



THANK YOU TO ALL
FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
AND SUPPORT THIS YEAR.
GOOD EVENING & GOOD FISHING!



2019

Welcome to the



Anniversary

Awards Banquet

St. Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Church

621 First Colonial Rd.

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

February 16, 2019

**VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS
CLUB**

2018 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

George Gabriel

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Burstein

TREASURER

Mike Anderson

RECORDING SECRETARY

Russell Willoughby

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Robert Stuhlman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Preston Mangum

BOARD

Gary Doerhoff

Jerry Mariano

Ronnie Nixon

Chris Schneider

Robbie Parks

Patty Searby

Butch Eason

Mark Lozier

Larry Regula

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME
OUR SPECIAL GUESTS**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

George Gabriel

PORTSMOUTH ANGLERS CLUB
GREAT BRIDGE FISHERMANS ASSOCIATION
TIDEWATER ANGLERS CLUB
NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB
FARRAR FAMILY
WRIGHT FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS
WHO FISHED HARD, ENTERED FISH
AND GAVE US THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO RECOGNIZE THEM

**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO
JERRY MARIANO AND HIS CREW
FOR ORGANIZING TONIGHT'S
BANQUET**

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS: BETH SYNOWIEC, JOHN GERMANOS,
MARK WRAY, MAUREEN GABRIEL, PRESTON
MANGUM, MICHELLE SCHNEIDER AND TO
EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY TO
MAKE THIS BANQUET A SUCCESS

Prizes and Raffles Donated by:

Chico's Pizza
Chili's
Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle
Pete Feds Photography
Long Shots Billiards & Darts
Lucky Oyster
Hunt Club Farms
Sea Tow
Senor Fox
Egg Bistro
Ocean's East Bait & Tackle
Princess Anne Distributing
Providence Grill
Coastal Breeze
Thank Kevin Handyman Services
Walmart
Whiskey Kitchen
Rudee Angler
Bill & Patty Searby Melanie Bayford
Bob Burstein Ronnie Nixon
Robert Stuhlman Sue Smith
Mark & Kris Lozier James Eisenhower
Preston Mangum Jerry Hughes
Dave Anderson Stan Sutliff
Chris Schaffer Russell Willoughby

2018 Top Fish Caught Saltwater:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Alfonsino | 1 st | Kevin Synowiec | 8lbs 2oz |
| Barrelfish | 1 st | Beth Synowiec | 11lbs 14oz |
| Black Sea Bass | 1 st | Jerry Mariano | 4lbs 8oz |
| Bluefish | 1 st | Raymond Ford | 19lbs |
| Blueline Tile | 1 st | Kevin Synowiec | 10lbs 3oz |
| Cobia | 1 st | Wayne Couch | 50lbs |
| Croaker | 1 st | R. Willoughby | 15oz |
| Golden Tile | 1 st | Kevin Synowiec | 37lbs 4oz |
| King Mackerel | 1 st | David Smith | 31lbs |
| Pompano | 1 st | John Germanos | 2lbs 6oz |
| Puppy Drum | 1 st | Jerry Hughes | 6lbs 12oz |
| Roundhead | 1 st | Carol Wehner | 1 lb 8oz |
| Sea Robin | 1 st | Kelly Hoggard | 1 lb 1oz |
| Sheepshead | 1 st | Beth Synowiec | 11 lbs 4oz |
| Spadefish | 1 st | David Smith | 7lbs |
| Spanish Mackerel | 1 st | David Smith | 4lbs 8oz |
| Speckled Trout | 1 st | David Smith | 3lbs 12oz |
| Striped Bass | 1 st | Jerry Hughes | 50lbs 6oz |
| Tautog | 1 st | Beth Synowiec | 10lbs 8oz |
| Yellowfin Tuna | 1 st | Michelle Schneider | 89lbs |

2018 Top Fish Saltwater Release

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Cobia | 1st | David Smith | 52” |
| False Albacore | 1st | Jerry Mariano | 30” |
| Hammerhead Shark | 1st | Beth Synowiec | 96” |
| Puppy Drum | 1st | Sue Smith | 29” |
| Red Drum | 1st | Wayne Couch | 46.5” |
| Roundhead | 1st | Kelly Hoggard | 15.2” |
| Sandbar Shark | 1st | Jerry Hughes | 72” |
| Tarpon | 1st | Doug Wehner | 48.5” |

2018 Top Fish Surf Released

Roundhead 1st Kelly Hoggard 15.5”

For the first 15 years, men like Mr. Dant, Ellis Mills, Jay Smith and Fred Rushin served as presidents, but in 1974, Betty Smith became the first woman to serve in the spot. Diversity and equality rang true, even back then. In 1960, the club entered the Ocean City Cup in New Jersey. It was considered the “world series” of surf casting. The prize was a tall trophy with a silver Chalice that was valued at approximately \$150,000. When compared with the Stanley Cup back then, the trophy had a higher value. For years, the champions were able to take the trophy home. But that ended when the appraisal was done on the trophy, and it was since kept in Ocean City. That first year that the club entered the casting tournament, it finished in fifth—the worst it ever placed—but every years since, it finished either first or second. Along with participating in casting tournaments, the VBAC participated in fishing tournaments since day one.

