

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

APRIL 2024

What's Inside

Guest Speakers:

Virginia Marine Police Officers Steve York & Case Springfield

Dr Willy Goldsmith with *Pelagic Strategies*, Recreational Tilefish and reporting

Fishing Tips: Speckled Trout Fishing with Stan Simmerman

Fishing Reports;

- Inshore Wrecks: Black Sea Bass, Tautog
- Nottoway River Hickory Shad, Blue Back Hearing
- Lake Chickahominy/Freshwater: Black Crappie
- Chickahominy River: Largemouth Bass
- Chesapeake Bay: Tautog
- HRBT: Tautog
- North Carolina/Freshwater: Black Crappie

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

What a nice Awards Banquet we had! Thanks to everyone who participated, our members who helped make it all possible, and your generous donations to the raffle. Congratulations to Russell Willoughby our Freshwater Angler of the Year and Capitán Alex Perez our Saltwater Angler of the year. Remember you can submit your Prize Fish entries from Virginia and North Carolina fishing to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

This month we've scheduled a clean up day at the East Ocean View Community Center on Saturday April 27th.

Will



On The Cover: Lacey Creek off Lake Chickahominy. Henry Troutner and Will Bransom fishing freshwater on March 21st.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Marine Police Officers Steve York and Case Springfield on the Virginia Marine Police

Dr Willy Goldsmith with *Pelagic Strategies*, Recreational Tilefish & Reporting

We have two speakers planned for this month. We have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the Virginia Marine Police from MPO Steve York and MPO Case Springfield.

We also have Dr. Willy Goldsmith addressing the club on recreational tilefishing and reporting.

Important:

April 15, 2024

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Club Calendar

April

Mon, Apr 15th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tues, Apr 23rd: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Sat Apr 27th: East Ocean View Community Center Clean Up

May

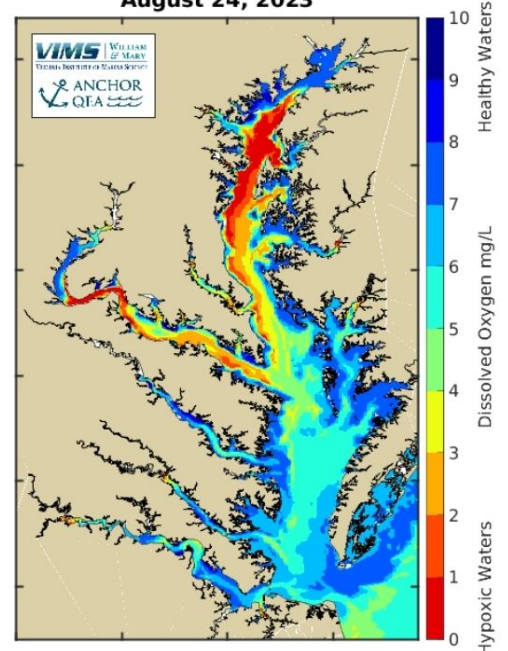
Mon, May 20th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tues, May 28th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

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Bottom Oxygen: Nowcast
August 24, 2023



<https://www.vims.edu/cbefs/>

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries
1 January - 31 March 2024

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (9)		
	Russell Willoughby (7)		
	Henry Troutner (1)		
Chain Pickerel	James Eisenhower(1)		

For the 2024 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be submitted to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, as well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish paperwork is acceptable.

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form must be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

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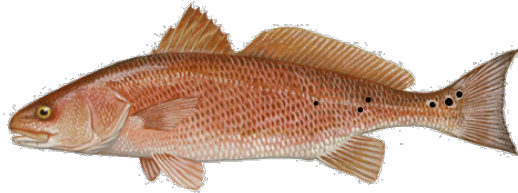
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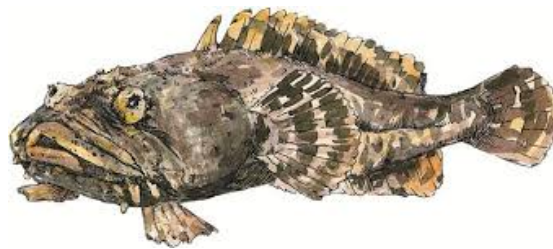
Club Members Tournament for 2024



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. *Entries received with decal and no measurement can only be judged by number of spots. Photo entries without a decal or measurement tape are not accepted.
- Red Drum/Redfish up to 26 inches in length only and caught in Virginia and North Carolina waters
- Awards determined by 1st: number of Spots (on one side), 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to; NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50.00 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler.



