

# Virginia Beach Anglers Club (VBAC)

## Functions and Activities (F&A) Manual



Approved January 2021

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# Chapter One

## Club Sponsored Tournaments

### *A. Cobia Tournament*

**Date:** Normally held during the third or fourth weekend in June. The specific date is to be scheduled one year in advance to facilitate publication of the tournament date.

**Location:** Determined by tournament chairperson.

**Format:** Open to the General Public. There are no boat size restrictions. This is a one-day tournament emphasizing cobia as the target species. The Tournament Chairperson publishes the rules after review and approval by the Board of Directors.

### *B. Rockfish Rodeo Tournament*

**Date:** Normally scheduled for late November or early December. The specific date is to be scheduled one year in advance to facilitate publication of the tournament date.

**Location:** Determined by Tournament Chairperson.

**Format:** Open to the General Public. This is a one-day tournament emphasizing Striped Bass as the target species. The Tournament Chairperson publishes the rules after review and approval of the Board of Directors.

### *C. VBAC Pier Fishing Tournament*

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July, August, & September

**Time:** 10 am to 2 pm

**Location:** Ocean View Fishing Pier

**Format:** Open to General Public. This is a one-day tournament for the months listed above. The three target species to be selected by the tournament committee. The winners will be determined by the overall longest fish of the combined three species

### *D. VBAC Intra-Club Surf Fishing Tournament Series*

**Date:** Three-event Qualifying Series held from April through September

**Time:** Determined by the Surf Fishing Committee based on event and location

**Location:** Determined by the Surf Fishing Committee with up to two events in OBX, NC

**Format:** Varies by event. Points are earned and accrued during each event. Upon completion of the final event, anglers scoring the top three aggregate point totals will earn the right to select a surf tournament of their choice in priority order from first to third. Event dates, times, locations, rules, and guidelines will be provided at the February and March VBAC General Membership Meetings. **Prize:** Opportunity for up to three different anglers to fill positions on a surf fishing team the following year. All regular qualifying requirements must be met. Other prizes may be available based on event sponsorship and Club funding availability. Recognition on VBAC website.

### ***E. VBAC Roulette Challenge***

***Date:*** January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

***Location:*** Any waters eligible for the Prize Fish Program

***Species:*** Random selection of Prize Fish Program eligible species

***Format:*** Any member in good standing has until the March meeting to enter the Roulette and pay the \$20.00 entry fee. At the March meeting, 5 species of fish will be randomly selected by spinning the roulette wheel with the Prize Fish Program eligible species listed. All fish of the 5 species selected, caught during the January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> time period, 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 participants with the heaviest fish in each category is declared the winner of the category. The prize money is determined by the number of entrants. The winner of each category gets an equal share of the total money collected.

### ***F. Lake Smith Crappie Tournament***

***Date:*** Held in the spring in late March and/or fall in early December.

***Location:*** Lake Smith (shore and boat) and includes Little Creek Reservoir for boats only.

***Species:*** Crappie

***Format:*** Open to public as well as club members. Anglers may fish from shore or boat. Entry fees for adults and children and cash prizes are announced prior to tournament. Cash prize amounts awarded to top two winners upon completion of weigh-in the afternoon of the tournament.

### ***G. Kayak Tournament***

***Date:*** September or October

***Location:*** Local Tidewater area

***Species:*** To be determined

***Format:*** Kayak only tournament open to the public. Catch Photo and Release format. Species and techniques to be determined by chair person. A one day tournament with rules and regulations announced with tournament information and at the captains meeting.

# Chapter Two

## Tournaments with Club Sponsored Teams

### I. General Eligibility and Responsibility Rules

- All club members must be in good standing to be eligible for team selection. (Dues paid prior to time of selection)
- All club members (including returning team members) must have participated by helping with at least one club activity during the preceding year (exception for new members) to be eligible for team selection. Activities where you can serve the club by helping out include but are not limited to: Club Officer, Club Board Member, News Letter, Club Sponsored Tournaments, Club Adopt-A-Spot Clean-up, Awards Banquet, Boat Show, Oyster Roast, Meeting Refreshments, Raffles, Club Apparel Sales, etc.
- The person in charge of the activity will keep a record of who participates in the activity but it is YOUR responsibility to make sure your name gets recorded with the person in charge.
- Team members are responsible for financial obligations as spelled out in the following sections.
- Team members are responsible for tackle, bait, ice, food, etc. as needed for the tournament as spelled out in the following sections.
- All VBAC Team members must adhere to and maintain VBAC personal conduct standards at all times when representing the Club and/or when participated in VBAC functions and events.