In 1960, the club finished first in the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Fishing Tournament. The club went on to win it again in 1967. VBAC teams continued to compete at tournaments in Ocracoke, Nags Head, Hatteras Village and Long Beach Island—which club members only began attending recently. The club hosted a few surf tournaments in Virginia Beach, but security at Dam Neck and restrictions along city beaches curtailed that. In the late 70s and into the 80s, the club ran a small boat marlin tournament that was very successful and allowed the club, to this day, to have a very comfortable treasury..As for freshwater fishing, the club hosted a bass tournament in the 60s, though details of the event are sparse.Even though political speak was frowned upon all of those years, club members became key figures in the fight against a saltwater fishing license and on fishing regulations. Today, members still speak up on major issues involving regulations and fishing quotas.

Members have been instrumental in educating the public about fishing, whether through hosted tournaments for children, or from a booth at the yearly boat show.

While many events, such as the small boat marlin tournament, have been replaced with others or written out of the equation, the club is going strong, thanks to the help of generations of individuals who poured their heart and soul into it.

When we all set aside our differences for the sake of the club, and focus on the things that matter—like catching fish and sharing stories about the ones that got away—our club can continue to thrive and will be around for generations to come.

-Written by Doug Wehner

Our Mission:

The purpose of the VBAC is to encourage sport fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, while supporting prudent governmental and other policies that promote the preservation, conservation and ecology of all marine life.

History of VBAC

Fishermen tell the best tales about the ones that got away. I have mine.

I hooked a king mackerel from the Virginia Beach oceanfront, but a cigarette boat named the Rudee Rocket, freaked the fish out, causing it to bite through the 50-pound monofilament leader, and it got away.

Tales like this were told for years on the old Virginia Beach steel pier in the late 50s and early 60s. A group of men fishing at the pier in 1959 were sharing those tales when the idea of a new fishing club in Virginia Beach was spawned.

In 1985, Josh Vaughn, one of the founding members of the Virginia Beach Anglers Club, shared his memories of what it was like. While he could not recall who the first person to say, "Why can't we have a fishing club here instead of having to go all the way to Norfolk," he could spit off names like Sawyer, Dant, Crockett, Morse, Stevens, Davenport and Walker, as those who helped get it started. Mr. Vaughn said when the fishing was slow, they all shared stories. The camaraderie angered members of another local anglers club, he said, and it led to heated exchanges to the point that one of the members of that club taunted the men and called them the Steel Pier Angler's Club. Although that name did not stick, the club was formed under a new name—The Virginia Beach Anglers Club—with a few rules. Money interests would never influence the club, and the club would never be a sounding board for any group or person. Talk of politics was forbidden, and discrimination was frowned upon. So, it did not matter if a person fished from a pier, the beach or boat, nor did it matter if they were using eight-n-bait or a cork bobber with a bamboo pole. They were fishermen - all the same.

In the beginning, the meetings were held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, the old Dome. During the first pre-organization meeting, Mr. Vaughn made a motion to call the club the Virginia Beach Anglers Club, and it stuck. At the club's next meeting, the charter officers were elected. Serving as the president was Charlie Dant, vice president was Jake Sawyer, and the secretary was Andy Holland. The club's emblem was approved two months later, in February 1960. On it were the old and new lighthouses which represent the City of Virginia Beach. Two boats are seen trolling in the background and a surf fisherman is in the foreground—both elements representing the diversity of the club.

2018 Top Fish Caught Freshwater

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Chain Pickerel | 1st | Steve Harding | 3lbs 5oz |
| Channel Catfish | 1st | M. Bayford | 42lbs |
| Crappie | 1st | Robert Stuhlman | 1lb 15oz |
| Sunfish | 1st | James Eisenhower | 1lb 5oz |
| Yellow Perch | 1st | Steve Harding | 1lb 5oz |

2018 Top Fish Release Freshwater

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Blue Catfish | 1st | R. Willoughby | 48" |
| Bowfin | 1st | James Eisenhower | 26.5" |
| Chain Pickerel | 1st | James Eisenhower | 21" |
| Channel Catfish | 1st | Melanie Bayford | 34" |
| Crappie | 1st | James Eisenhower | 16" |
| Largemouth Bass | 1st | R. Willoughby | 19.5" |
| White Perch | 1st | Melanie Bayford | 10.25" |
| Yellow Perch | 1st | Preston Mangum | 11" |