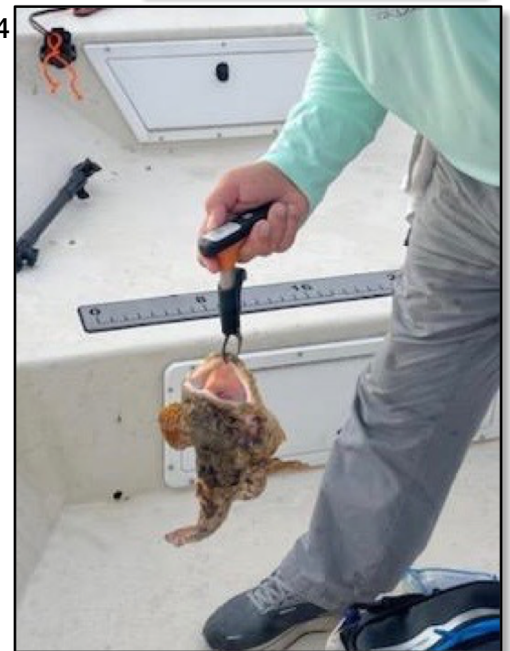
Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024
- Awards determined by;
 - 1.Total Weight
 2. Date of catch
 3. Date of entry submission
- Additional Award for Best Oyster Toad Photo
- Entries submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com in the form of a Fishing Report; who was fishing, stating total weight, with photo of the fish on the scale
- Weighing need not be on a certified scale and may be done by the angler, just try an avoid weighing fish on a pitching boat
- No entry fee (we would never charge a fee for catching Toads)
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director

Capitán Alez Perez, Sr.

"Temporary" Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)



Awards Banquet



Freshwater Angler of the Year



Saltwater Angler of the Year

Congratulations! to all our Awardees at the Annual Awards Banquet. We recognized Russell Willoughby as our Freshwater Angler of the Year and Capitán Alex Perez, Sr. as our Saltwater Angler of the Year. We also recognized two Club Expert Anglers; Dr "Ike" Eisenhower for Black Crappie and Speckled Trout and Russell Willoughby for Black Crappie.

Special thanks to Wendy Bransom, Mike Hubert, Tom Hubert, Karen Schrader, Henry & Mary Troutner, Wesley Waters, Kim Rote, Dr "Ike" Eisenhower, Michel & Ned Smith, and the Staff of the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club all of which helped with planning, hosting, or setting up the Awards Banquet that we all enjoyed.

Along with recognizing the angling expertise of many of our members, renewing the fellowship of our fishing families, we enjoyed a raffle with donations from local businesses, friends, and families. Our raffle wouldn't have been possible without the generous support from the following;

Sea Tow Hampton Roads, NAPA Auto Parts Green Cove Springs, Princess Anne Distributing Co, Oceans East Bait & Tackle, USA Fuel Service, Bass Pro Shops, Sportsman's Warehouse, OBBCO Safety Supply, ACE Hardware, Capt CA Richardson's Fishing Lures, Aberdeen Barn Steakhouse, Bayside Artisan Shoppes, Academy Sporting Goods, Penn Reels, Wendy & Will Bransom, Mary & Henry Troutner, Terry Waters, Mike Mancini, Bert Sainz, Greg Rogers & Kim Rote, Alex Perez, Wesley Waters, Jerry Hughes, Tom Hubert, Mike Hubert, Mike Rheinart

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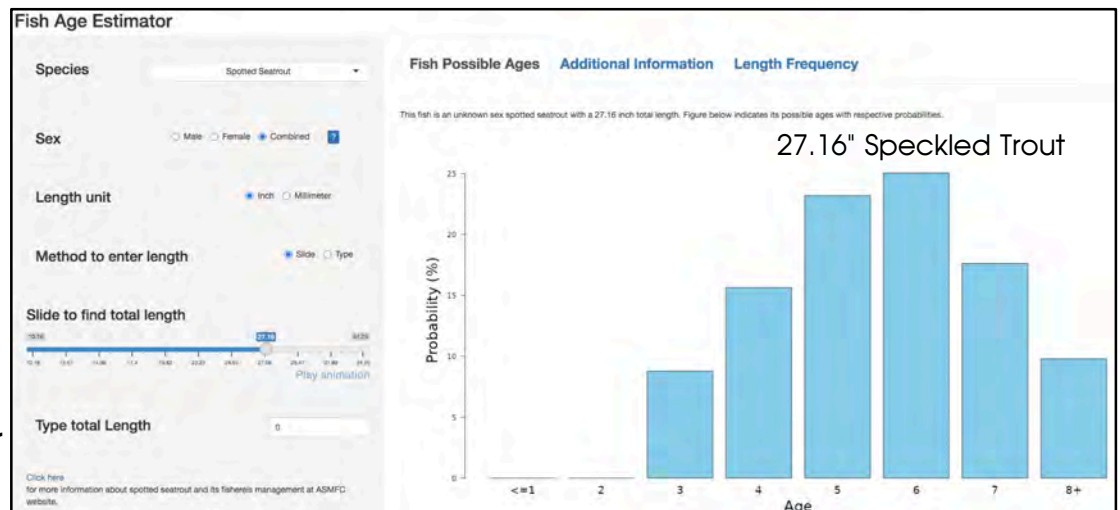
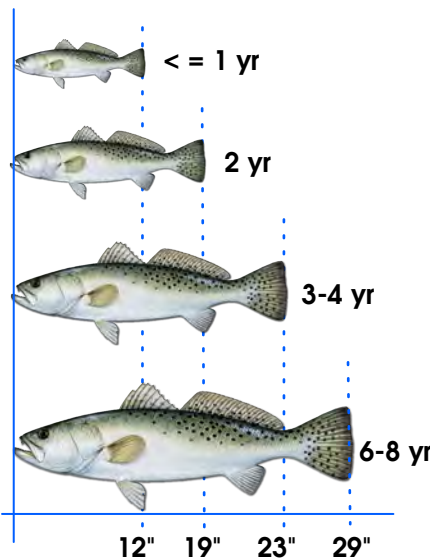
Speckled Trout Fishing With Stan Simmerman

