

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

APRIL 2018

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Jake Hiles, *Matador Sport Fishing Charters*,
Coastal Virginia Wreck Fishing

Fishing Tips: Deep Drop Fishing with Captain Stan Gold, *Blind Date Charters*

Fishing Reports:

- James River Blue Catfish
- Tautog off the Eastern Shore

Angler Interests

- 2018 Cobia and Flounder regulations set
- Public Hearing for Black Sea Bass and Blueline Tilefish regulations

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

What an incredible Awards Banquet! Thanks to everyone who contributed to such a wonderful evening. Mike Hubert for arranging the venue, as well as, coordinating and collecting raffle items. Tom Hubert for the awards program. The Norfolk Yacht & Country Club for hosting us for the evening. Congratulations to all our Anglers for their awards.

This month we have a clean-up day scheduled at the East Ocean View Rec Center on Saturday April 21st at 10:00am. We'll have gloves and bags available for everyone. Please consider taking an hour of your morning and join us at the EOY Rec Center.

At the meeting we'll draw the winner of the raffle for the Cobia Charter with Captain Austin Hayne with *FINAO Sportfishing Charters*. This will be your last chance to get a raffle ticket to fish with one of the very best Cobia Charter Captains in Hampton Roads. - Will

On the Cover: Norfolk Anglers Club member Mike Hubert fishing the CBBT in his SEA CAT SL25



Meeting

Guest Speaker: Wreck Fishing with Captain Jake Hiles, *Matador Sport Fishing Charters*

Join us on Monday, April 9th, to hear Capt Jake Hiles discuss wreck fishing off the Virginia coast. Our waters have numerous wrecks, artificial reefs, and other structure that provide year-round fishing opportunities. Whether it's targeting Sheepshead, Triggerfish, or many of the other species, Capt Hiles and Matador Sport Fishing Charters can put you on the fish.

Captain Hiles is a life-long Virginia Angler, a Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Master Angler, Charter Captain, and Commercial Fisherman. He's fished the Atlantic seaboard from Florida to New York, the Caribbean, Bahamas, Central America, and Alaska.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, April 9th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Club Calendar

April

Monday, Apr 9th, NAC Club Meeting - 7:00pm

Saturday, Apr 21st, East Ocean View Rec
Center Clean Up day - 10:00am

Tuesday, Apr 24th, VMRC Commission Meeting
*Public Hearing on 2018 Black Sea
Bass and Blueline Tilefish Regulations*




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Fishing Tips...

Deep Drop Fishing:

Captain Stan Gold, Blind Date Charters



Offshore deep drop fishing offers a wide variety of species for those willing to venture far 60-75nm out. It's common to find large Black Sea Bass on the offshore wrecks and structure but anglers can be rewarded with some unique

catches as well. Blueline and Golden Tilefish are the usual target for deep dropping but you can also land large Snowy and Warsaw Groupers, Barrellfish, Wreckfish, Blackbelly Rosefish, and Sharks.



Tackle:

Many anglers use electric reels for fishing deep waters where heavy sinkers are needed. The key to deep dropping is to get your bait on the bottom without having to excessively spool out line. That typically means using 2 pounds of weight to hold the bottom when you're dropping in 450-1,000 feet. Captain Stan advises electric reels are great for getting meat in the boat but anglers are reminded that fish caught on power-assisted reels are not eligible for registering citations.

The two biggest factors in selecting tackle for deep dropping is having a rod that can handle 2+ pounds of weight and a reel with enough line capacity. Braided line is ideal with its thin diameter, low drag, and high strength. Braid also gives an angler the ability to "feel" the bottom to determine if it's hard surface, sand, or sticky mud. For fishing Sea Bass and Blueline Tilefish any typical rod reel combination will work as these fish are usually fished in 150 ft (Sea Bass) and 300 ft (Blueline Tilefish) with lighter weights. Higher capacity reels come into

play when going after the Golden Tiles and others mentioned above. For example, when fishing in 1,200 ft an angler may have nearly 2,000 ft of line out in order to hold bottom. Much depends on fishing conditions, the drift during the day, and the sinker size. Reels have got to have plenty of line capacity and rods must be able to handle the weight.

When selecting a rod you'll not want something too stiff nor overly flexible. Remember, you're going to be adding heavier than usual sinkers for the deep work. Capt Stan recommends when selecting a deep drop rod, bring along a length of heavy fishing line and attach about 2 or 3 pounds of weight to one end and thread the line through the rod. While holding onto the line, feel how the rod bends and works with the heavy weight. You don't want something stiff as a broom stick nor as flexible as a pool noodle. You'll want some bend so you can work the weight up and down on the bottom. When the deeper (and larger) fish hit your bait, you'll know it!