## **II. Surf Fishing Tournaments**

### **A. Tournaments the Club Participates In**

The Virginia Beach Anglers Club participates in five Surf Fishing Tournaments each year

#### ***1. Ocracoke Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament***

- Sponsored by Ocracoke Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament Committee
- Held in late April or early May each year at Ocracoke, NC
- Entered by VBAC every year since 2000. Second team entered in 2018.

#### ***2. Hatteras Village Civic Association Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament***

- Sponsored by the Hatteras Village Civic Association
- Held in September each year at Hatteras, NC
- Entered by VBAC since 1986. Second team entered in 1992

#### ***3. Long Beach Island Fishing Club Surf Fishing Tournament***

- Sponsored by the Long Beach Island Fishing Club
- Held in September each year on Long Beach Island, NJ
- Entered by VBAC since 2011 (two teams)

#### ***4. Nags Head Surf Fishing Club Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament***

- Sponsored by the Nags Head Surf Fishing Club
- Held in October each year at Nags Head, NC
- Entered by VBAC since 1989. Second team entered in 2019.

#### ***5. Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament***

- Sponsored by the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club
- Held in November each year at Buxton, NC
- Entered by VBAC every year since 1960. Second team entered in 2019.

### **B. Team Requirements**

Each tournament requires a team or teams of six anglers each, and each year the club selects a team or teams for each tournament. In the selection of these teams, VBAC is committed to:

- Fielding teams experienced in tournament fishing
- Selecting participants that will represent the club well and are in good standing
- Providing all interested club members with an opportunity to be selected for a team

### **C. Team Selection**

The teams for each tournament will be selected as follows:

#### **1. Normal Selection**

The entire team (e.g. all six returning anglers) will return to the same tournament the following year if that team finished first, second, or third in a given tournament.

In all other cases, the first three places for each team will be filled by anglers which finished in the top three places (based on points scored) of the same tournament from the previous year.

The last three places will be available for selection by either drawing three names from those who have submitted a registration form *or* by up to two anglers earning a position through the VBAC Intra-Club Surf Fishing Tournament Series.

If only two members of a team score points during a tournament, those two members will return to the same tournament the following year. The remaining four places will be available for selection by either drawing four names from those who have submitted a registration form *or* by up to three anglers earning a position through the VBAC Intra-Club Surf Fishing Tournament Series.

If only one member of a team scores points during a tournament, that team member will return to the same tournament the following year. One member of that team will be selected by the surf fishing committee at a meeting, with a quorum of the committee present, from the remaining five team members to ensure that there will be at least two team members that have tournament experience. The remaining four places will be available for selection by either drawing four names from those who have submitted a registration form *or* by up to three anglers earning a position through the VBAC Intra-Club Surf Fishing Tournament Series.

If none of the team members score points during a tournament, two members of that team will be selected by the Surf Fishing Committee at a meeting, with a quorum of the committee present, from the six members of that team to ensure that there will be at least two team members that have tournament experience. The remaining four places will be available for selection by either drawing four names from those who have submitted a registration form *or* by up to three anglers earning a position through the VBAC Intra-Club Surf Fishing Tournament Series.

If a returning team member fails to support the Club by helping with at least one Club activity (as described in Chapter 2; Part I of this manual) during the previous year, that angler will be removed from the upcoming year's team. The next highest scorer of the previous year's team will fill their spot on the upcoming year's team. Otherwise, the normal selection process will apply. A returning team member that is removed from a team may have their name added to the end of the alternate list for a tournament at the discretion of the Surf Fishing Committee.