Speckled Trout, also known as Spotted Sea Trout, are one of the favored species caught in Virginia. Many anglers will target "Specs" in early spring or fall but as Stan Simmerman explains, you can catch them year round in Hampton Roads and the Peninsula but the spring and fall migration movement of the fish make for the best time of year.

Stan has been a volunteer tagger for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) since the mid-1990's and shared he only began fishing for speckled trout a little over five years ago. In that time he's tagged over 2,000 speckled trout and has focused on the challenge targeting the bigger fish.

In his experience fishing around the tributaries of the lower bay, combined with information from his tagged releases and their recaptures, he estimates there's four different schools of speckled trout in the area. On the Eastern Shore (Oceanside) he's found those speckled trout seem to move into the James River in the October/November timeframe. Another school on the bay side of the Eastern Shore around the Hungars Creek seem to remain in those nearby tributaries all year. On the opposite side of the bay the trout seem to move toward the Rappahannock/Piankatank Rivers. The last group are those speckled trout schools that migrate up/down the coast toward North Carolina. That last group seems to move toward the inlets on the southern shore of the bay, Lynnhaven River, Little Creek, Lafayette and Elizabeth River.

As mentioned, trout fishing in the spring and fall can be great but don't underestimate the winter trout fishing opportunities. Stan shared that fishing in the colder water requires a different approach. He's fished winter speckled trout in water down to 38° and advises that in cold water the trout will not be as active. Fish will conserve energy in cold water and seldom chase down a bait as they might in the warmer months. Making your lure present as an irresistible and easy meal is key to cold water fishing. Occassionally the bite seems to turn "off", yesterday's fishing in a spot was great only to find next day the fish won't feed. Stan shared there's a number of factors that can explain this. First, larger trout don't feed like the smaller fish. Speckled trout are a very fast growing fish. Younger fish are generally 12 inches or larger after the first year, they are voracious feeders competing with other fish in the school. As speckled trout grow in size their feeding behavior changes.



Larger trout may not need to feed as often and in cold water, when they're looking to conserve energy, they may only eat every 2-3 days. Speckled trout are effective ambush feeders. Their color and spotted camouflage make it easy for them to hide around grass or oyster beds for a bait fish to swim by. Two factors influencing feeding behavior are the moon phase and weather. Many anglers will use applications that convey the Major/Minor feed times for your area. Major/Minor feed times relate to the positioning of the moon and the sun and their position in relation to the earth. It boils down to the gravitation pull, if the sun and moon are directly opposite from the earth the pull is greatest. These cycles occur twice each day for about 3 hours for each feed time. Fish and animals can sense this and it triggers feeding behavior. Another factor is weather, fish can sense falling barometric pressure as a low pressure front (bad weather) approaches. Fishing can sometimes be better as a low pressure front



approaches. Factoring in the weather, lunar cycles, and time of year may seem a bit much but understanding them and how they influence fishing in your area will improve your fishing. Stan stressed not to forget these are fish and they don't always follow lunar cycles, weather patterns, and other factors. Don't be concerned about lining up too many details, just get out and fish!

