# THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

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**UGUST 2018** 

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# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

The Military Appreciation Day (MAD) Tidewater chapter is sponsoring their 6th Annual MAD event on August 25th at Willoughby Harbor Marina. Check out their info in this *Wireline* edition and support those who serve our Nation with a day of fishing.

Don't forget, the Norfolk Anglers Club never stops collecting nonperishable food and other items for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Bring along something to donate at the next meeting for those who could you your help.

Thanks to all the Norfolk Anglers Club members who came out to the City of Norfolk Nighthawks fishing events at the East Ocean View Community Center.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is having their council meeting in Va Beach this month. Meetings are open to the public and you're encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to observe how the federal fisheries process works.

- Will



Guest Speaker: Don Schnare, Oceans East Bait & Tackle, Shore & Boat Flounder Fishing

Fishing Hampton Roads since 1985, Don's an avid angler and Virginia Saltwater Master Angler. While Don fishes many species,



his specialty is Flounder. We're very fortunate to have Don joining us on Monday August 13th

to share his expertise fishing Flounder from shore and boats.



Important: Date of next meeting - Monday, August 13th at 7pm

Location: <u>Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill</u> 7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

### Publishers NOTES

Editor: Wendy Bransom wbranfildes@gmail.com

## NAC OFFICERS

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### Club Calendar

### <u>August</u>

Monday, August 13th: East Ocean View Community Center Childrens Headboat Fishing Trip

Monday, August 13th: Club Meeting

Monday-Thursday, August 13-16th: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Meeting (Va Beach)

Saturday, August 25th: Military Appreciation Day (MAD)

APPRECIATIONO

Tuesday, August 28th: VMRC Commission Meeting in Newport News

### August 25, 2018 - Willoughby Harbor Marina

TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Consider giving back to those who serve our Nation with one simple, THANKS! Your giving back can be taking our Military out for a day of fishing, supporting the event at Willoughby Harbor Marina, to contributing to MAD Tidewater. Visit the Military Appreciation Day website at militaryappreciationday.org or visit the MAD Tidewater Chapter's facebook page for more information at Military Appreciation Day, Inc. - Tidewater Chapter



### Captain Ben Shepherd, Cobia Fishing

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Sight casting is the most popular method of targeting cobia along the Virginia coast and Chesapeake Bay. With cobia migrating up the coast in late spring along the oceanfront and in the Bay during the summer months before migrating south in the later season, anglers have an incredible opportunity to target these fish over large areas and habitates.

Sight casting basics; You'll need a good pair of polarizing sunglasses and a hat. Don't forget about sunscreen and protective clothing. The best conditions for sight casting are bright, sunny, and clear days. While great for cobia fishing, they also bring the full intensity of the sun on you.

Capt Shepherd likes using Costa sunglasses with the silver/amber mirrored glass lens. The polarizing lens

will work to cut the glare, avoid eye strain and help to see the fish below the surface. Watching the cobia advance and attack the bait or lure is critical to sight casting.

Cobia are known for a good fight and your spinning rod/reel combo needs to have the strength to beat a large fish. Capt Shepherd advises to go with a well-made spinning reel and a quality rod to match. He shared the lesser quality spinning reels may not have the bearings and gears to hold up to a powerful fish or last much longer than a single season. Capt Shepherd preferes a 6'9" & 7'2" medium-heavy to heavy rod with fast action, like the Shimano Tallus Blue Water Spinning Rods (TLS69MHBBL and TLS72HBBL).

Rigging for sight casting involves using a braided mainline with either a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader. Capt Shepherd likes using the Albright Knot for the braid to leader connection. He prefers using an 80# monofilament leader when the water clarity isn't that good, like early season, and will shift to a 60# fluorocarbon leader later in the season when the water clarity conditions improve. Leader length is kept short, as few as 12 inches but can be up to 24 inches. As Capt Shepherd explained, you don't want too long a leader for casting, if it's too long the albright knot might foul the rod tip and interfere with accuracy and distance while casting. Keep the knot out of the rod eyelets and the leader short for best results.