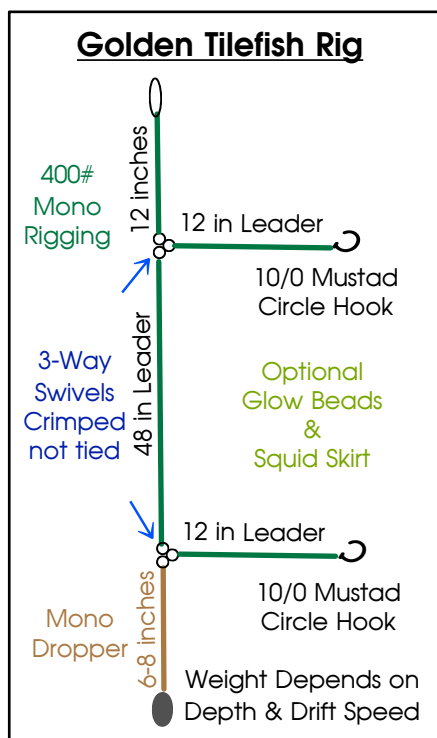
Blind Date Charters only uses circle hooks for deep drop fishing. In deep water with lots of line out, the best tactic is to let the fish take the hook & bait, then let them hook themselves. Once the circle hook works its way to the jaw of the fish, it's all over but the reeling it to the boat. Rarely does the fish get free from a circle hook that's hooked into the jaw.



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Fishing Tips...



Bottom rigs are a typical two hook rig with a drop to the weight. Blind Date Charters prefers using heavier 400# mono when rigging for Golden Tiles and Groupers. Capt Stan wants the stiffness of the mono to avoid the twisting and tangling as the line descends. He added, with most rigs, if the angler allows the line to slowly descend there's less chance of it fouling the rig. You're not going to catch much of anything with a tangles mess on the bottom, he advised. To keep the Mustad 10/0 circle hook position at the end of the short leader, he figure 8 wraps the heavy mono around the hook shank before threading it back through the eye and crimping.

Rigs can be dressed up with glow beads, tubing, or artificial squid, etc. Lights can also be added



above the rig to attract fish. They come in all sizes, colors, and cost.

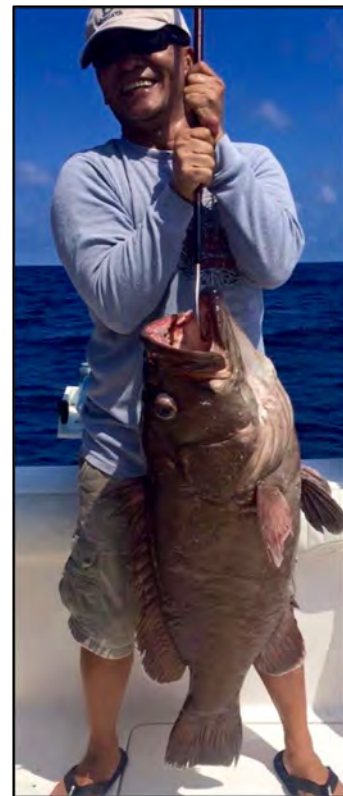
When it comes to "accessorizing" your rigs, keep in mind that what catches fish one day may not work the next. Having a number of different rigs may be the key to dialing in on what's good for that day. Once you start catching, make the switch.



Bait selection for Golden Tilefish varies from long cut bait strips to whole live or dead bait fish. Attaching a 10 inch long strip of bait from a bluefish, dolphin, blueline tile, or large squid works very well. Live and dead bait fish can be rigged onto the circle hook using a bridle attached through the eye socket or nostrils. Capt Stan threads a small zip-tie through the bait fish to make a bridle, but rubber bands or rigging floss can also be used. The circle hook must be exposed and able to work its way to the tilefish or grouper's mouth to work effectively.



Target Golden Tilefish in waters 450 - 1,000 feet deep and look for a soft muddy bottom. You'll know when your weight sticks on the bottom that you've got the right bottom conditions. Golden Tilefish don't seem to move around much and prefer to live in colonies burrowing into the soft mud. Once you've located a colony be sure to mark the position on your chart plotter. The Norfolk Canyon is a prime area to target the deeper species, Golden Tilefish, Grouper, and Barrelfish.



