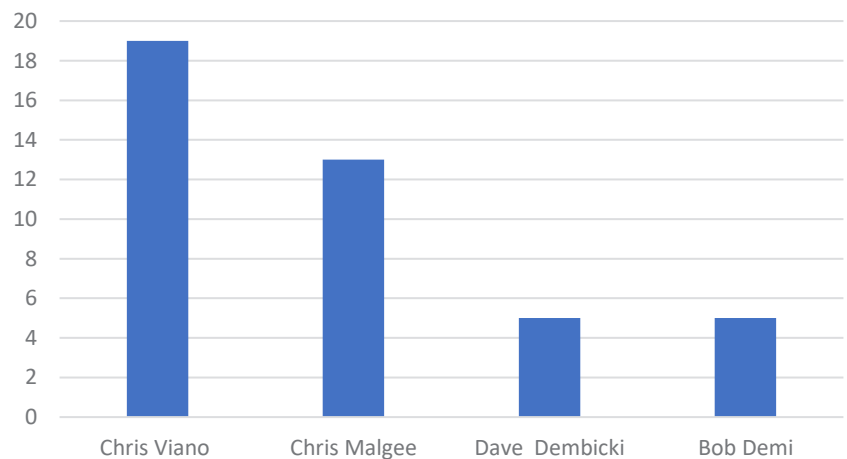
MAY STANDINGS:

Dave Dembicki 5
Chris Viano 4
Chris Malgee 3

OVERALL STANDINGS

Chris Viano 19
Chris Malgee 13
Dave Dembicki 5
Bob Demi 5

2023 OVERALL STANDINGS



CASTING CORNER

This month we will look at different techniques you can use to improve your casting stroke. One of the most common flaws in casting is the flexing of the wrist during our cast. It determines whether we throw an open loop or a more desirable tight loop which better cuts through the wind. It is something that takes minimal effort and practice to understand, and the results are amazing in your ability to deliver your fly to a target when mother nature is not your friend. Below are a few of the many videos available that try to help understand what we need to do to improve our loops and cast, as well as some tips used to develop the most efficient stroke possible.

How to make a tight loop:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWjWul8Zoks>

Keeping wrist from flexing during cast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkpOGeA7wAw>

Using tape to practice your casting stroke:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rl25-J37xOQ>

“Rail” Casting stroke”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DY-My8Txez0&t=22s>



May 11, 2023
Governor Glenn Youngkin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin,

As organizations representing the recreational fishing and boating industry in Virginia, we write to request your support for appointments to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission that will balance the interests of the recreational, commercial, and tourism sectors in the Commonwealth.

With two new VMRC appointments on the horizon, you have the opportunity to balance the representation of the Commission with members who are knowledgeable about the broader aspects of Virginia's marine economy, beyond recreational and commercial fishing, such as maritime transportation and coastal tourism.

The current makeup of the Commission disproportionately favors the commercial sector, and we are concerned that future policies will disregard the significant economic contributions other associated businesses make to Virginia's economy. Given the expressed importance a well-rounded coastal economy has on the Commonwealth, we ask that you take this opportunity to appoint Commissioners who recognize and value not only the recreational and commercial fishing industries, but others, including the transportation and tourism industries along on our shores.

Anglers and boaters in the Commonwealth play an integral role in the stewardship of our shared marine resources by directly funding conservation and habitat restoration efforts. In 2021 alone, \$6.26 million in funds for fishery conservation programs in Virginia were funded solely by anglers and boaters through licensing fees and excise taxes on fishing equipment and boat fuel through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.¹

Tourism and transportation also lend tremendous economic benefits to the Commonwealth. The economic impact of tourism in Virginia in 2021 surpassed \$39.4 billion, generating over 273,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in state and local tax revenue.² In fiscal year 2021, the Port of Virginia alone drove over \$100 billion in output sales, adding \$2.7 billion in state and local taxes and fees.³

Each of these sectors are interlinked and contribute significantly to Virginia's economy through the utilization of marine resources and dedication to maintaining natural stability on and around the water. If well-balanced voices aren't heard when making marine resource policies in Virginia, the economic impacts of all sectors will suffer throughout our coastal communities and the entire Commonwealth.

We urge you to appoint VMRC candidates who would be voices representing broad public interests and remain dedicated to upholding the economic and social benefits that angling, boating, transportation, and tourism provide to Virginia.

Thank you for your consideration.

Whit Fosburgh
President & CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

THE CLOUSER MINNOW

The Clouser Minnow is arguably the most popular fly in the arsenal of fly fisherman around the world, and for good reason. It can be tied in five minutes; it takes few and readily available materials and is a very productive fly to fish. The fly generates a lot of action in the water due to the dumbbell eyes and its shape can simulate a lot of creatures that make up the food chain for foraging fish. Yes, almost any fisherman will have a collection of Clouser minnows in his box.