## **2. Selection to Assure 4WD Availability**

The team must have available two or three four-wheel drive vehicles for each tournament in order to have access to the fishing sites. In the event that those vehicles are not available from the returning team members, the drawing for the necessary positions will be as follows: The applications submitted for the drawing will be divided into two groups:

- Those with four-wheel drive vehicles available, and
- Those without four-wheel drive vehicles available

Names will be drawn from those who have four-wheel drive vehicles available until the vehicle needs are satisfied. If there are still positions to be filled, then the names from both groups will be mixed together and those positions will be filled by names drawn from the combined group.

## **3. Alternates**

Alternates will be selected and ranked by drawing all the remaining names and ranking them in the order drawn. If a team member leaves the team then the alternates will be called in the order drawn until a replacement is found. If a replacement cannot be found from the alternates, then the replacement will come from the membership at large. New members joining the club after the drawings at the March meeting may have their names added to the end of the alternate lists.

#### **4. Team Captains**

Team Captains for each tournament will be selected by the team, at their team meeting. He or she must have fished in at least one previous tournament to be eligible to be a team captain and accept all the responsibilities of being Team Captain outlined below.

##### **Team Captain's Responsibilities:**

###### Team Meeting:

- Conduct the team meeting after being selected by the team members
- Go over VBAC personal conduct standards
- Oversee the drawing or selection of meals, if applicable
- Oversee the sleeping arrangements (#1 returnee has 1<sup>st</sup> choice)
- Oversee bait options and decisions
- Go over directions to lodging facilities
- Go over check-in and departure times
- Go over team members schedules and transportation

###### At the Tournament:

- Attend the captain's meeting or arrange for an alternate
- Review rules, guidelines, and changes with the team
- Go over site and ramp locations
- Go over fishing start and stop times
- Prepare tournament and club score sheets
- Converse with the judges, give them score sheets, get phone numbers
- Oversee scoring on the beach
- Verify scoring and sign score sheets (keep copy of score sheet)
- Make sure we didn't leave anything on the beach when leaving the site

###### After the Tournament:

- Ensure all ties are broken prior to leaving the tournament
- Oversee proper routing of complaints, protests, or challenges
- Oversee cleanup of the cottage and ensure checkout is completed properly
- Complete and return all paperwork to the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman
- Prepare tournament summary for the VBAC Newsletter

#### **5. Team Selection Criteria and Time Frame**

The selection of the team for the spring tournament will be held at the regular February business meeting of the club. The selections of the teams for all of the fall tournaments will be held at the regular March business meeting of the club. In order to be considered for selections on a team, a person must:

- Meet the General Eligibility Rules in Chapter Two, Part I of this manual
- Have the proper licenses, registrations, etc. to fish legally
- Have access to the appropriate surf fishing equipment
- Be willing and able to meet the financial responsibilities outlined below



## **D. Financial and Other Team Responsibilities**

1. Each team member is required to pay a \$20.00 participation fee for each team they are on. (This helps defray the entry fees paid by the club) The Long Beach Island Fishing Club Tournament does not require the participation fee.
2. Each team member is required to pay a \$40.00 lodging deposit for each team they are on. (This is used toward securing team lodging) The Long Beach Island Fishing Club Tournament does not require the lodging deposit.
3. The combined total of \$60.00 for items 1 and 2 above, for each team member of each team, must be paid to the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman by the club's regular business meeting the month following selection.
4. The balance of any lodging expenses must be paid to the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman no later than the second regular business meeting following selection. If any additional lodging amount owed is not paid by that time and special arrangements for payment have not been made with the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman, that angler will be dropped from the team and an alternate found.
5. If a team member leaves the team prior to paying the combined total of \$60.00, then they have no further obligation to the team. The alternate will be responsible for the \$60.00 and their share of any additional lodging expenses.
6. If a team member leaves the team after paying the combined total of \$60.00, the alternate is responsible to repay the original team member the \$60.00 already paid. The alternate will also be responsible for their share of any additional lodging expenses above the \$60.00 repaid the original team member.
7. If a team member leaves the team after paying the combined total of \$60.00 and any additional lodging expenses and an alternate is found, the alternate is responsible to repay the original team member the total of money already paid.
8. If a team member leaves the team after paying the combined total of \$60.00 and any additional lodging expenses and an alternate is not found, then they forfeit the money paid to pay their share of the lodging.
9. Each team member is responsible for transportation to and from the tournament.
10. Each team member is responsible for having the appropriate surf fishing tackle, licenses, & registrations.
11. Team members are responsible for meals, snacks, and drinks (worked out among the team).
12. Team members are responsible for bait and ice (worked out among the team).
13. Team members are to wear club shirts while fishing and at clubhouse functions.
14. Any team member who discovers that he/she cannot fish the tournament must notify the Team Captain or the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman as soon as possible.
15. Anyone who discovers any issues that may affect the tournament team needs to notify the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman or Team Captain as soon as possible.