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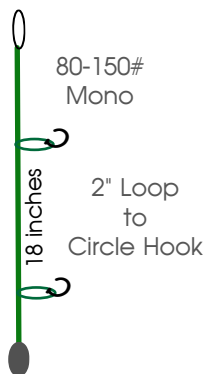


When targeting Blueline Tilefish anglers will set up in water around 300 feet deep. Unlike the Golden Tilefish, Blueline Tiles prefer a bottom of low-lying broken shell and gravel. Because they forage along the bottom occasionally your fish finder will locate them, especially if they're congregating in numbers.

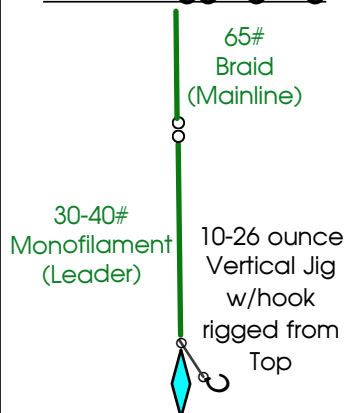
Two primary methods are used for catching Blueline tiles; Bottom Rigs and Jigging. Blind Date Charters uses a double bottom rig made up with 80-150# monofilament with two small loop knots about 18 inches apart to attach the circle hooks. Circle hooks are generally smaller than those for the larger Golden Tiles but the larger hooks will work. Cut bait, either chunks or strip bait, and squid work very well. Fishing for Bluelines is similar to fishing Black Sea Bass. In fact, occasionally you may find yourself catching both around the same location. Rod and reel setup is also similar to Sea Bass fishing with 65# braid and lighter sinker weights (16-20 ounce). Vertical Jigging Rigs use jigs ranging from 300grams (10.6 oz) to 750grams (26 oz). Fishing conditions will dictate the size needed. It's the angler's option on whether to attach a strip bait of fish or squid. Capt Stan prefers to rig a length of 30-40# mono between the mainline and jig. This additional length of line serves as a break point if the rig gets hopelessly snagged, thus saving the mainline.

Capt Stan recommends anglers check state and federal regulations before venturing out for Tilefish and Grouper. There's been a few updates on season, possession limits, and reporting requirements in the previous year.

Blueline Tilefish Bottom Rig



Tilefish Jigging Rig



Fishing Tips...



Blind Date Charters

Vinings Landing Marina
8166 Shore Drive
Norfolk, Virginia



CAPT Stan Gold - Owner

757-944-0850

www.blinddatecharters.com

Fishing Reports...



9 March: Russell Willoughby, Jerry Hughes and I went fishing with Catfish Charter Captain Petey on the James River. Weather was windy and cold, sunny in morning but cloudy in the afternoon. The water was only 45 degrees. Despite our hanging in there from 7 AM to 4 PM, fishing one spot after another, we managed only one Blue Catfish, a 10 lb fish that Russell brought to the boat. That fish was kept for eating but no picture was taken. Captain Petey was just as frustrated if not more than we were since we had caught citation sized cats over the last two previous years with

9 March Continued: him and that was our expectation for this trip. So he offered us another trip for free the following Friday.

16 March: This day was practically a mirror image of the previous week with cold temps in the morning but this day was much calmer and sunny. Water temperature at the surface was 46 degrees. We again fished multiple spots on the James River east of Hopewell and even fished half of the day west of Hopewell in shallow water that had 47 degree temperature. Jerry picked up a 5 lb Blue Catfish and I picked up a 12.11 oz lb Blue Catfish measured on my scales. Both were caught in about 5 - 7 feet of water. At one point Captain Petey put his gill net out for some more shad for bait and when we went to pull it we found it was moving. Sure enough that meant there was a big catfish in the net which turned into a 25 lb Blue Catfish the biggest of the day released. Oh well, we will have to try another time when the water is much warmer to catch some citation sized fish.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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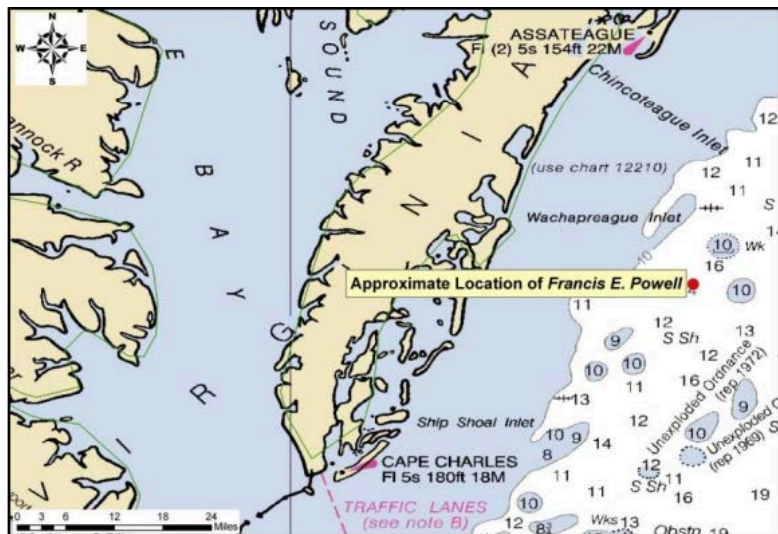
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17 March: We hit some nearshore wrecks off the lower eastern shore and had some Tautog but not many. After the Sea Bass season ended we have not been out much. Some of the wrecks from the Birch Lake down to the wrecks about 18 miles out of Lynnhaven in the middle of the mouth of the bay have some Tautogs on them but they are under sized. The water temperature are around 41 degrees on the surface of these wrecks.