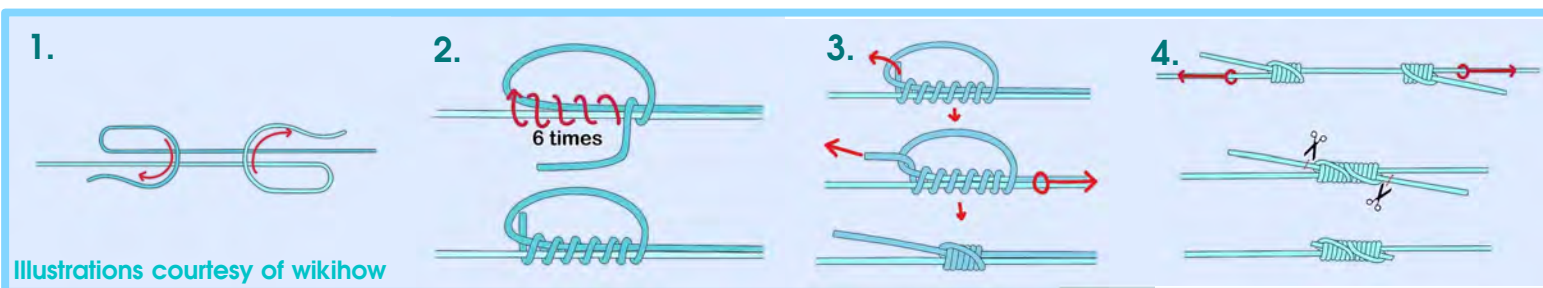
Time of day also plays a role in finding the fish. Stan explained fishing early in the morning and late in the afternoon in the shallow waters is a good strategy. As the sun rises however, a speckled trout in shallow water (2-3ft) easily becomes prey for predatory birds like Eagles and Osprey. Try fishing water a bit deeper where the trout can remain hidden from the fish hawks.

Every angler has their favorite rod and reel combination and what works for one angler may not feel right for another. Stan likes using the Fenwick HMG rods for their good reel seat that doesn't work loose. For casting sinking and suspending hard baits he'll select a 7 ft Medium-Light/Fast Action rod. When throwing topwater lures he desires a slightly shorter and a bit stiffer rod like a 6 ft 6 inch Medium/Fast Action rod.



His line choice is Diamond Braided line - 15 lb test. He advises that going with a lighter line class can result in wind knots and you may spend more time working on them than fishing. Braided lines come in lots of colors, white, green, blue, orange, camouflage, etc. Blue is also his color choice for visibility.

Tied to the braided mainline is a short fluorocarbon leader about 12-18 inches in length. Long leaders aren't desired or needed. The braid to fluoro leader is tied with a Double Uni or Unit-to-Uni knot. The Uni-to-Uni knot is a very strong and durable knot for joining two lines of different size/material. It's easy to tie by looping the line over the other (Step 1), wrap the line through the loop and over both lines (Step 2), moisten the line and pull it snug (Step 3), repeating the process on the other side before pulling both Uni knots together (Step 4). The final step is to trim off the remaining ends. The Uni knot is small enough to follow through the rod guides without affecting your casting.



Illustrations courtesy of wikihow

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Attaching the leader to the lure is simple using the Tactical Angler Micro Power Fishing Clips (photo right). These are small, strong, stainless steel clips that provide quick lure changes if desired.

When it comes to fishing for speckled trout, Stan prefers using artificial lures. Mirrolure, Yo Zuri, Paul Brown, and Heddon produce a wide variety of hard and soft lures. Every angler needs a selection of sinking, suspending, topwater lures to fish different conditions and locations.

Sinking lures, like Mirrolure's 52MR, are designed to sink to a depth around 8 ft and includes three sets of treble hooks while their suspending 27MR and 17MR line of twitchbaits have double treble hooks and a suspending depth of 2 ft. Yo Zuri produces their line of 3D Inshore Twitchbaits (lower right) that have a suspending depth between 2-3 ft. Suspending lures slowly sink down to their designed depth and are worked with a small twitch of the rod. They dart from side to side and remain suspended between action.

Mirrolure's Series III Catch 5 lure (lower left) is a unique wide-body profile 12-18" suspending lure with a large holographic body flash. While Mirrolure lures annotated with a "R", as in 27MR or 17MR, incorporate a rattle, the Catch 5 series includes a low frequency sonic rattle for additional vibration and attraction.

Topwater lures including Mirrolure's new *Duke Dog* and Heddon's *One Knocker Spook* lure are good lures to try when the water temperature is 60° or higher. Stan recommends giving them a try over grass beds in the shallow water where sinking or suspending lures will snag on the grass. Often called the "walk the dog" method, topwater lures remain on the surface and when twitched by the rod tip move from side to side mimicking an injured baitfish trying to swim.

Every angler has their favorite color combination. Stan recommends the color combinations and lures pictured here. The 808, Electric Chicken and Mardis Gras are favorite Mirrolure colors. The Gold Black and Mullet for Yo Zuri's 3D Inshore Twitchbaits and the Heddon Bone and Mirrolure Emerald Bay for the topwater lures have worked very well for Stan.



