

**THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB**

# **WIRELINE**

**AUGUST 2023**

## **What's Inside**

**Guest Speaker:** Wayne Bradby and Craig Brashears, Kayak Fishing and Rigging

**Fishing Tips:** Aaron Maurer, Savage 3 Tackle Company, Drifting Fishing for Flounder

### **Fishing Reports;**

- Inshore and Cape Henry: Flounder, Spanish Mackerel, Cobia
- CBBT: Flounder, Black Sea Bass, Grey Triggerfish, Tautog, Bluefish
- James River/MMBT: Flounder, Shark, Black Sea Bass
- Chesapeake Light Tower area: Flounder, Grey Triggerfish, Black Sea Bass, Spadefish, Spanish Mackerel
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Croaker, Black Sea Bass
- Chuckatuck River: Puppy Drum
- Lafayette River: Puppy Drum
- Offshore/Virginia: Yellowfin Tuna, Sailfish, Black Belly Rosefish, Blueline Tile

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Welcome to our new Norfolk Anglers Club members: Kim Humpries & Family (Mathew Sott and Shayler Scott). We're very happy to have you with us and look forward to fishing with you.

This month we have the East Ocean View Children's Headboat fishing trip and lunch served at their Community Center. Many thanks to our volunteers who are helping make this a memorable event for the kids. Thanks to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Board for helping sponsor the event.

We have only two more Children's Surf Fishing events for the summer planned. One this Thursday (August 3rd) and a second on August 17th. We have a few volunteers for the 3rd but really need a few for the 17th. It's from 8:30 am to noon. So, if you can spare a few hours let us know by sending and email to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com).



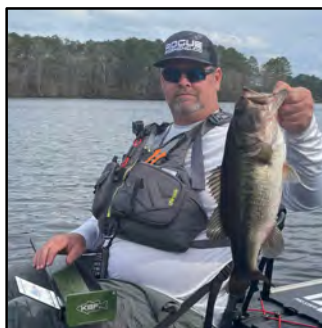
*Will*  
Congratulations!: Captain Alex Perez was selected as the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Freeman Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2022.



## Meeting

Guest Speaker: Wayne Bradby and Craig Brashears

With over 25 years of kayak fishing experience, (and a lifetime of actual fishing experience), Wayne Bradby and Craig Brashears will provide a wide range of information regarding fishing from a kayak. They'll cover a variety of subjects including kayak selection, gear, rigging, and safety.



## Important:

### August 21, 2023

## NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

## Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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## Club Calendar

### AUGUST

Thurs, Aug 3rd: National Fish & Wildlife Service  
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge

Mon, Aug 7th: Ocean View Community Center Children's  
Fishing Trip

Thurs, Aug 17th: National Fish & Wildlife Service  
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back  
Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Mon, Aug 21st: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,  
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Tues, Aug 22nd: Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA



Earlier this year, we told you about the RecFish app being developed by Dr. Lisa Kellogg and colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Its goal is to encourage recreational anglers to collect and contribute catch data to help improve fisheries science. Once it's fully developed, the user-friendly, free app will also tell anglers the species and length of their catch and whether it is legal to keep and safe to eat.

Dr. Kellogg says that, with the help of photos you submitted, the computer model can now identify 60 fish species with 95% accuracy and another 20 species are in the works. That represents thousands of submitted pictures!

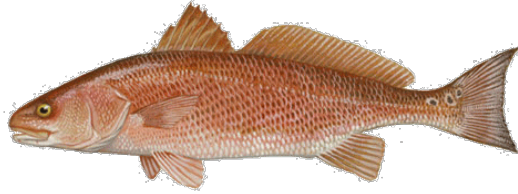
You can help by going to [www.recfish.org](http://www.recfish.org) and uploading your fish photos. RecFish especially needs photos of:

- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

Phase 2 of app development is almost complete, and, when it is, you will be able to use the app to upload your fish photos directly from your phone. Until then, keep those pictures coming at [www.recfish.org](http://www.recfish.org)!