## **E. VBAC Will Provide for the Team**

1. Tournament Entry fees (less \$120.00 from each team's participation fees).
2. Funds sufficient to secure advance accommodations, including the security deposit and/or trip insurance. These funds will be reimbursed to the club by the team members. The Surf Fishing Committee Chairman will return to the team members their portion of the refund of the security deposit or trip insurance when received.

## **F. Additional Guidelines**

### **1. Tie Breakers**

In the event of a tie, the winner shall be determined according to the rules for “tie breakers” in the tournament rule book for that particular tournament. All ties will be broken prior to leaving the tournament.

### **2. Score Keeping**

In addition to the Tournament Judge’s official score sheet, each individual team member will keep his own score on a personal score sheet provided by the Surf Fishing Committee. Each individual will write down the scoring fish information on his personal score sheet. The Team Captain will collect the personal score sheets from each member to help verify the scores. All score sheets are to be presented to the Surf Fishing Committee Chairman after the tournament.

### **3. Complaints, Protest and Challenges**

All complaints, protests and challenges must be submitted in writing by the individual, on his own behalf, to the Team Captain prior to the end of the Tournament. If the issue is not resolved by the Team Captain, the submittal will be forwarded to the Surf Fishing Committee Chairperson or the Club President within seven days of the event. The issue will be reviewed by the Surf Fishing Committee or Club President and presented to the Board of Directors as required. In the instance a submittal is made referring to an event occurring outside of a surf fishing tournament, the individual will have 30 days from the day of the event in question to submit this information to the Club’s Board of Directors. If this procedure is not followed, the submittal is subject to dismissal, and will not be considered.

### **4. Non-team Guests**

Only team members are permitted to reside in the team’s lodging at any time during the tournament.

### **5. Additional Lodging Considerations**

In the event a team has only one member of the opposite sex and the reserved team lodging does not have a separate room for that person, additional lodging will be secured for that person and the additional cost will be spread out among all the team members.

### **III. Boat Tournaments**

From time to time the Virginia Beach Anglers Club may elect to participate as a club in other tournaments. In any of these tournaments the Club is committed to fielding teams with the experience to be competitive and represent the Club well, and giving any interested club member a chance to participate. This section establishes club policy for the selection of teams and boats for such tournaments.

#### **A. Boat Tournaments the Club May Participate in**

##### *Hunt for Hardheads*

*Date:* Normally held in May

*Number of boats entered:* 5

##### *Catch'n for Kids Club Challenge*

*Date:* Normally held in August

*Number of boats entered:* 5

##### *Catch'n for Kids Rockfish Tournament*

*Date:* Normally Held in December

*Number of boats entered:* 5

#### **B. Boat Selection**

The club may sponsor (pay the entry fee for) as many boats as the tournament will allow with the Board's approval. Boats will be drawn from a sign-up list of boats prior to the tournament (preferably 2 months ahead). Any club member in good standing with the club may enter his boat in the drawing to be selected. The boats will be entered in the tournament in the order drawn until all the positions are filled. The remaining boats will become alternates and will be called in the order drawn if a vacancy should occur. The person in charge of the teams will notify the captains of the boats which boats are in the tournament and the list of alternate boats.