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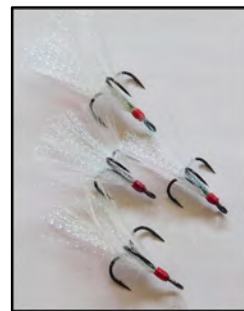
Fishing Tips....

When it comes to artificial soft lures, Stan prefers the traditional Paul Brown Corky and the new Devil Soft Bait (MirrOlure) (photo right) and the Broken Back Corky (Steve's Lures) (not pictured). Stan shared MirrOlure's Devil Soft Bait was developed in Texas for "redfish" (puppy drum). It's got a single treble hook and a rat tail which adds additional action when twitched. Stan recommends using this lure to help locate speckled trout. It's got enough body and at 5/8 oz has great casting distance.

Stan shared that no matter the type or style of lure an angler chooses he recommends anglers give consideration to their reel drag settings. Ideally he recommends a 2-3 pound drag for fishing speckled trout, with 3 pounds being the norm. It may take an angler longer to retrieve a fish but in his experience there will be fewer fish lost during the retrieve. The important point is to keep slack out of your line and don't provide a hard hookset. The MirrOlure hooks are extremely sharp and need little help making the hookset, he added.



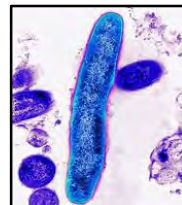
Every angler has lures that require a bit of TLC, rusted or broken hooks, split rings needing replacement, wanting to install dressed hooks, etc. Stan recommends picking up a pair of the small Bass Pro split ring pier (pictured left) to make handling split rings easier.



Proper handling and release of speckled trout can go a long way to preserving our fishery. Stan shared, simple things like minimizing the fight, handling with wet hands, and expeditiously releasing the fish back into the water are important to prevent over-stressing the fish. Take care when dehooking the fish, he recommends having a pair of long forceps to quickly and safely remove the hook. While pliers work well for lip hooked fish, sometimes the hook is positioned such that pliers are too large to use without causing injury to the fish.

Another point to remember for YOUR safety is to prevent fish borne disease and treat any cuts, scrapes, or hook injuries properly and quickly. Fish Handlers Disease is no joke! Wearing a light rubber glove when handling fish is one of the best preventive measures to avoid cuts, scrapes, and punctures while minimizing contact with fish or

waterborne bacteria. Mycobacterium ssp. is a bacteria sometimes found on Chesapeake Bay rockfish. Vibrio parahaemolyticus, Vibrio vulnificus, and Vibrio alginolyticus are bacteria that can exist in the warmer waters over the summer. Entering through cuts or punctures these bacteria can develop into serious infections. Treat all wounds with antibacterial soap or other disinfecting treatments. Seek prompt medical treatment and inform your medical professional if an infection or other symptoms develop.



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Fishing Reports...

21 MAR: I decided to make the trip up to Ed Allen's Campground (Lexana, VA) and try out the freshwater fishing for two days. The weather was cool and windy both days I was up there. The first day was spent exploring around and stopping to fish a few areas. I was able to catch a couple of small Black Crappie in the north end of Lake Chickahominy. While pulling out the skiff on the first day I met Art Conway, a local lake guide, and we talked about where I was and how I was fishing. He gave me some advice for the next day when Henry Troutner was going to join me.

Henry met me at the ramp and together we set off to explore the creeks. We set up in shallow water in the creeks (Art's advice the day before) and Henry quickly brought in the first crappie over some lily pads with a minnow. Later on I hooked into another crappie but quickly lost it. Not long afterwards I hooked up with a chain pickerel and got it alongside the skiff before the ultra light mono cut through. Henry had a good look at it and commented "That was a really nice pickerel!"

Things I learned fishing Lake Chickahominy;

1. It's shallow, really shallow in spots, like scary shallow.
2. Lots of lily pads and hydrilla.
3. Stake poles are better than a trolling motor in the shallows (less stirred up sediment). I didn't bring my poles.
4. Don't have to wash salt off the boat or trailer when you're done for the day.
5. I'm coming back later this spring to do this again.

- Will Bransom



5 MAR: After such a successful Shad trip in the past week, John Curry, Mary, and I returned to the Nottoway hoping to get some Shad to freeze for bait. The previous 24 hours of heavy rain and 100% cloud cover apparently slowed the run down. The water was high, moving fast and dirty. We fished our usual spot along the main stream without even a "bump," so we moved to a small feeder stream where we did catch five.



Rigs were small spoons with a Shad Dart on a dropper loop 18 inches up the line. Color doesn't seem to matter as we all had something different on.