Last month's pattern of the month was a Clouser minnow. We covered the techniques and some variations that can be used to tie this pattern. I have decided to review the basic steps here for those who asked and those who might be learning to tie and want an idea of how to construct the fly. There are also plenty of videos out there to show it tied step by step (here is one on the Mummychug Clouser - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmCtGgGCQTW&t=12s>)

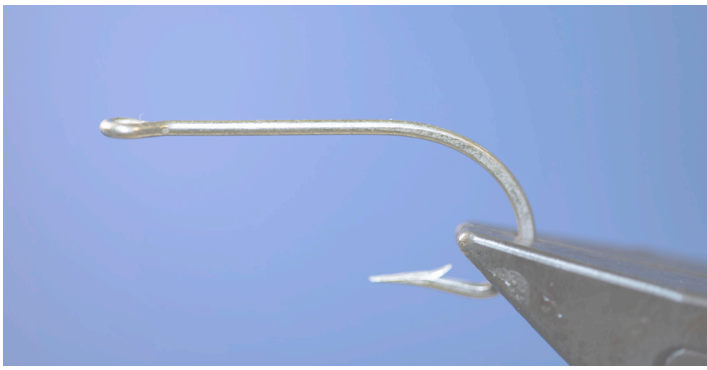
Materials List:

Hook: Size 1/0
Thread: Mono
Lower Wing: White Bucktail
Wing Flash: Pearl Polarflash
Gills: Red Bucktail or EP Fibers
Upper Wing: Olive Bucktail
Dumbbell Eyes: Large (7/32)



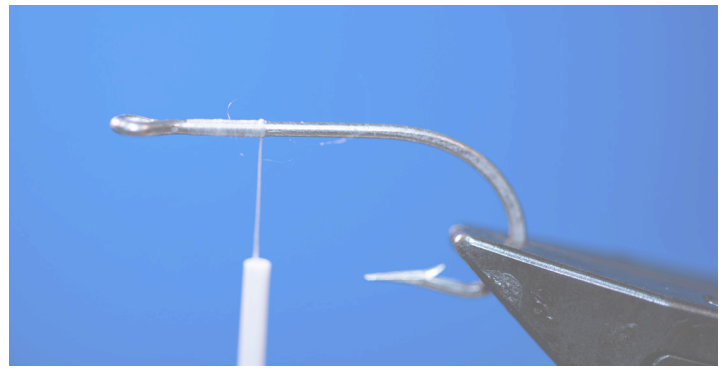
- Despite this fly's simplicity, many inexperienced fly tyers have problems tying it correctly. An essential factor to tying an effective Clouser is the placement of the eyes.
- The correct placement for the eyes is approximately 1/3 to 1/4 down the shank from the hook eye.
- Lead eyes are denser and sink faster, although less durable than chrome or brass eyes of the same size. To get a comparable sink rate between a set of lead eyes and chrome eyes, go one size up for the chrome eyes. The type of eyes you use is a personal preference.
- Mix different lengths and types of flash material.
- When using synthetic material or making a sparse "Clouser," tie all the material on the "upper wing" side of the fly.
- Taper synthetic materials towards the tail of the fly (most fish won't bite the swimming paintbrush).

Other effective colors include All White, Gray over White, Olive over White, Cartreuse over White, Chartreuse over Yellow, Red over White, Red over Chartreuse, Chartreuse over Pink, Brown over Orange, and Black over Red.



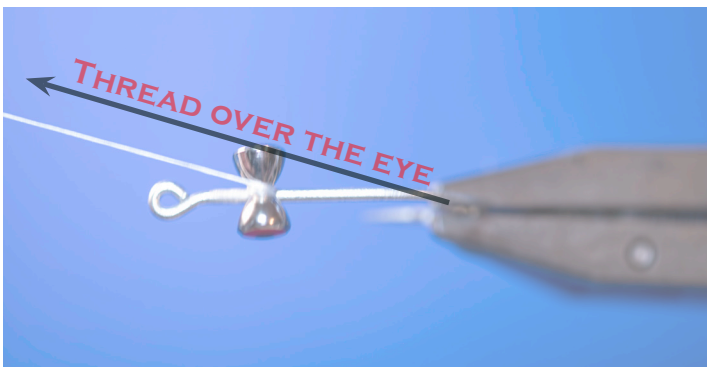
STEP 1

Place the hook in the vice jaws. Make sure the hook is straight (parallel to the floor) and tight so it does not move under the pressure of pulling the thread. **THREAD TENSION** is essential to hold you flies together and keep them from unravelling or pulling apart.



STEP 2

Wrap a layer of thread from the hook point down 1/3 of the shank and stop. This is where you will tie on the dumbbell eye. It will be tied on top of the hook shank using figure 8 wraps, followed by criss-cross wraps. Tightly pull the thread so the eyes are tight and do not move.