#### **C. Team Selection**

The teams will consist of the boat captain, the first mate, and as many anglers as the tournament will allow per boat or the boat's capacity (assuming the boat capacity can accommodate that number). A random drawing is conducted of all interested boat captains, down selecting to the maximum number of boat entrants allowed. All members of the crew must be VBAC members in good standing. Interested club members can sign up to be a crew member; a random drawing may be conducted to fill any openings on a club sponsored boat (should any exist).

#### **D. Team Responsibilities**

The VBAC will pay the entry fee for the approved number of boats. VBAC has no other responsibility for the boats or crews. Each team member, except the captain, is required to pay a \$10.00 participation fee (this helps defray the entry fees paid by the club). All other expenses are the responsibility of the crew of the boat (bait, ice, fuel, etc.). The captain is responsible for making financial arrangements with his crew for these expenses.

# Chapter Three

## Special Awards

In addition to the prize fish awards as described in Chapter Four, the VBAC presents the following notable awards:

### ***A. DR. JAMES C. WRIGHT CONSERVATION HONORARY 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.

***Format:*** Candidates are proposed by the Board of Directors at the November Board meeting and tabled for thirty days. The slate is reviewed at the December Board meeting. Other candidates can be added at this time. The merits of each candidate are discussed in open forum and the final selection made by a raising of hand vote. The name of the recipient is held secret until the Annual Awards Banquet.

***Award:*** The recipient's name and year of the award is engraved on the perpetual trophy. The recipient also receives a replica trophy for permanent retention.

### ***B. VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLER'S CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD***

***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 Chairperson 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 Chairperson proposes to the Board a list of candidates for the award. The Board can propose other candidates. Selection of the recipient is by ballot vote. The recipient must receive a majority vote of the Board. The Chairperson keeps the name of the winner secret. This award can be won more than once by any member.

***Award:*** The award is a plaque. The plaque is sponsored and presented each year by the Virginia Beach Anglers Club at the annual awards banquet.

# Chapter Four

## Prize Fish Program

### A. PRIZE FISH COMMITTEE

#### 1. Chairperson

The Chairperson is usually selected from the Board of Directors by the VBAC President and will serve for the period of one-year beginning the day following the annual banquet and concluding at the end of the annual banquet the following year. The Chairperson is responsible for managing the prize fish program and reports directly to the VBAC President and the Board of Directors.

#### 2. Committee Members

The committee members are selected by the Prize Fish Committee Chairperson to serve for the same period of one year from the day following the annual banquet and concluding at the end of the annual banquet the following year. While there is no set number of committee members prescribed, it is recommended to have at least one representative for each division.

#### 3. Committee Meetings

The Prize Fish Committee will meet at least once a year to determine prize fish awards for the annual banquet. This meeting will be held as soon as possible after the January business meeting. Other meetings will be held at the discretion of the Chairperson.

#### 4. Committee Responsibilities

- A. Recognize prize fish caught each month in each category and division.
- B. Select the prize fish for each species caught in every category and division as the annual winner for that species.
- C. Document and maintain all club prize fish records for the following categories and divisions:

##### 1) **Categories**

###### Catch

Surf/Pier/Shore Saltwater  
Boat Saltwater  
Freshwater  
Ladies

###### Release

Release (Saltwater)  
Release (Freshwater)

##### 2) **Age Divisions**

Fry      Ages 1 - 6  
Guppy    Ages 7 - 12  
Junior    Ages 13 - 17  
Adult     Ages 18 and older

### B. PRIZE FISH COMMITTEE DUTIES

1. Each month the Committee will select the prize fish for the Adult Division from each of the available categories. (Ladies should select the Ladies category on the catch form along with the associated freshwater or saltwater category on the Prize Fish Form to ensure they are qualified for the Female

Angler of the Year awards.) The Committee will also select one prize each for the Junior, Guppy and Fry Divisions. The monthly winner may make a selection from the prize box or, if applicable, the angler may receive a prize issued by the Prize Fish Committee Chairperson.