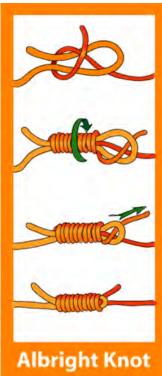
Plan to land the jig head in front of the fish and work it hard. A fast and hard action on the jig will draw the cobia toward the commotion and entice a strike. Capt Shepherd added that sometimes you can have a perfectly placed cast with all the right action on the jig and they just won't take it. Don't be discouraged, pitch a different bait or lure, if still nothing reset and go after the next fish.

Boat handling is an important factor when cobia fishing. Try not to alter the motor rpm or make abrupt course changes. You want slow and fluid motion when maneuvering the boat when stalking cobia. It's not hard to spook the cobia with boat and motor noise. When they do they'll dive down and swim away. Sometimes they'll come right back up, so be ready and look for them away from the boat.





Fishing Tips...





# Norfolk Anglers Club

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# Fishing Tips...

Sight casting on cobia can be either tossing an artificial or live bait. For artificial lures Capt Shepherd likes using Bowed Up Lures. They come in many colors and styles with strong hooks that can hold a cobia during a long fight. The 2 ounce jig is his standard jig weight but will, when the water is clear, use up to a 3 ounce jig. He explained the 2 oz jig works very well during the early season when the water is not as clear and long casts aren't required. Later in the season when the water clears

up, the 3oz jig comes into play along with a lighter weight fluorocarbon leader (60#). Cleaner/clearer water allows you to see the jig further away and the heavier jig head increases your cast distance.

Jig head colors vary as well. When menhaden are in abundance Capt Shepherd likes casting the brown or blue Bowed Up lure. The green w/red combination works most other times. The pink or orange colors also work very well. Cobia will be drawn to the initial splash of the lure, the color contrast, and the action you put on the jig as you work it.

Casting live bait (eels, spot, and croaker) is another tactic you should have ready if the cobia aren't interested in a jig. For rigging spot and croaker an 8/0 Gamakatsu J-hook is inserted up from under the jaw and out the fish's



nostril. Capt Shepherd isn't too concerned with the J-hook gut hooking the cobia. He recommended keeping your eye on the bait and the cobia and set the hook once it's ingested. For rigging eels, he'll switch to an 8/0 Gamakatsu Circle-hook inserted up from under the jaw and out an eye socket. He added that while J-hooks work fine for eels, the circle hook works best. You may not always be able to see the cobia take the eel and time your hookset. That's where the circle hook works best as it finds its own hook set in the fish's mouth.

Handling eels can be tricky. Capt Shepherd recommends NOT using a towel to get a grip on them. Instead he uses a bait net and once he's got them rigged he'll put them in the water to calm them down. Using a towel can remove the natural slime and you'll want the eel to be a natural presentation as possible. To keep them at the ready, especially when you're casting from a tower, he places the live bait in a bucket on deck.



To keep your line/leader from blowing around and possibly tangling before you're ready Capt Shepherd recommends using a small piece of ballyhoo wire to keep the line under control. He attaches a piece of ballyhoo wire around the bucket handle and simply bends the wire over to hold the live bait line. The ballyhoo wire is just strong enough to keep your line from being blown around and lightweight enough to give way when you retrieve the bait from the bucket to cast.

For locating cobia it helps to know a bit about their behavior. Over the winter months cobia can

be found off southern Florida. In the spring they begin a migration north and can be found as early as April in our waters. Look for early season cobia off the beach south of Rudee Inlet and Sandbridge as they make their way north. From late spring through the summer months look for them around the Chesapeake channel, York Spit Channel, Fisherman's Island, Nautilus Shoals and up the bay toward Plantation Light and the Rappahannock Shoal Channel. Look to the natural ledges, bottom contours, and channels. Later in the season the cobia will begin to exit the bay after spawning The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and areas at the mouth of the bay are good places to target them.