# Club Members Tournament for 2023



## Redfish "Spots" Tournament

### Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- 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](mailto: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, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- 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](mailto: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 to 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

"AJ" Perez, the Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (OTTD)







## Speckled Trout Club Members ~~Tournament~~ May 1st - November 30th



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$5 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$100 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$50 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at [www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com](http://www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com)) and submitted by email to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)

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### Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 31 July 2023

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)
White Perch	Marty Schriebl (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)
Spadefish	Henry Troutner (2) Mary Troutner (1) John Curry (2)
Sailfish	Jere Humpgrey (1)
Grey Triggerfish	Henry Troutner (1) Alex Perez (1)
Tautog	Alex Perez (1)

***For the 2023 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be submitted to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)



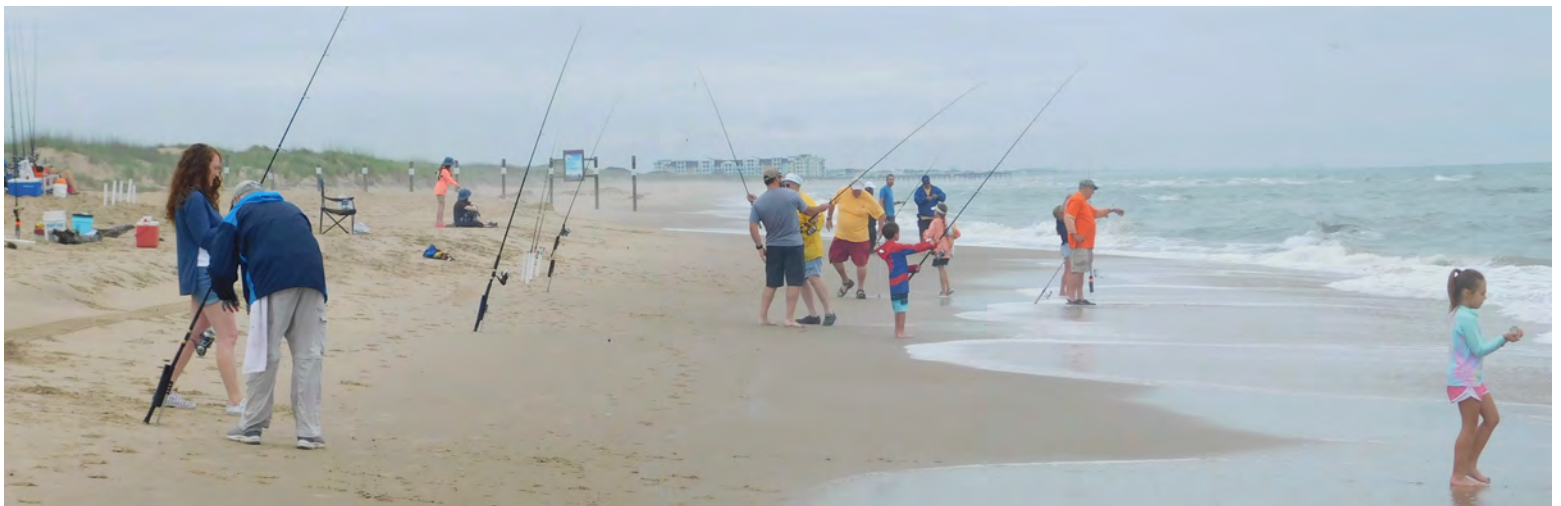
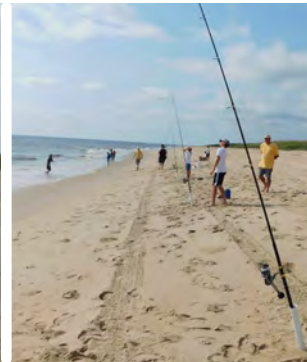
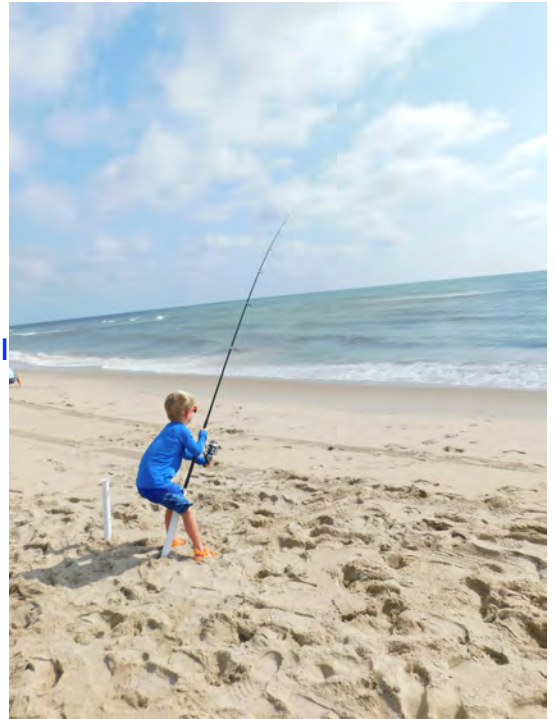
## Summer Kids Surf Fishing Event Volunteers Needed