2. Definitions:

**CATCH:** Fish kept and weighed on a certified scale

**RELEASE:** Fish measured and released alive at time of capture

**CERTIFIED SCALES:** Scales certified by a state official

**SURF FISHING AWARDS:** Apply to saltwater species only

3. Selection of the Annual Award Winners in the Prize Fish Program for the following awards:

A. The largest catch of the year for each listed species. (With the exception of release only species.)

B. The most fish released for each of the release only species. In event of a tie, the first fish released shall be the deciding factor.

C. One or more prize fish from the open category at the discretion of the Prize Fish Committee.

D. The Saltwater Anglers of the Year in the following categories:

1) Release Angler of the Year for Saltwater

2) Female Angler of the Year for Saltwater

3) Male Angler of Year for Saltwater

E. The Freshwater Anglers of the Year in the following categories:

1) Release Angler of the Year for Freshwater

2) Female Angler of the Year for Freshwater

3) Male Angler of Year for Freshwater

F. The Surf Anglers of the Year in the following categories:

1) The Male Surf Angler of the Year is to be the recipient of the "Jay Smith Memorial Surf Fishing Award". Selection made by the most minimum fish (saltwater species only) entered. In event of a tie, the date of catch/release shall be the deciding factor for each species.

2) The Female Surf Angler of the Year is to be the recipient of the "Gene Farrar Memorial Surf Fishing Award". Selection made by the most minimum fish (saltwater species only) entered. In event of a tie, the date of catch/release shall be the deciding factor for each species.

G. The Youth Angler of the Year in the following categories:

1) Junior Angler of the Year

2) Guppy Angler of the Year

3) Fry Angler of the Year

H. The Virginia Beach Anglers Club Sand Witches Memorial Award. This award is given to the largest red drum by length registered in the Ladies category. There is no minimum length requirement.

I. The "Most Outstanding" catch for a freshwater gamefish species.

J. The "Most Outstanding" catch for a saltwater gamefish species.

K. Recognize members that earn Master Angler Award (i.e., Six or more fish of different species meeting the minimum club requirements for the species). State release citations also qualify.

L. Recognize members that earn Expert Angler awards. (i.e., Six or more fish of the same species meeting the minimum club requirements for the species). State release citations also qualify.

M. Recognize members that earn certificates of merit for outstanding catches and for outstanding releases including new club records.

4. Recommend changes in eligible species and/or minimum weights for eligible species.

- Review and maintain all prize fish documents on an annual basis to include VBAC club fishing records, prize fish contest entry forms, etc.

### C. ELIGIBLE SPECIES AND MINIMUM WEIGHTS

- To be considered for an annual award, a catch or release must meet or exceed the VBAC club minimums. These weights and lengths are reviewed each year and become subject to change at that time for the following year. A fish whose catch or release earns a state citation from either North Carolina or Virginia will be considered to have met the VBAC requirements.
- Eligible Saltwater Species, Minimum Weights, and Minimum Release Lengths are:

Species	Virginia Citation Requirements		2021 VBAC Requirements	
	Weight	Release Length	Weight	Release Length
Amberjack	Release only	50"	38 lb 0 oz	38"
Bass, Black Sea	5 lb 0 oz	n/a	3 lb 12 oz	17"
Bass, Striped (SW)	40 lb 0 oz	44"	Release only	33"
Bluefish	16 lb 0 oz	36"	12 lb 0 oz	27"
Cobia	55 lb 0 oz	50"	41 lb 4 oz	38"
Croaker	3 lb 0 oz	20"	2 lb 4 oz	15"
Dolphin	25 lb 0 oz	n/a	18 lb 12 oz	35"
Drum, Black	80 lb 0 oz	46"	Release only	35"
Drum, Red	Release only	46"	Release only	35"
False Albacore	Release only	32"	Release only	24"
Flounder	6 lb 0 oz	26"	4 lb 8 oz	20"
Gray Triggerfish	4 lb 0 oz	20"	3 lb 0 oz	15"
Jack Crevalle	Release only	40"	Release only	30"
Kingfish (Roundhead)	1 lb 8 oz	16"	1 lb 2 oz	12"
Mackerel, King	20 lb 0 oz	n/a	15 lb 0 oz	33"
Mackerel, Spanish	4 lb 0 oz	26"	3 lb 0 oz	20"
Marlin, Blue	Release only		Release only	
Marlin, White	Release only		Release only	
Pompano	1 lb 8 oz	16"	1 lb 2 oz	12"
Sailfish	Release only		Release only	
Sharks (any)	Release only	72"	Release only	54"
Sheepshead	10 lb 0 oz	24"	7 lb 8 oz	18"
Spadefish	8 lb 0 oz	22"	6 lb 0 oz	17"
Spearfish	Release only		Release only	
Spot	1 lb 0 oz	13"	12 oz	10"
Swordfish	100 lb 0 oz	Any	75 lb 0 oz	Any
Tarpon	Release only	36"	Release only	27"
Tautog	9 lb 0 oz	23"	6 lb 12 oz	17"
Trout, Gray	9 lb 0 oz	30"	6 lb 12 oz	23"
Trout, Speckled	5 lb 0 oz	24"	3 lb 12 oz	18"
Tuna, Albacore	40 lb 0 oz	n/a	30 lb 0 oz	24"
Tuna, Bigeye	70 lb 0 oz	n/a	52 lb 8 oz	38"
Tuna, Blackfin	n/a	n/a	15 lb 0 oz	24"
Tuna, Bluefin	100 lb 0 oz	60"	75 lb 0 oz	45"
Tuna, Yellowfin	70 lb 0 oz	n/a	52 lb 8 oz	38"
Tilefish, Blueline	10 lb 0 oz	n/a	7 lb 8 oz	
Tilefish, Golden	30 lb 0 oz	n/a	22 lb 8 oz	
Wahoo	35 lb 0 oz	n/a	26 lb 4 oz	38"

3. Eligible Freshwater Species, Minimum Weights, and Minimum Release Lengths are:

Species	Virginia Citation Requirements		2021 VBAC Requirements	
	Weight	Release Length	Weight	Release Length
Bass, Largemouth	8 lb 0 oz	22"	6 lb 0 oz	17"
Bass, Hybrid Striped**	8 lb 0 oz	24"	6 lb 0 oz	18"
Bass, Rock	1 lb 0 oz	12"	12 oz	9"
Bass, Smallmouth	5 lb 0 oz	20"	3 lb 12 oz	15"
Bass, Striped (FW)	20 lb 0 oz	37"	15 lb 0 oz	28"
Bass, White	2 lb 0 oz	16"	1 lb 8 oz	12"
Bowfin	10 lb 0 oz	30"	7 lb 8 oz	23"
Carp	20 lb 0 oz	34"	15 lb 0 oz	26"
Catfish, Blue	30 lb 0 oz	38"	22 lb 8 oz	29"
Catfish, Channel	12 lb 0 oz	30"	9 lb 0 oz	23"
Catfish, Flathead	25 lb 0 oz	40"	18 lb 12 oz	30"
Chain Pickerel	4 lb 0 oz	24"	3 lb 0 oz	18"
Crappie, Black	2 lb 0 oz	15"	1 lb 8 oz	11"
Crappie, White	2 lb 0 oz	15"	1 lb 8 oz	11"
Drum, Freshwater	6 lb 0 oz	24"	4 lb 8 oz	18"
Fallfish	1 lb 4 oz	14"	15 oz	11"
Gar	10 lb 0 oz	40"	7 lb 8 oz	30"
Muskellunge	15 lb 0 oz	40"	11 lb 4 oz	30"
Northern Pike	6 lb 0 oz	30"	4 lb 8 oz	23"
Perch, White	1 lb 4 oz	13"	15 oz	10"
Perch, Yellow	1 lb 4 oz	12"	15 oz	9"
Sauger*	2 lb 0 oz	18"	1 lb 8 oz	14"
Saugeye	4 lb 0 oz	23"	3 lb 0 oz	18"
Shad, American			Release only	12"
Shad, Hickory			1 lb 2 oz	9"
Sunfish, Bluegill	1 lb 0 oz	11"	12 oz	8"
Sunfish, Redear	1 lb 0 oz	11"	12 oz	8"
Sunfish, Other	1 lb 0 oz	10"	12 oz	8"
Trout, Brook	2 lb 0 oz	16"	1 lb 8 oz	12"
Trout, Brown	5 lb 0 oz	25"	3 lb 12 oz	19"
Trout, Rainbow	4 lb 0 oz	22"	3 lb 0 oz	17"
Walleye	5 lb 0 oz	25"	3 lb 12 oz	19"

\* Clinch and Powell Rivers only

\*\* Claytor and Flannagan Reservoirs only

4. Open Category:

Outstanding catches of any legally caught fish not listed on the eligible species lists. One or more certificates may be awarded from this combined category at the discretion of the Prize Fish Committee.