STEP 3

As you tie down the dumbbell eye, keep the eye on top of the shank (you may need to move it with your hands until the thread is tight). First make a wrap across the eye in one direction.



STEP 4

Go around the eye under the shank, then back up on the opposite side of the dumbbell. Reverse the thread and criss-cross the middle of the eye with **TIGHT** wraps. Wrap in each direction 10 times. Then 10 wraps around the eyes (under the eyes, but over the shank).



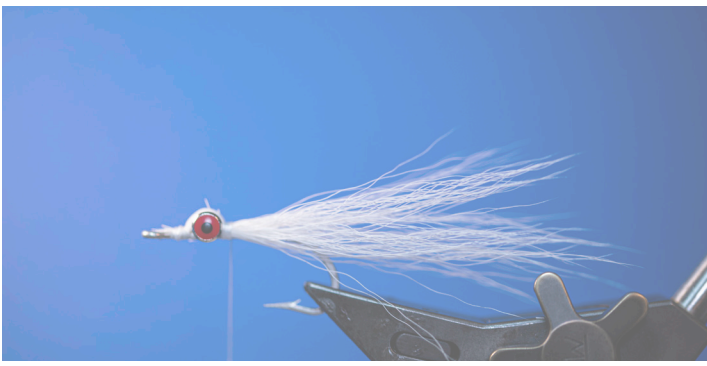
STEP 5

Cut a small bunch of bucktail from the tip of the tail. Even the tips of the hair (they don't have to be perfect). Trim the butt ends even as shown (be particular here - get them even!). Tip: Select bucktail that is already straight and fine. This will make life easier when tying,



STEP 6

Place the butt of the hair at an angle on the top of the shank - note, the ends are **NOT** covering any part of the eye. This is important if you want to avoid closing the eye and keeping them clear to insert your leader when tying it on the line.



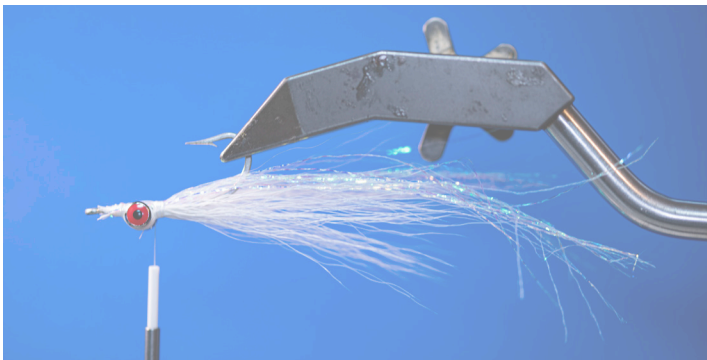
STEP 7

Wrap your thread behind the dumbbell. Pull the hair down between the dumbbell and onto the hook shank. make three or four turns of thread directly behind the dumbbell to hold the hair down. It should be ON TOP of the hook - not rolling around the sides.



STEP 8

You thread should again be at the front of the fly. Add some flash (your choice)! I am using PolarFlash here. Tie in the flash at the halfway point with half going to one side of the fly, and the other half hanging off the front of the fly. Make two turns of thread behind the dumbbell.



STEP 9

Now pull the flash hanging off the front to the rear and opposite side of the fly from the previous step. Hold it down on the shank and make a couple wraps. The flash should be ON TOP of the white and not rolling around the sides. Don't worry about the flash length yet.



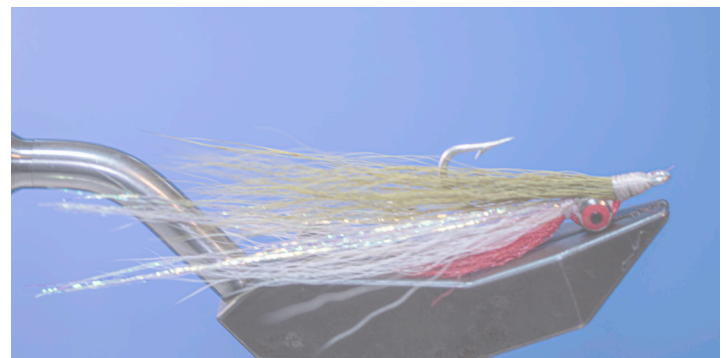
STEP 10 (OPTIONAL)

You can add gills to the fly if you like. I tie a small clump of EP fiber (you can use bucktail) behind the hook eye and pull it back over the dumbbell eye and wrap it down with a few turns of thread.



STEP 11

Take a sparse amount of bucktail for the top color and tie it in behind the eye of the hook. Wrap it down well and build a nice head. Whip finish the fly and it is ready to fish! You can trim the flash to your desired length. I leave it a little long for a flash tail.



The Clouser Minnow

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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Larry Westling

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.

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