During the summer the US Fish & Wildlife Service hosts a kid's surf fishing event at the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. USF&W provides all the fishing equipment and bait necessary. We're looking for volunteers to help the kids with baiting rigs, casting, and handling the fish. [If you can volunteer for either of the two remaining event send an email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com.](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com) The dates are:

Thursdays; August 3rd and August 17th (Volunteers needed)

### To Register Children to fish

Kids ages 7-15 can participate in this activity, with a reservation. Spaces are limited so please call (757)301-7329 ext. 3106 to secure your spot. Parents are required to remain with children during this program.





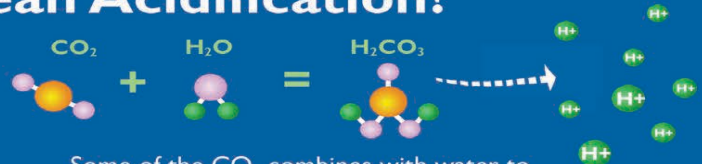
# Ocean Acidification and Coastal Fisheries

## A Look into the Future

Over the past 200 years, our ocean waters have become 30% more acidic. This rate of change is 10 times faster than during the past 50 million years.

## What is Ocean Acidification?

The ocean helps regulate Earth's climate, absorbing 30% of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released when we drive our cars and power our homes. Beneath the surface, CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with water to form an acid, a process called Ocean Acidification (OA).

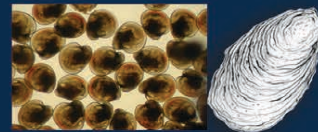


Some of the CO<sub>2</sub> combines with water to form carbonic acid. Excess hydrogen ions make the ocean more acidic.

## How does Acidification impact our local finfish and shellfish?



**Oysters and Hard Clams** need minerals from the ocean to build strong, healthy shells. In more acidic waters, the minerals become scarce. Weaker shells are less resistant to predation and disease. Larval shells are smaller and more irregular under high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions.



**Sharks** Acidic waters can corrode the denticles in some species of sharks, making their skin more prone to infection and changing how they swim through the water.



### Summer Flounder

Fewer eggs survive to hatching in more acidic waters (high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions).



### Atlantic Silversides

An important baitfish in the Mid-Atlantic, their larval stages grow more slowly in more acidic waters (high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions).



## OUTLOOK

Ocean Acidification, in combination with warming ocean waters and more frequent low oxygen conditions can impact the growth, reproduction, and survival of our local fish and shellfish. Together, these changing ocean conditions will likely make our local fish more vulnerable to acidification in the future.

## What can You do to help?

- Talk about it! Teach your friends and family about acidification and how they can help.
- Get involved in a local water quality monitoring program or habitat restoration project.
- Use less fertilizer on your lawn to reduce nutrient runoff that can lead to acidification.
- Save Electricity: Switch to LED light bulbs or Energy Star appliances.



Scan here to learn more about OA, or visit [MidAcan.org](http://MidAcan.org)

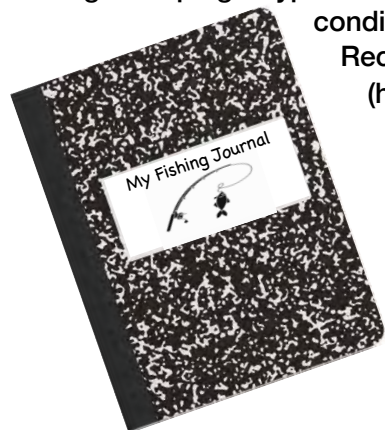




## Slow Drift Flounder Fishing

Aaron Maurer, The Savage 3 Tackle Company

One of the first things Aaron will talk about is the benefit of keeping notes about your fishing. Keeping a type of *Fishing Journal* over a number of years can help identify how conditions have changed and what tactics might be best for a situation.