24 March: We headed up north out of Wachapreague and hit the Monroe Wreck, Francis Powell Wreck and also the Parramore Reef. We were looking for Tautog but the water had a 40 - 41 degree surface temperature. We did not have any luck, the wind did blow that morning but calmed down. We had a few bites on the Monroe Wreck but after 2 hours and no fish we moved on. We hit the Parramore Reef for a while also and had the same luck, ZERO fish. I wish I had a better report.

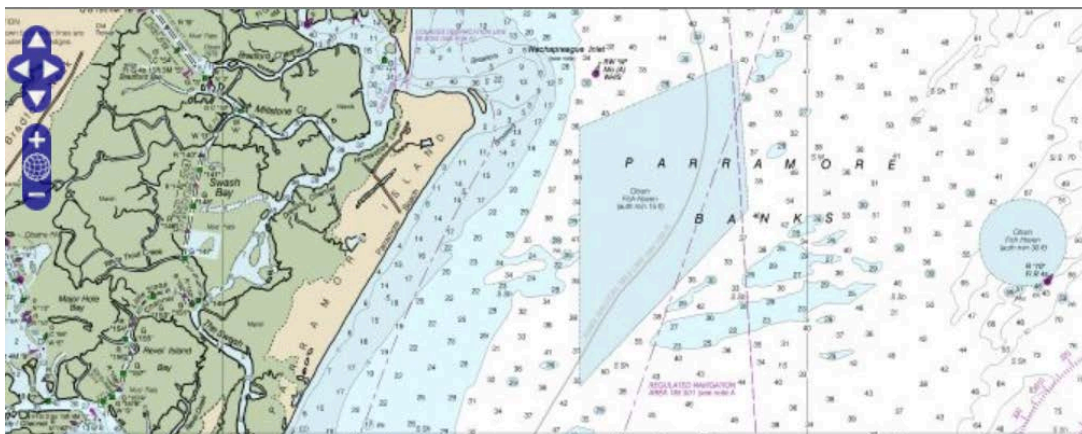
- Brandon Cook



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ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Our Banquet this year was held at the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club on 3 MAR 2018! They provided us with a Fantastic Buffet and Beautiful Setting!

Thanks to Ned and Michelin Smith for selling Raffle Tickets and helping with the Raffle!

Thanks to Mike Hubert for working so hard to set this event up. *We all had a great Time!*





NAC 2017 AWARDS

- Beth Synowiec**
 - Release and Keeper of the Year
 - Golden Tilefish
 - Blueline Tilefish
 - Bluefish
 - Black Sea Bass
 - Sheephead



Overall Saltwater Angler of the Year



Youth Angler Recognition

- Alex Perez Jr.**
 - Spanish Mackerel
 - Cobia

- Steve Harding**
 - Yellow Perch
 - Chain Pickerel
 - Crappie



Overall Freshwater Angler of the Year



- Ike Eisenhower**
 - Spadefish
 - Blue Catfish

- Ned Smith**
 - Speckled Trout



- James Robinson**
 - Speckled Trout



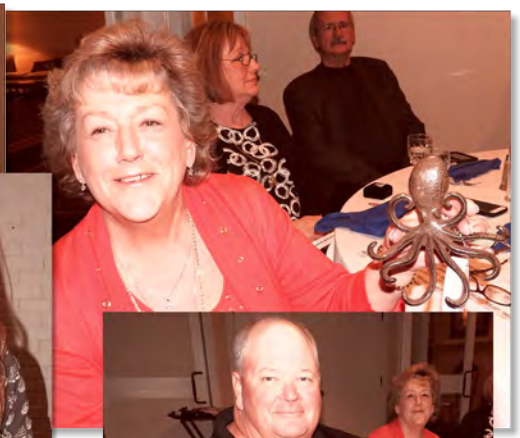
- Kevin Synowiec**
 - Red Drum
 - Shark



Tom Hubert, thank you for working all year on the Banquet Awards. That is a lot of work and we very much appreciate it!