5. Eligible Species:

The Prize Fish Committee can recommend species to be added to or deleted from the established eligible species lists.

6. Minimum Size Requirements for Junior, Guppy and Fry Divisions:

A. Junior Division

To be eligible for an annual award, the fish must be within 50% of the state citation minimum size requirements. The VBAC will award up to a total of 12 certificates at the discretion of the



Prize Fish Committee.

**B. Guppy Division**

To be eligible for an annual award, the fish must be within 25% of the state citation minimum size requirements. The VBAC will award up to a total of 12 certificates at the discretion of the Prize Fish Committee.

**C. Fry Division**

Annual awards for qualification to the Fry Division have no prize fish size requirements. Fry are allowed necessary adult assistance while fishing. The VBAC will award up to a total of 6 certificates at the discretion of the Prize Fish Committee.

**D. PRIZE FISH RULES**

1. The contest will run from January 1 through December 31. All entries from the previous year must be turned in by the regular January business meeting.
2. To be eligible for monthly awards, entries may be mailed to the VBAC Post Office Box, the Prize fish chairperson or placed in the hands of the Prize Fish Committee before the regular business meeting begins, following the month the fish was caught. To be eligible for the annual awards, all entries must be submitted no later than the second meeting following the catch. Catches made in December must be turned in by the following January meeting to be eligible for the previous year's awards.
3. The contest is free and open to all members in good standing whose dues have been paid before the catch, according to the club bylaws. There is no entry fee to participate.
4. The territorial limits for the contest shall be the waters of Virginia and North Carolina and their coasts. Fish caught outside of Virginia or North Carolina in a VBAC sponsored event (VBAC subsidized boat trips, VBAC subsidized surf fishing tournament participants, etc.) including the day prior (tournament specific pre-fishing day) will be eligible for the Prize Fish Contest.
5. To be accepted for entry, fish must be taken on hook and line and must follow all recreational fishing regulations as determined by the state to which it was caught. Only fish caught in waters open to public fishing may be submitted for entry to the Prize Fish Committee.
6. To qualify for entry as a catch, all fish must be weighed on certified scales.
7. In order to qualify for a club record, the fish must be weighed at an official state weigh station.
8. Weights should be converted to pounds and ounces. A witness must be present and must sign the form. If the fish qualifies for a VA or NC state tournament citation, that receipt will meet witness requirements.
9. Entries in the monthly contest must meet "minimum club size requirements" and will be considered for the annual contest. Minimum acceptable weights and lengths are set by the Prize Fish Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
10. Acceptability of entries will be at the discretion of the Prize Fish Committee whose decision will be final.
11. In the case of a tie in the catch category, length, then girth will be used to determine the winner. In the case of a tie in the release category, the first caught will break the tie.
12. Length will only be used to qualify a fish in the release category or for tiebreaker purposes.
13. Weight will only be used to qualify a fish in the catch category or for tiebreaker purposes.

## **E. PRIZE FISH FORMS:**

For a catch or release to be considered in the Prize Fish Program, it must be submitted on a **properly completed** VBAC Prize Fish Entry Form. Multiple releases may be listed on the same form only when the releases are for the same species. To be accepted, **either form requires the signature of a witness**. An appropriately signed witness document can be used in place of a witness signature on the prize fish form (e.g. official state citation form). In the event there is no witness to a released fish, a picture with ruler or measure tape next to the fish will qualify. To obtain forms or additional information, contact the Prize Fish Committee Chairperson at the monthly meetings. Forms are also available for downloading from the VBAC website.