- Henry Troutner

3 MAR: I took advantage of the calm wind and seas to head out to the Gulf Hustlor and Salty Sea wrecks. Using frozen Blue Crab and Shrimp the Black Sea Bass up to 14 inches and Tautog up to 17 inches kept me busy until running out of bait.



Black Sea Bass before release.

I used 30-pound test mono dropper loop rigs with a 3/0 hook and four ounces of lead. The surface water temperature was 45 degrees. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



A happy Tautog tagged and returned

12 MAR: With three days since the heavy rains Mary and I hoped the Nottoway River would have receded enough to get some Shad fishing in. When we arrived at the Hercules ramp, we found the dock, which is usually 4' above the water, completely underwater. The Nottoway in this area is not tidal. We launched anyway and ran up to our usual spot. After two hours of fishing and only catching two Shad, we called it a day. Hopefully, the following week, the water will drop.

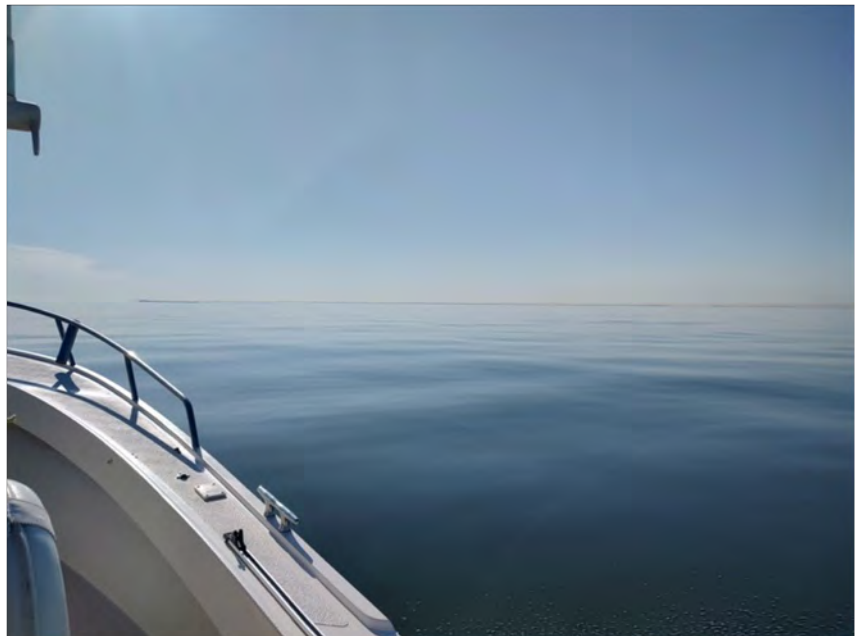
- Henry Troutner



14 MAR: With a perfect weather forecast, Mary and I hit the Chesapeake Bay in the Shamrock, hoping to catch a few Tautog. The weatherman was right for a change, and the bay was calm as a pond.

We Launched at Dandy Point and ran to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge -Tunnel (CBBT, officially the Lucius J. Kellam Jr. Bridge - Tunnel), arriving at the very start of the incoming current. We fished for a couple of hours without a bite. On the way in, we stopped for an hour at the Back River Reef, where we also didn't get a bite. Bait was some frozen Fiddlers I had from last fall.

- Henry Troutner



14 MAR: I fished the end of the ebb tide through to the flood tide at the Thimble Shoal lighthouse. I was using frozen Blue Crab and Shrimp on 1/8-ounce 2/0 circle hooks.

The bite was slow, but I managed five Tautog and up to 16.75 inches. The largest fish was actually the same fish I tagged and released 493 days earlier in the same spot. The fish was in great shape and had grown .75 inches. I cleaned off the tag, recorded the number, and released the fish once again.

On the way back to the Willoughby boat ramp, I tried the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) pilings, catching one 14.5-inch Tautog. It was great to see them back in the bay. The water surface temperature was 50 degrees.

- Alex Perez



Tautog with all smiles!



Thimble Shoal Lighthouse resident



Tautog from 2022 (top) and visiting me again in 2024 (below).

12 MAR: Lake Smith with Ronnie Willoughby State Citation Release Black Crappie: I went fishing with Ronnie in Lake Smith a few days before the VBAC Crappie tournament in my Tracker. I hadn't used my boat in almost a year and had never fished with Ronnie, so it was meant to be just a shake-down trip at best. Everything worked fine on my boat, and Ronnie was great to fish with, so I was feeling good about the tournament. It got even better when we tried a few spots looking for crappie, and I boated a 15.5-inch crappie release. My first for the year! She was black from spawning, so I, of course, let her go. We caught a couple more, but that big one was the best.



16 MAR: Ronnie Willoughby and I entered the VBAC Crappie Tournament and started catching almost as soon as we started. 12.5 inches ended up being the biggest we could produce for the entire day.