14 July: We were able to get out on a Saturday. We started out looking for Flounder and Cobia. The water was very dirty and grass made trolling very challenging at times. We began the trip at the Highrise jigging for Flounder with no luck. We decided to troll on the way to our next spot working South along the CBBT with 2 #1 planers and small Clark spoons. We were able to catch about a dozen Spanish Mackerel and one Bluefish throughout the day. We continued down to the First Island since there was less boat traffic and Jon was able to hook up with a nice keeper Flounder using his bucktail jig setup. All in all we had a great day on the water. - EJ O'Brien



3 July: Louis and I went fishing with Bert south of the 3rd Island and around the 2nd Island tube for Flounder. We had light winds and the current was slow all day. The toad bite wasn't as good (fortunately), but the Flounder bite was a little better. We caught 9 keepers between 17 to 23 inches and a half dozen throwbacks. We took no live bait out with us so all the fish were caught on 2 or 3 oz. jigs. Jig head color didn't matter, Louis caught Flounder on a black jig and I caught using a red head. Pictures can be misleading (Louis is not giving the finger but yes he is showing why flounders are called flatties.) - Ned Smith



July 9: I chartered FINAO Sportfishing with friends Mark and Ron. We had a great day and released numerous Cobia. Captain Austin allowed us to cast to and hook our own fish adding to the enjoyment. We were able to again catch our limit of sizable fish, - Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



7 July: I made a quick run in Lynnhaven before the storms came. I tagged two Black Drum and kept a Red for dinner. - James Robinson







14 July: My daughter and I fished on my boat and trolled for Mackerel along the Sandbridge oceanfront. We caught a few Spanish Mackerel! - Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



22 July: Aiden Wentworth and Emma Schubert reeling them in at Sandbridge! - Paul Wentworth



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2 July: Nick Wright and I went Flounder fishing with Bert Sainz around the 3rd/4th Islands (CBBT). When we arrived north of the 4th the current was slowly going out, the wind was SE 5 - 8 mph and the air was HOT. We jigged with gulps and cut bait and bottom fished with live spot. We had no takers on bottom fishing with spot but the jigging produced over 40 toads (most were huge) with an occasional Flounder mixed in. We continued catching toads and a few Flounder south of the 3rd Island as the tide was coming in. Also surprisingly, we picked up 3 nice Triggerfish while jigging near the bottom with 7/0 hooks (Triggers have very small mouths). By the end of the trip our shoulders and arms were shot. We took home 6 Flounder, ranging from 17 to 21 1/2 inches and 3 Triggers and threw back 6 small Flounder. - Ned Smith

1 July: I fished with Taylor, Jeremy and his nephew and Kevin and his son Austin. We ended up with 11 keeper Flounder with the largest 24". Most were caught jigging a 2 oz. Bucktail with cut bait along the pilings. It's was a long day but it was rewarding. - Louis Glaser



26 July: Russell and I went fishing in the Lake Prince starting at 7:00 am and looking for Shellcrackers primarily but hoping in the morning for Bass on shiners. We didn't catch a thing in the morning but small Shellcrackers. So we went out to the end of the lake and worked eastward looking for places and depths that we thought should hold some Shellcrackers. We worked the whole lake but could only find small ones until Russell hooked a big fish on his ultra light rod. It pulled line and worked itself all around the boat for an exciting 15-20 minutes until we could see it was a Catfish. Russell really had to finesse this cat as it pulled drag if you tried to pressure it to the surface or towards the net. It weighed out at 8 lbs on my scale. Great catch. Then nothing happened until we worked our way back down the lake until we settle into our favorite cove. This cove has produced my citations and VBAC roulette winner sunfishes in 2016 so we covered it thoroughly. This cove did not disappoint me. I hooked up with a 1 lb 5 oz Shellcracker at exactly 4:00 pm. While she gave me a tough fight it was not exceptional and quickly netted. This catch is consistent with all of our catches in previous years. We caught it after 3:00 pm on red wigglers, very fresh and in 10 - 15 feet. Overall I thought it was a great day, comfortable for most of the day but slow catching Shellcrackers. Ocean's East verified my scale of 1.5 lb for this shellcracker Virginia Citation with VDGIF.