Recording the weather (temperature, winds, pressure) from local reports and tide conditions (high or low tide and how the water is moving during the tidal action) will help influence decisions on *where to fish*. Keeping notes about the types of lures that worked (and didn't work) and how they're presented will help you determine *how to fish*. Aaron shared from his journal some of the tips and techniques he's acquired over the years fishing for flounder in our area.

First, flounder are very much an ambush feeder but that doesn't mean they won't swim and stalk a bait at times. Flounder, like most ambush feeders, want to expend as little energy as possible for the most reward (food).

Second, for the most part, flounder will lie motionless on the bottom, partially buried in sand looking up for bait fish that swim by. Aaron recommends presenting your bait in the strike zone typical for flounder and that's about 3 feet off the bottom. He prefers not putting bait directly on the bottom. Whether it's with a jig head or a lead sinker rig, he'll slowly bring the rig up into the 3ft strike zone before lowering it. He noted that long leader lengths aren't necessary and, in fact, will work against you. He prefers short leader lengths of about 18-24 inches for the Vertical Drift Rig (below right) and even shorter for the Hi/Lo Rig. With long leaders when you raise the rod the bait at the end of a long leader really doesn't move. Shorter leaders will be easier to raise your lure/bait into the strike zone.

Aaron slow drifts flounder with two primary rigs; a Vertical Rig or a Hi-Lo Drift Rig. The vertical rig is a standard dropper style rig tied with the Savage 3 Flounder Rig w/rattle spin. Meant to be fished as vertical as possible an angler will slow jig the rig up and down as they drift over structure. Sinker weight depends on the current & drift

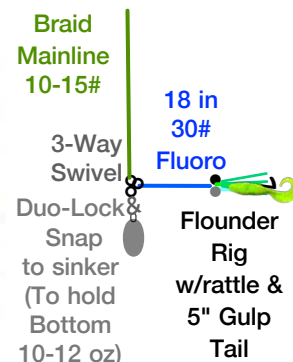
but remain vertical and close to the bottom. The sinker is attached with a Duo-Lock snap to the 3-way. The angler needs to raise and lower the rig to clear structure and to keep the lure in the strike zone. Add a 5 inch Gulp tail or strip bait creates an irresistible target for the flounder.



Flounder Rig w/rattle spin  
Savage 3 Tackle Company



### Vertical Drift Rig



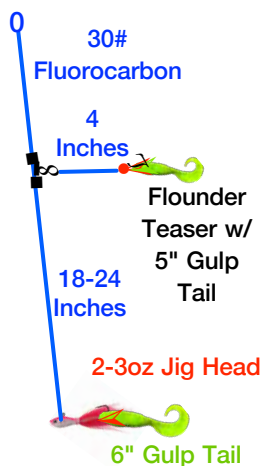


# Norfolk Anglers Club

[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

## Fishing Tips...

### Slow Drift Hi-Lo Rig



The Hi-Lo rig is a dual lure setup with a 2-3 ounce jig head doubling as the sinker weight. With the drop to the sinker range 18-24 inches and tied with 30# fluorocarbon, the angler only needs to raise and lower the rig about 3 feet off the bottom. This brings both lures into the strike zone of the flounder. The jig head is rigged with a 6 inch Gulp tail and the upper Flounder Teaser with a 5 inch Gulp tail on a short 4 inch leader.

The prime season for catching flounder in our area is May through August with July usually being the best month. Aaron will target flounder early (May/June) in water 8-20ft and in July/August in deeper water (40-60ft). Look for them around any structure. Flounder like to lay in wait for bait fish to get swept by the current around structure or contours on the bottom.