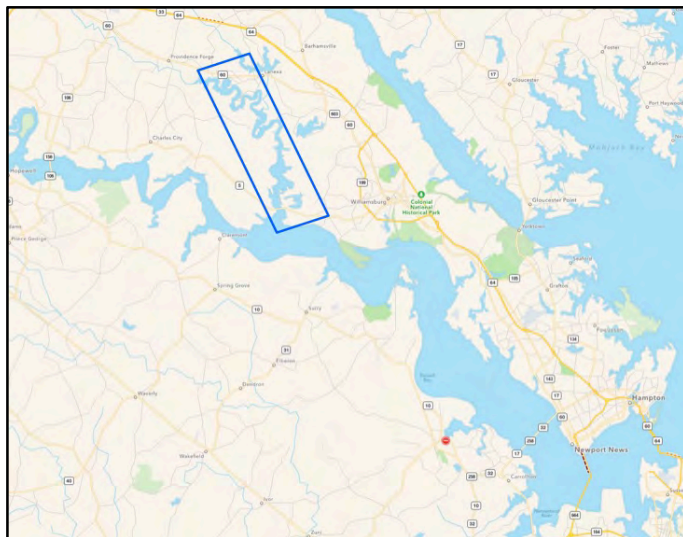
The weather was great, and we caught eight or nine, keeping six for dinner. We each caught a mud catfish, and Ronnie kept the biggest. Ronnie also caught a bass, which he released. Over all a fun tournament but too long on the water for me. Congratulations to Russell with his 15.5 inches. They were caught right where I released that one, I caught on Tuesday.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

25 MAR: I fished the Chickahominy River on a Monday with my neighbor David. We caught 15 Bass. The largest was 4.35 pounds. They are in their pre-spawn phase and will be heading to the flats to spawn this week with the warmer weather. **Good fishing, and be safe!**

- Marty Schriebl

Note: The Chickahominy is an 87-mile-long (140 km) river in eastern Virginia. The river, which serves as the eastern border of Charles City County, rises about 15 miles (24 km) northwest of Richmond and flows southeast and south to the James River. From: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chickahominy_River)

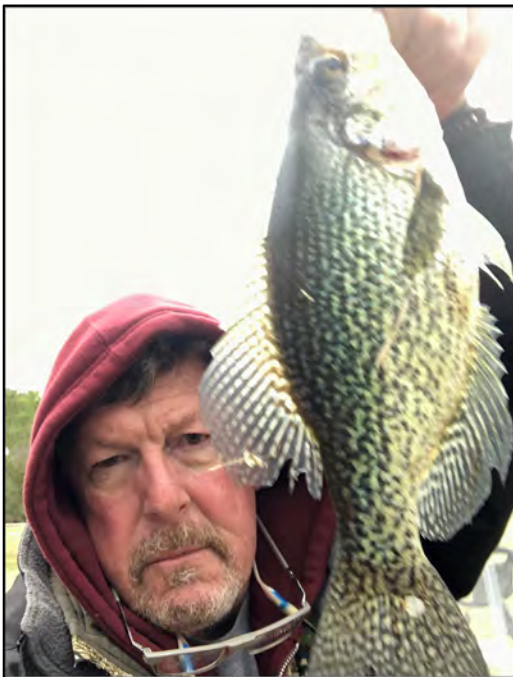


18 MAR: Mary, Marty Schriegl, and I hit the Nottoway to check on the Shad run. The water level at the Hercules ramp had dropped considerably but was still very muddy. We started on the main portion of the river. Marty caught a couple of fish, but the bite was very slow.



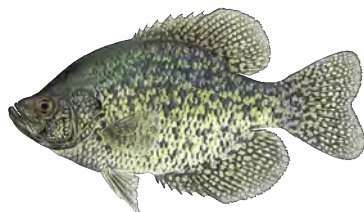
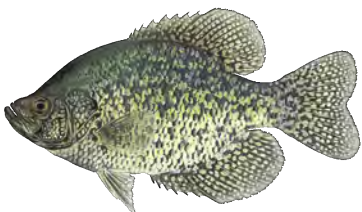
We moved into a smaller feeder stream, and the action picked up to a slow but steady catch. We ended up with over 20 Hickory Shad and Blue Back Herring. We were using Nungesser spoons with a Shad Dart 18 inches up. Color didn't matter silver, gold, or green spoons with red/white, green, and yellow darts. Cast out and just a steady medium retrieve.

- Henry Troutner



MAR: Fly fishing around Back Bay and Capps Creek area around Knotts Island. When the wind wasn't blowing too much in March fly fishing with a Clouser and Retriever lures worked out well! Fish On!