· James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



20 July: The Drum are still biting in the inlet. We are tagging the blacks and eating the reds!

- Jimmy Robinson







2 July: I fished with Rudy Levassuer and Frank Slevin aboard FINAO Sportfishing. Conditions were ideal and we

released numerous Cobia as well as keeping our limit of sizable fish up to 50 pounds! - Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



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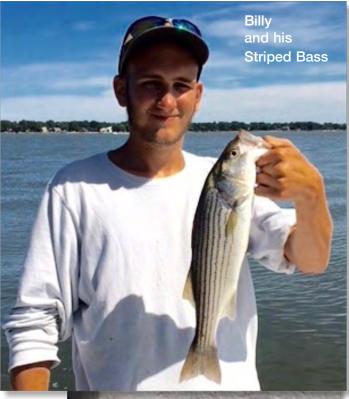
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9 July: Danny Moore, Billy Hamilton, and I fished the Lafayette River on an incoming tide from 12:00 - 5:00 PM. We started with me catching live Peanut Bunker with the cast net and heading over to the Hampton Blvd bridge. Danny immediately catches a Ribbonfish on a white Gulp grub with a 1/4 ounce jig head. The action never really took off but while using the live bunker. Billy managed an 18 inch Striped Bass (released) and Danny caught two Flounder back to back with both measuring 12.5 inches each. Both Flounder were tagged and released. - Alex Perez





10 July: I was able to get out of work early enough to enjoy the rest of a beautiful afternoon. I arrived at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) at 4:30 PM with the ebb tide winding down. Looking for Cobia, I immediately saw a mid 30 inch fish behind the Second Island. It wasn't interested in what I had to offer. On my way to the Third Island I spotted three more juvenile fish that were also not interested or in a position for me to argue with. The incoming tide began to pick up and once in the Baltimore Channel, I caught a glimpse of a small group of large Red Drum. Casting an orange 2 ounce bucktail I was able to catch and release a 43 inch Drum. While netting the Fish, I noticed a smaller Cobia following the Drum. The Red was tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and released. - Alex Perez



3 July: I went fishing with Russell out in his 19 foot Mako out to the CBBT 3rd Island looking for Atlantic Spadefish (the official name for this species). We launched from Crab Creek and went out in the ebb tide with a ripping current and east wind which kept our stern pointed at the spine the whole time. We set up a clam chum to attract them and had our rigs set up with bobbers with sea clam on the hooks. We weren't there at the spine of the tunnel for more than 5 minutes and we had our bobbers go down for small ones with edible ones mixed in. We probably caught over 20 and settled for 6 keepers to eat, but big or small *they were a blast to catch and it wore our arms out.* The biggest was around 5 lbs. We fished for 3 hours and came in exhausted. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



13 July: I tagged 4 of these guys and lost five more in structure.

All were 20"- 24". I kept 2 Reds and a small Flounder for the table. It was fast action for my buddy Al and I. Amazing how hard these blacks fight.

- Jimmy Robinson







July 2018: Flounder fishing has been good as well as nice Triggerfish at some wrecks from north to south. Some good wrecks that produced really well have been: Birch Lake, Doxie Girl, Triangles, Powell, Tiger Wreck, 4A Floating

Drydock and the Cape Henry Wrecks. Blueline Tilefish have been good close to the Norfolk Canyon.

- Brandon Cook









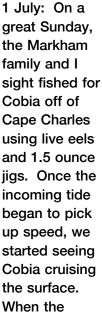


14 July: I finally had a decent Flounder catch. I made a long run on a Saturday to the First Island. It has been a long time since my little Mako has been that far from home!