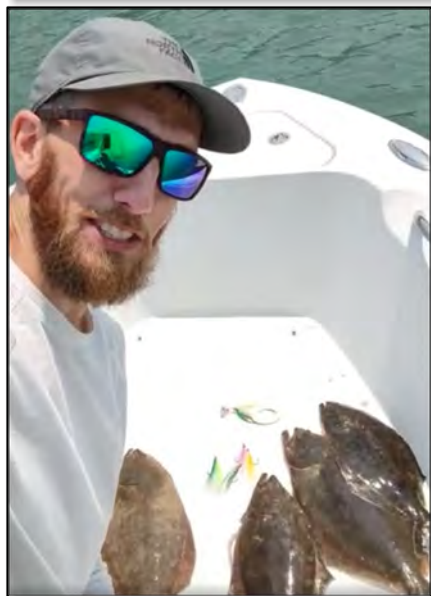
Drifting around wrecks and rocky bottom structure like you find around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) take practice and planning. Aaron recommends taking a bit of time once you arrive at a location to understand your drift

speed and direction. When drifting for flounder you want a drift speed between .5-1.5 knots with .8-1.1 kts being the perfect condition. Drifting faster doesn't give your lure much time in an area and requires far more effort to keep it from hanging in the structure. Use the boat's motors to slow your drift if wind and current are too much. Find the right combination of drift speed and sinker weight to keep your rig presentation as vertical as possible.

Color selection of your lures matters too. Aaron prefers using darker lure colors in murky or dark water and brighter colors in clearer water. His choice of Gulp tail colors are white, pink, and salmon/orange. He also likes using the larger 5-6 inch Gulp curly tails.

Rod and reel selection is an angler's choice. Aaron's preference for flounder fishing is a 7' to 7'6" heavy rod with a fast tip. The term "Heavy" refers to the rod's strength or backbone. Heavier rods can more easily accommodate larger sinker sizes. The "Fast Tip" refers to the flexibility of the rod tip and a fast tip provides more feel for the bite. Select reels in the

400 (conventional) or 4000 series for spinning reels. Braided mainline works best for strength and feel for the bite. Heavier braids aren't required, Aaron uses braid in the 15 pound line class for less resistance in the water and to prevent scoping out the line. Rigs are tied with 30# Fluoro leader.



Find us on:  
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**Savage 3 Tackle Company**



# Fishing Reports...

July: Kraken Charters

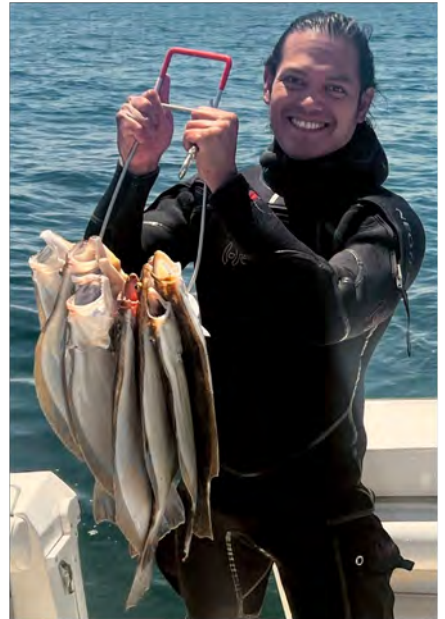
Inshore: Fishing for Spanish has been hit or miss as of late. It was on fire earlier in July. We are getting good size Spanish but small schools. Cape Henry has been the most productive. We got some good flounder off the 4th island, mostly keepers and a few shorts. Saw several cobia north of the 15th Street Pier and was able to get one to eat this past weekend. It was just short at 38 inches.

Nearshore: I fished the Powell yesterday, and there were quality flounder there and got a quick five-man limit.

Spade fishing was great earlier in the month but has since slowed, and the small ones have moved inshore off the 4th island.

Captain Tom Jerome  
NAUI and TDI Instructor  
757-354-4606

<http://krakenchartersva.com>





24 JUN: Bill Hamilton and Danny Moore joined me fishing the Norfolk shorelines of the Elizabeth River. Fishing the beginning of the incoming tide, we threw 1/8-3/4-ounce jig head/grub combinations to catch small croaker and short Flounder. Red Drum made their presence known an hour into the tide as we had three on simultaneously.