- William Seemueller



Angler Interests

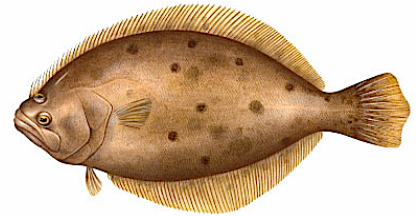
Black Sea Bass Regular Season before the Commission



Scheduled for the April 23rd Marine Resources Commission meeting is a discussion and approval of the 2024 Regular Black Sea Bass Season. The February 2024 Special Sea Bass Season harvested 24,179 lbs which must be counted against the regular season, including a Federal 10% reduction in recreational harvest. The recommended season from the VMRC Finfish Advisory Committee is a 13.0 inch minimum size, possession limit of 15 Sea Bass per person/per day and a season length of May 15 - July 15 and August 4 - December 31

Public Comments on this recommendation may be made to the Commission in writing, by email, or in person at the April 23rd meeting. Check the VMRC website for additional information.

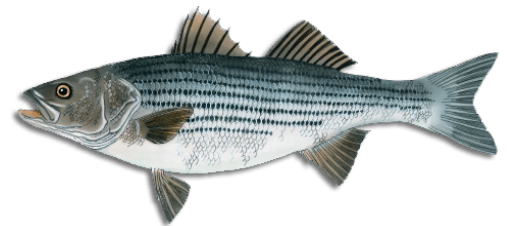
Summer Flounder Regulations for 2024-2025



26 Mar: The Marine Resources Commission at their March 26th meeting adopted the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved options for the 2024-2025 recreational management measures for summer flounder.

January 1 - May 31: 16.0 inch minimum size, 4 flounder per person/per day
June 1 - December 31: 17.5 inch minimum size, 4 flounder per person/per day

Striped Bass Recreational Regulations



On Tuesday, March 26th the commission voted to make changes to the recreational and commercial striped bass fisheries.

The new spring and fall recreational striped bass slot limit will be 19-24 inches, and the bag limit and seasons will remain the same as in 2023. The Virginia Potomac River tributaries season has been updated to mirror the season in the main stem of the Potomac River set by PRFC. The open season for the Potomac River tributaries summer/fall striped bass recreational fishery will be May 16 through July 6 and August 21 through December 31, the slot size limit will be 19-24 inches.

2024 Striped Bass Recreational Regulations

Coastal Season: January 1 - March 31 and May 16 - December 31

Possession Limit: 1 per person

Size: 28 -31 inches

Chesapeake Area Season (Spring): May 16 - June 15

Possession Limit: 1 per person

Size: 19-24 inches

Chesapeake Area Season (Fall): October 4 - December 31

Possession Limit: 1 per person

Size: 19-24 inches

For fish length measurement criteria and area regulations/definitions check the VMRC Regulations website

Angler Interests



DHRM Job Listings for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

MRIP (Marine Recreational Information Program) Seasonal Data Field Technician

Overview:

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is an assessment tool used by NOAA Fisheries to collect fishing effort and demographic data collected in-person by fisheries interviewers to produce recreational catch and effort estimates. Fisheries interviewers shall be required to attend all state specific training, as well as an annual 2-day training course provided by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistical Program. Training will include learning detailed procedures and protocols for the interview portion of the survey as well as the correct methods for identifying fish species and collecting biological data (length and weight). Data is collected utilizing digital tables, and experience with digital data platforms is preferred. Shifts are worked in 6-hour intervals plus travel time. Fisheries interviewers shall be responsible for recording their on-site time as well as miles traveled. These positions offer flexible work scheduling. Fisheries interviewers are considered independent contractors and will be employed through an outside agency.

The ideal candidate will have knowledge and /or experience of recreational fishing as well as local water ways. Candidates with science, fisheries, or angling backgrounds that are interested in entry-level field work are strongly encouraged to apply. This position is ideal for those looking to gain fisheries science and management experience at an entry level.

Qualifications and Specifications:

- Age minimum: 18
- Valid Driver's license
- Access to a personal vehicle
- Willing to travel a reasonable distance within coastal Virginia (including the Eastern Shore)
- Willing to work weekdays, weekends, and some holidays as needed in variable weather conditions
- Candidate **MUST** be comfortable approaching and speaking with the public
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel
- MUST** be comfortable handling dead fish
- Be able to work independently

Hourly Wage: \$16.50 p/h (site time + administrative tasks), \$0.67 per mile traveled

How to Apply:

Fill out Fisheries Interviewer Interest Form <https://mrc.virginia.gov/hr/2024-03-MRIP-Interest-Form.pdf> and submit to:

Joseph Grist, Deputy Chief, Fisheries Management Division
380 Fenwick Road, Building, 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651
Joseph.Grist@mrc.virginia.gov



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