Virginia Beach Anglers Club

Members Caught or Released

| | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Alfonsino | 1 | Largemouth Bass | 2 |
| Barrelfish | 1 | Pompano | 1 |
| Black Seabass | 3 | Puppy Drum | 13 |
| Blue Catfish | 5 | Red Drum | 12 |
| Bluefish | 1 | Roundhead | 8 |
| Blueline Tile | 3 | Sandbar Shark | 1 |
| Bowfin | 5 | Sea Robin | 1 |
| Chain Pickerel | 3 | Sheepshead | 1 |
| Channel Catfish | 2 | Spadefish | 1 |
| Cobia | 7 | Spanish Mackerel | 12 |
| Crappie | 7 | Speckled Trout | 2 |
| Croaker | 1 | Striped Bass | 3 |
| Dolphin | 36 | Sunfish | 4 |
| False Albacore | 5 | Tautog | 1 |
| Golden Tile | 2 | Tarpon | 1 |
| Hammerhead Shark | 1 | White Perch | 3 |
| King Mackerel | 2 | Yellow Perch | 3 |
| | | Yellowfin Tuna | 6 |

This year Virginia Beach Anglers Club Members were awarded a total of

25 Virginia State Citations.

Fact: We had 35 different species reported

with a total of 159 fish caught.

Of these, 67 were released!

VBAC Roulette Challenge

In keeping with the mission of the Virginia Beach Anglers Club, "to promote fishing activities," the club started a friendly fishing competition for members only. This is our 8th year.

The Fishing Roulette

The purpose is to encourage our members to step outside their angler comfort zone and broaden their angling experiences by fishing for species or fishing in waters they otherwise would not consider. The Roulette rules were established with consideration of leveling the angler field; eligible species included both salt and fresh water varieties; accessible by surf or boat.

The rules are simple. Any member in good standing has until the March meeting to enter the Roulette and pay their \$20.00 entry fee. At the March meeting, five species are randomly selected by spinning the roulette wheel from the list of Club-Eligible prize fish.

All fish (aligned to the five selected species) caught in the period beginning Jan 1 thru Dec 31 of the calendar year can be presented for the competition. Relying on the honor system for the Roulette, we only accept the weight of the fish.

At the end of the year, the participant with the heaviest fish caught in each species category shares the prize money. The prizes are based on the number of entrants divided by the number of winners

(1 winner per species).

Congratulations to this year's winners:

J. Eisenhower

J. Mariano

R. Willoughby

J. Hughes

Virginia Beach Anglers Club

Member of the Year

Purpose: This award recognizes an outstanding VBAC member who has given much time and effort to improving the quality of the VBAC. This award is not based on angling efforts and excludes from consideration those duties performed in conjunction with an elected office.

Format: The president appoints a committee chairperson on or about the October time frame. The committee chairman will select the remaining committee members (normally 2-3 persons). The president is an ex officio member of this committee. At the December board meeting, the committee chairman proposes to the board a list of candidates for the award. The board can propose other candidates as well. Selection of the recipient is by ballot vote. The recipient must receive a majority vote of the board. The chairman keeps the name of the winner secret. This award may be won more than once by any member.

Dr. James C. Wright Conservation Award

Purpose: Presented to an individual who, in the opinion of the VBAC, contributed substantially to the conservation of freshwater or saltwater fish. Although not a firm requirement, this award normally focuses on conservation efforts within the state of Virginia.

Outstanding Awards

Most Outstanding Saltwater Catch
...?...

Most Outstanding Freshwater Catch
...?...

Female Angler of the Year, Saltwater
...?...

Release Angler of the Year, Saltwater
...?...

Male Angler of the Year, Saltwater
...?...

Female Angler of the Year, Freshwater
...?...

Release Angler of the Year, Freshwater
...?...

Male Angler of the Year, Freshwater
...?...

Jay Smith Memorial Surf Fishing Award

Most minimum-sized saltwater species entered

Male Surf Angler of the Year
...?...

Gene Farrar Memorial Surf Fishing Award

Female Surf Angler of the Year
...?...

Expert Angler Awards

The following anglers have caught and/or released at least six club-minimum sized fish of the same species.

This earns them the title of “Expert Angler” for the specific fish.

Russell Willoughby

Red Drum

Kelly Hoggard

Roundhead

Congratulations to

Kevin Synowiec

on his 2018 IGFA record of a
12lb 15oz Spotted Codling
caught on January 27, 2018

Master Angler Awards

The following anglers have caught at least one club minimum fish in six different species. This earns them the title of “Master Angler”.

Beth Synowiec

Barrelfish Red Drum Striped Bass
Hammerhead Shark Tautog
Golden Tile Sheepshead

David Smith

False Albacore Puppy Drum
Spanish Mackerel King Mackerel
Speckled Trout Cobia Spadefish

Melanie Bayford

Bowfin Channel Catfish Crappie
Sunfish White Perch Yellow Perch

James Eisenhower

Black Seabass Blue Catfish Bowfin
Chain Pickerel Crappie Largemouth Bass
Sunfish Striped Bass

Russell Willoughby

Blue Catfish Chain Pickerel
Crappie Croaker Largemouth Bass
Red Drum Sunfish