- Jimmy Robinson









32 inch tagged and released healthy.

opportunity to cast to them presented itself, most of the fish would not cooperate. We easily saw 15 - 18 fish of all sizes but most were acting very finicky and/or skittish. We did end up tagging and releasing a 32 inch and 35 inch Cobia. It was great to at least see all these fish.

- Alex Perez



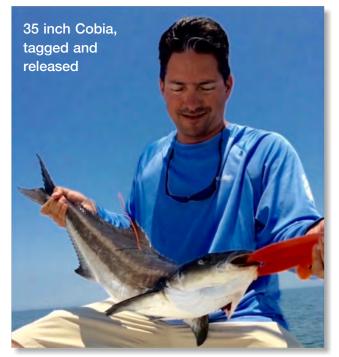
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2 July: On a Monday I had a last minute cancellation which had me fishing alone out of Lynnhaven Inlet on a beautiful and calm morning. I still had a couple of live eels left from Sunday so I decided Four Spadefish that I invited to dinner



to run to the Baltimore Channel in search of Cobia. The tide was almost slack so I decided to stop and fish for Spadefish first at a set of pilings that I was able to see the fish swarming around. Using a 1/32 ounce jig and Chowder Clams, I caught a total of seven Spadefish up to 16 inches. I kept four, tagged and released the rest. Once the incoming tide began to pick up speed, I continued to the Baltimore Channel in search for Cobia. After about an hour I was able to catch, tag, and release a

35 inch Cobia. I ended up seeing three other fish that were not interested in what I had to offer. The wind switched to the SE and picked up speed which signaled me to head in. - Alex Perez





This summer is the third season of the Norfolk Nighthawks, a free recreation program that provides a safe space and enrichment opportunities for young people 18+ held each Friday and Saturday night, 9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m., during the summer. This year's season expanded from three to five locations in Norfolk, one of which was the East Ocean View (EOV) Community Center, which hosted a new night fishing program for participants. Laura Knip, Norfolk Park Ranger, organized the fishing on the EOV Pier. Norfolk Anglers Club Members assisted these folks on several nights. Some of the participants had never fished before. Fishing did not go so well being so late at night however the whole idea was to get folks off the streets. It would have been better fising around sundown, but everyone a great time! The horseshoe-shaped pier extends 134 feet into the water and water depths around the pier vary up to 14 feet. The Norfolk EOV Pier is also known as the Bill Harbert Ocean View Fishing Pier. Many thanks goes to NAC Members



who helped out: Michelin and Ned Smith, Paul Harris and Will Bransom. The City of Norfolk is trying to get funds to do this event in August. If they succeed, we'll let everyone know!













29 July: We had some tough conditions with our Sunday morning starting off with some pouring rain. I decided to go out for a half day and see what we could do in the overcast conditions. We managed to catch multiple Cobias and a quick limit of Spadefish.





10 July: I fished offshore east of the Cigar and we hooked 7 Mahi and were able to get four into the boat.

29 July: I fished the Tiger and 4A Wrecks. We caught a lot of undersized Sea Bass. There were schools of Triggerfish on the 4A.



20 July: A weekday trip was supposed to be a half day trip. That changed once we realized we couldn't stop catching fish!

We caught double digit Cobia and our limit at our first spot. We were supposed to call it a day around 2:30 -3:00 pm. On the way back there were so many fish up, we couldn't stop hooking up all the way home! We finally hit the dock at 5:30 pm. We ended the day with the biggest being 58 inches (released).

### Installing a High Water Bilge Alarm

I thought it a good idea to republish this Wireline article from 2016. I've recently seen a number of boats submerged at the slip and wonder with all the people coming and going at marinas. How could this happen? Of course, I know the answer, no-one notices the boat getting lower and lower in the water until it's too late to react.

Investing in a Bilge High Water Alarm that will alert by-standers well before water takes over the boat is far less expensive, in time and money, than dealing with a salvage operation. Even if your insurance coverage is adequate, the hassle of dealing with a submerged boat is awful.

