

## The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club January 6, 2025

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 145 members in attendance.

### **2024 recap**

President Ken wished everyone a Happy New Year and updated them on 2024's accomplishments. He stated that the Club had passed 460 dues-paying members and ran 196 fishing charters during the year. Not included were 36 trip cancellations, so the number of actual charters organized during 2024 was 232—an impressive number of fishing charters! He also gave a recap of the 20% incentive that the Club offered during November and December. He shared that 60 charters were run during this period, and the Club contribution for these trips was \$5,507. He thanked all for getting out to fish and help our Captains impacted by the year's hurricanes. President Ken then acknowledged ALL volunteers who helped make 2024 a success. He called each up to the front to be recognized with a round of applause.

### **Fishing Trip Coordinator reports**

Coordinator reports highlighted current fishing reports and openings for November trips. Presenters included Lauren VanScoit, Jim Scheer, John Hogan, Joe Cicman, Dave Easton, Bruce Speck, Randy Herring, and Steve Newman. Captain Ray Moses also shared comments during this segment.

### **American Patriot updates**

President Ken advised that the second installment for the June 21-24, 2025 trip was now due, and he was accepting checks from those who had signed up for it.

### **Tackle Sale 2025**

President Ken announced the joint Saltwater and Freshwater Club tackle sale at Everglades Recreation Center on Friday, February 21st. He advised that table reservations were slow and encouraged members to get behind this event.

### **Outdoor Expo**

Ken shared the dates for the Expo as February 28 & Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Everglades Recreation Center. Hours on both days are 10 AM until 3 PM. He encouraged volunteers to help out at this 2-day event.

### **Membership dues renewal**

Members were reminded that 2025 dues can now be paid. He advised the dues are still \$10 for the year.

### **NEW members**

Dave Easton welcomed 20 new members who had signed up at the meeting. There were too many new members, so Dave passed on the usual practice of asking them to stand and introduce themselves. Dave invited the latest members to stay for a brief orientation meeting following the regular meeting.

### **Open Forum**

Several members spoke during this Open Forum segment this month.

### **Financial Report**

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

### **Guest Speaker**

Two employees of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) spoke to our group. The representatives were Matt Bunting and Kristin Foss. They shared information on ongoing fish management activities in Florida, stock assessments on various species, and a detailed update on NOAA's recent pursuit of a Secretarial Amendment to (possibly) shut down bottom fishing in the Atlantic Ocean for the Snapper/Grouper complex that includes about 55 fish species. There was lots of member interest and questions.

### **100% Raffle**

Club member Chuck Ogle led the club raffle of eight (8) \$50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners. Chuck also led the second chance raffle.

The next meeting is Monday, February 3, 2025, at the Everglades Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.