We caught a few more for the next 30 minutes. Three within the slot size (18-26 inches) were taken home by Bill and Danny. The rest were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP)

- Alex Perez



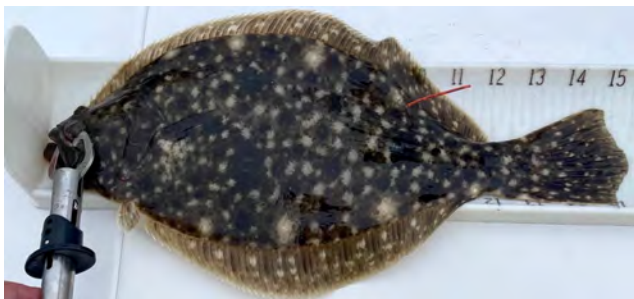
Matching pair of Red Drum



Bill, ready for his Drum release



Another Drum



Small Summer Flounder was tagged and released.

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5 JUL: Went to the James River looking for drum at the Monitor Merrimac. I caught a keeper flounder on a minnow. I tried for puppy drum by casting to the shoreline on Candy Island but only one strike. *It was a beautiful day.*  
- John Curry



25 JUL: Took George and Troy out for Puppy Drum at the mouth of the Chuckatuck. They each caught one over 22 inches. We were casting crab and minnows to the shoreline. One fish on each bait. It was a beautiful day on the water.

- John Curry



9 JUL: Hoosier Cruiser left Rudee Inlet at 3:00 am with Mike Brown, Mike Burton, Jere Humphrey, and Mike Davis. We arrived at the Norfolk Canyon, north wall, and were trolling at 5:50 am. After a relatively uneventful early morning with several knockdowns but no fish, we nailed a 40-pound (plus) yellowfin and later a catch and release sailfish.

With the trolling bearing no more fish, we shifted to bottom fishing for golden tilefish. We caught none but did load up on a good number of rose fish before heading back to Rudee Inlet. Despite a thunderstorm making life interesting as we approached Virginia Beach waterfront, it was a good day on the water!

- Mike Davis





4 JUL: I fished the Elizabeth River around the Norfolk International Terminals. Using quartered Blue Crab, I caught small Black Sea Bass with an occasional 28-33.5-inch Red Drum mixed in.

A Red Drum,  
tagged and  
released



Two smiles before  
the release




Most of the action was in the early morning before the day heated up and the incoming tide went slack. All fish were tagged and released for the VGFTP.

- Alex Perez

**SEA TOW.**

# BUILT TO RESPOND

- Priority service for members
- Offshore coverage
- Unlimited towing with no distance or dollar limits in your home area
- 100% coverage to repair facility on every boat owned

 **Are you a member?**

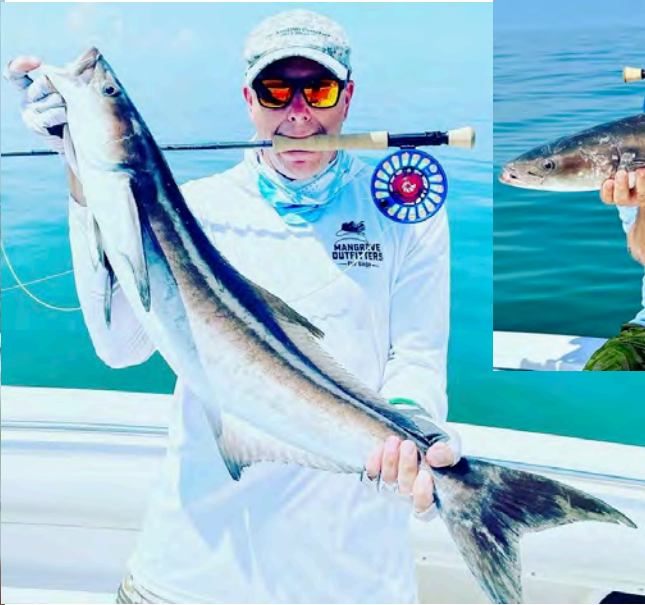
**Sea Tow Hampton Roads**  
757-496-1999 \ seatow.com

**Join today and save \$20**  
Promo Code FCD. Offer expires: 6/1/2024.



6-7 JUL: I fished with Captain Wayne McMasters of Tidewater on the fly along with long-time friend Montana. Our first day was slow, and although we saw some cobia, none were hooked. I did land a big red drum on a jig by the 2nd island.