Banquet Raffle





Thank You!



Our Annual Awards Banquet is not possible without the generous support from our members and our community. Thank you, for all that you've contributed to our event.

*Janet and Capt Neal Taylor
Mike Hubert
Wendy and Capt Will Bransom
Karen and Capt Ed Schrader
Beth and Kevin Synowiec
Tom Hubert
Ben Capps
Michelin Smith
Anne Hubert
Ray Sexton*



Angler Interests

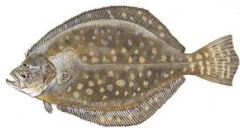
VMRC Commission meeting: 2018 Cobia and Flounder Regulations



March 27th: The 2018 Cobia and Flounder recreational regulations were set at the Commission meeting on March 27th. For Cobia, the regulations remained similar to 2017 with 1 fish

per person up to 3 fish per vessel (whichever is more restrictive) per day, with one fish may measure over 50 inches in total length and a season from June 1 to September 30, 2018. The Commission will also allow the use of a gaff to land cobia and the Cobia Recreational Landing Permit with mandatory reporting will also be in place for 2018. The VMRC Staff

predicts these measures will allow Virginia to remain under the annual recreational quota of 244,292 pounds provided to Virginia by the Atlantic States Fishery Management Commission (ASFMC). As discussed during the Commission meeting, a 3-year average recreational harvest will be used to determine future allocations and actions by the ASFMC for coastwide management of Atlantic Cobia.



The 2018 Flounder regulations will be set at 4 Flounder per person/per day with a minimum size limit of 16 1/2 inches. This is a 1/2 inch reduction from the previous year to keep in line with what other states have implemented within our regional management area.

VMRC Commission meeting: Tuesday, April 24th; Black Sea Bass and Blueline Tilefish

April 24th: The Virginia Marine Resource Commission will hold a Public Hearing and set Recreational Black Sea Bass and Recreational Blueline Tilefish regulations for 2018. The Meeting and Public Hearing will be held at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia. Public comments on the proposals should be provided to Robert L. O'Reilly, VMRC Fisheries Management Division, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607.

Norfolk Anglers Club Canned Food Drive.....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.



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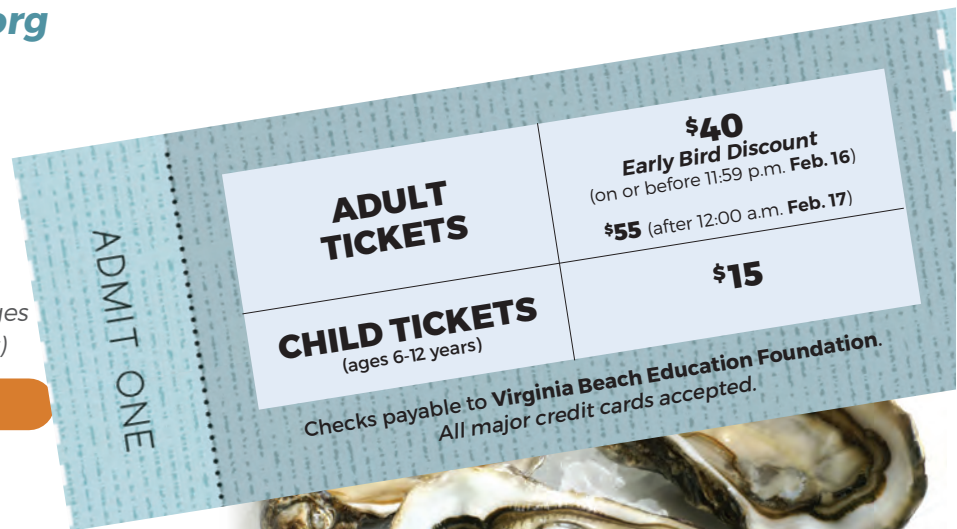
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- Fried Fish
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