

Sea Trail Fishing Club Member's Meeting – September 17th, 2026

Pink Palace, Sea Trail Plantation, 295 Rice Mill Circle, Sunset Beach, NC

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President, Mike Shannon (Mike 1) followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 37 members and guests in attendance. Mike took the time to introduce Mark Batchelor, the Club's Audio / Visual expert who also handles publishing the weekly Club newsletter.

New members Richie Mendke, Shane McAlister, and Jeff Reinholt welcomed to the club.

Guest Shaun Shannon was in attendance and welcomed.

The Meeting Agenda was presented and approved without change.

Minutes of the August 20th Member's Meeting were presented and approved by the members in attendance. It was agreed that members would continue not reading the minutes in perpetuity.

Nick Leb, Treasurer, next gave a brief update on Club finances. Nick's presentation was brief and well received. Cash balance was \$9,841 with current liabilities of \$1,520 (2026 tournament awards). There were 189 club members as of the date of the meeting. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved as presented.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Steve H. introduced guest speaker Captain Tripp, from Captain Hook Outdoor Charter Service located in OIB Beach NC.

Capt. Tripp began with a brief explanation of his favorite red drum tactics including:

- Use a short 2" – 3" leader holding close to the bottom to avoid catching rays when targeting drum.
- He prefers a 6/0 – 8/0 circle hook on a 50 – 80 lb fluorocarbon leader with a 2 – 4 oz barrel sinker.
- As an alternative, Tripp uses a typical Carolina rig.
- Tripp said it is best to fish the moving (incoming / outgoing) tide and avoid fishing the slack tide. He recommended that during slack tide is the best time to be moving to another spot and not actively fishing.
- SC law allows two drum per boat, 1 per person.
- When fishing natural bait, an in-line circle hook, size greater than 4/0 must be used.
- Tripp prefers cut bait over live bait and pogies are his favorite.

Tripp next discussed his favorite tactics for speckled trout. He said November / December are the best times to go. He prefers a float rig with 20 lb braid under a 10' fluorocarbon leader between 15 – 20 lb.

Tripp opened it up for a brief question / answer session which concluded at 7:15 at which time Mike 1 announced a brief 15-minute break.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30. Mike 1 reviewed the upcoming elections for the outgoing president and secretary positions on the Club Board. He reiterated the need for nominations for these positions as well as for the member of the year. To date, only the Director At Large position has received a nomination and there is one nomination submitted for the Member Of The Year award.

Steve P. announced the sale of all 50 raffle tickets for the charter trip and the winners would be announced at the end of this meeting.

Brian Brumbaugh reviewed the tournament results. There are 30 fish reported so far for the annual tournament and he briefly went over the leader board results to date. Brian said that any suggested tournament rule changes need to be submitted to his team by October 15 for consideration in the 2027 tournament.

Ben Baumgardner won the recent flounder tournament with a 22.5" fish for a first prize of \$125

The Bull Drum tournament will be held October 1st – October 31st and will be based on longest fish. This is a handicapped tournament in accordance with Club rules.

The Social Events team presented next. Sandy reminded everyone the TaKF Pier Event is scheduled for September 26th and there were currently 20 participants signed up so far. Sandy reviewed the Club members that were signed up and individual assignments. Sandy has done an excellent job of coordinating and spearheading this event which will be highly publicized.

Mike 2 reviewed the planned offshore charter scheduled for October 30th. He said there has been limited interest expressed so far. The charter will be limited to 10 fisherfolks and will be 12 hours out of Little River. The cost will be \$245 + tip and cleaning.

Mike 2 also reviewed the upcoming fish fry scheduled for November 7th. Mike said there will be an items request list posted shortly and Mike Griffin has agreed to be the Fry-Meister again this year. The only request the Events Team made was that any fish donations to be cooked by Mike must be filets in good shape with no freezer burn.

Steve H. said the Club needed volunteers to staff the Club tent at the upcoming Sunset at Sunset event on October 3. The event is sponsored by the town and Dave's will again have the salt water tank set up with locally caught species exhibited.

Club member Joe Harmsman said there was an upcoming golf fund raising event to benefit the Veterans Fishing charity. The event will be at Sea Trail and the cost is \$60 pp.

Buddie reviewed the member donations to help defray the cost of hats for the upcoming TaKF events. To date, members have donated \$75.

Next, there was a brief discussion of “fish stories” where members get to tell stories about their recent exploits, both fishing and other. Mike 1, Ben Baumgardner, and Steve P. got the chance to try their stories out on a “friendly audience” before deciding to release the film rights to the Sportsmen Channel

Next, the door prize winner was selected and Tom Coda won a knife set donated by Dave’s.

The 50:50 Drawing was won by member Ray Mortock and was \$85. The Club retained \$85.

The charter raffle drawing was held and Steve Heins, Shane McAlister, and Richard Collette were the winners. The carter is with Captain Strange and it is up to the winners to coordinate an agreeable date.

The planned speaker for the October meeting is Joelle Deese, NC-DEQ Marine Patrol

Mike 1 adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Submitted: Jim Baumgartner, STFC Club Secretary