The next day we had perfect fly fishing conditions and ended up landing four cobia on fly tackle and another four on spinning tackle, including one 43-inch fish that came home with us.



On the 8th, we set out with club members Mike Hubert, Mike B, and President Will Bransom to the Washington Canyon hoping to find the tuna bite.

After a few disappointing hours of trolling, we tried a couple of wrecks with only a couple of small fish to show for it and ran back home on smooth seas.

- Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.

18 JUL: *It was Mary's birthday*, and being the romantic I am, I took her fishing. We launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point and ran to the 4th island. We started on the ocean side by the bridge, where Mary immediately caught a 33 1/2 Red. After that, we were inundated with small Sea Bass, a few small Bluefish, and a Trigger. We moved to the tunnel, and fishing picked up. We caught four tautogs (one keeper), a 5.5-pound, Sheepshead, numerous small Sea Bass, and of course, Toads. We were fishing the incoming tide, and the bite was most substantial for about an hour before slack. We used cut bait; Squid, Shrimp, Bluefish, and live Fiddlers. I'm sure everyone has an opinion, and as far as I'm concerned, fiddlers are the best all-around bait for bottom fishing structures. Fortunately, I can catch my own. - Henry Troutner





7 JUL: With a beautiful day forecasted, Mary, John Curry, George Langdon, and I launched the Shamrock at Owl Creek for a day of nearshore fishing. We started at the Santore Wreck, where we caught several short Sea Bass, Tog, Triggers, and a Flounder.



We even released a legal tautog, not realizing they had returned in season. The whole time we were over the wreck, we were surrounded by big Spadefish that would not bite.

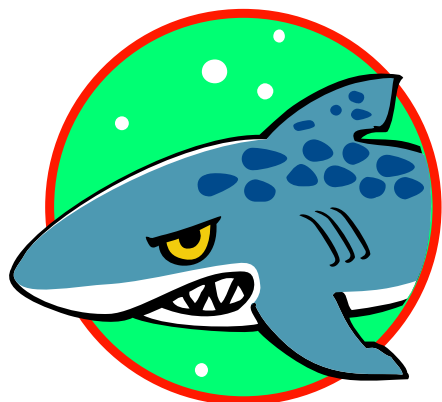
We could drop a clam bait right into the school and watch as maybe one would make a half-hearted peck at it and then swim off. Guess they weren't feeding; frustrating. Then we moved to the Tower Reef to drift for Flounder and Sea Bass. In addition to shorts, we boxed two legal Flounder and three

Sea Bass. The trip's highlight was coming across Norfolk Anglers Club President Will Branson fishing the Tower Reef.



10 JUL: Mary and I fished with John Curry at the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel (MMMBT) and their islands.

Not much biting; we caught a few tiny Sea Bass. The trip's highlight was Mary hooking a fish that pulled some drag, and we had visions of a Puppy Drum but, AHH, a Shark.



- Henry Troutner





12 JUL: Marty Schriebl invited Mary and me for some nearshore fishing. We left Lynnhaven Inlet in Marty's 25 foot Trophy, planning the first stop at the Cape Henry Wreck. Unfortunately, once we got anchored, the current ran so hard you couldn't hit bottom with 16 ounces. The next stop was the Santore.

We had steady action there from various fish; Houndfish, small Sea Bass, Triggers (including a 4.5-pound State citation), Spades, and Toads. Once again, the boat was surrounded by large schools of Spades that were not interested in feeding. Marty did catch one, and Mary lost a nice one, but otherwise, they just put on a show swimming around all day. We ended the day with a few short drifts at the Tower Reef, where Marty caught a short flounder. We fished Squid and Clams, but Fiddlers produced most of the fish.



July 15 - The family was getting the urge for crabs, so Mary, Kevin Parker, and I took the skiff to the Chuckatuck to try our luck. We had a good morning, keeping 30 nice crabs. When fishing the Chuckatuck, it's hard to get away without catching a Ray, but it was a shocker when Kevin pulled one up in



the crab trap. Thanks to the spring run of Shad on the Nottoway, we had plenty of bait.

- Henry Troutner



24 JUL: I joined a makeup charter on the Fishin frenzy from Oregon inlet North Carolina and fished through some serious squalls in 6-7 ft seas but returned to the dock with a nice Wahoo and a good catch of blackfin tuna.