While that doesn't happen often to a trailer boat or dry stored boats, it's more common with boats kept in the water, they are at the highest risk. Main reasons might be dead batteries, heavy rain and a leaking drain/hatch cover or leaking fitting below the waterline. Bilge pumps can generally keep up with a small leak as long as they have power (batteries) or don't malfunction. I've heard from a number of boaters that they rely on shore power to keep their batteries charged, as if shore power never fails or gets turned off.

It's a far better option to get an early warning call that your boat's high water alarm is going off and needs attention instead of a call that "Your boat sunk!". For around \$65 you can get a Bilge

High Water Alarm system that comes with a switch panel, an obnoxious alarm, and water level sensor. Directions are pretty straight forward if you're handy with tools. The one I purchased was the Johnson Bilge Alert by Johnson Pumps (photo right) but there are many options to select for your boat's configuration.

I selected a location for the sensor in the aft bilge area about 8 inches off the bottom. The sensor isn't a float switch but instead is a micro-electrical sensor that will detect fluids and complete a circuit (alarm). The alarm puts out an annoying 100 decibles and I installed it under the gunwale with a note as to what it is. I placed the switch in one of the un-used accessory switches at the helm. The switch has three positions; armed, off, and momentary test.



The only task remaining was to run wiring and make all the connections. Because I decided to separate the components, I had to make wire runs from the aft bilge to the helm switch. It also required that I have a dedicated power (+) directly from the batteries. You want your high water alarm to function similarly to a bilge pump, i.e. always connected directly to the batteries.



Place the Alarm where it can be heard outside.

Mount the water level sensor above the bilge pump to alert you the pump might not be keeping up.



Install the switch where it can be seen and regularly be tested.



- Will Bransom



Norfolk Anglers Club



#### 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.

#### VMRC Mobile App: http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/mobile/

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Need to renew your Fisherman's Identification Program registration? How about check up on the latest recreational fishing regulations? Want to look up the gps position of the artificial reef you're heading to?

It's easy to do with the Virginia Marine Resource Commission's latest update to their Mobile App. Other things you can connect to are VMRC Contact Info; to report boating accidents, emergencies, and report violations, and the Virginia Saltwater Journal; to record your trip, catch, or make required recreational landing reports.

#### Virginia Marine Resource Commission Meeting: Tuesday August 28th



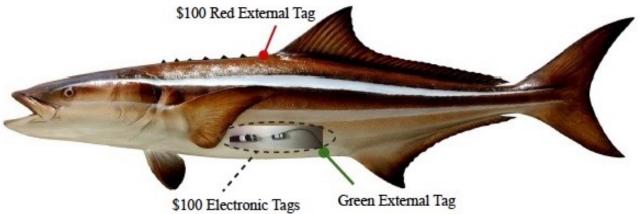
VMRC monthly Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday August 28th at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Avenue, 4th floor, Newport News. The Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing to address the total length measurement and descriptions in all of their regulations and establish a uniform definition and process for measuring fish. 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

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting: August 13-16th in Virginia Beach



August 13-16th the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will be holding their council meeting at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront (3001 Atlantic Ave, Va Beach). Meetings are open to the public. The full agenda and how to provide public comment is available at http://www.mafmc.org/.

# COBIA TAG REWA



Inside abdomen

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Researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and North Carolina State University are tagging cobia with surgically implanted electronic tags: acoustic transmitters and data loggers. The transmitters allow the fish to be detected by receivers that are located all along the East Coast. However, the data logger needs to be returned in order to download the data. You must follow all applicable state and federal fishing regulations. Not all fish have all tags. Thank you for returning tags.

#### If you have any questions about the project or would like to learn more, please contact:

Kevin Weng Email: kevinweng@vims.edu Phone: (804) 684 - 7372

Dan Crear Email: dcrear@vims.edu Phone: (804) 684 - 7819

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