A few of them ended up as table fare as poke and homemade tuna and wahoo sushi!

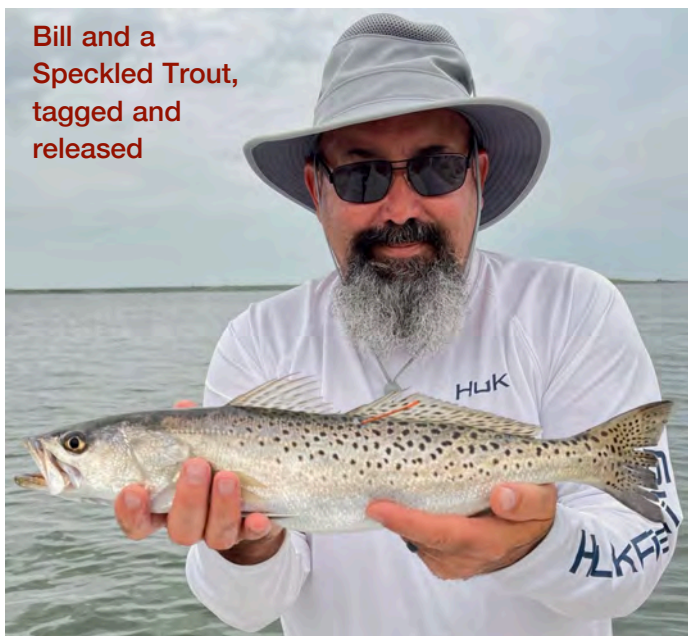
Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.





22 JUL: We fished the end of the outgoing tide in the Elizabeth River near the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT). There was little to no action until the tide went slack, and we began catching Croaker on our curly-tail jigs. As soon as the incoming tide began to pick up speed, a wave of Red Drum pushed through, with Bill and Danny simultaneously hooking up on two fish. They were both using Z-Man Scented Curly Tailz on 3/8-ounce jig heads.

We quickly netted both fish and casted out again, but this time catching three Speckled Trout. Just as quickly as the bite turned on, the action went quiet again. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP). Reminded of how random fishing can be, we fished for five hours for 20 minutes of action.



Bill and a  
Speckled Trout,  
tagged and  
released



Danny and his  
Red Drum



Bill and his  
Red Drum

- Alex Perez

7 JUL: With a nice forecast and an opportunity to finally break-in the outboard lower units I installed months earlier, I launched my Parker at Cove Marina and headed to sea. My plan was to hit a few fishing spots on the Eastern Shore that likely weren't going to be crowded. Once I got off Smith Shoals it was clear quite a few others had the same idea about the "secret fishing spots".

So instead I traveled to a number of "marks" I noted on my chartplotter but have never checked out. I had about 50% success locating fishing structure I'd not been on before. I ended up not too far from the Tower Reef so I swung over there to see what was catching and found (they found me) Henry and Mary Troutner in their Shamrock with fellow Norfolk Anglers John Curry and George Langdon. They let me know they'd left the flounder biting so I gave it a quick try and landed a 13.75" flounder, which I tagged and released for the VGFTP.



- Will Bransom

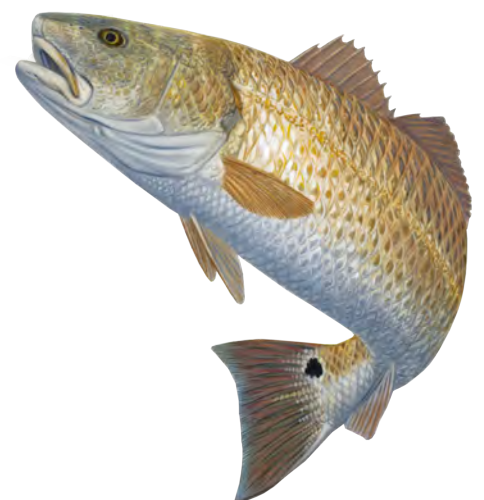




21 JUL: John Curry invited Mary and me to explore some new locations on the James River. We fished the Newport News side of the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel (MMMBT) without much luck, then tried along the bridge pilings. There we got one keeper flounder.

As we started back to John's house, we had a high tide, and the current was just beginning out, so we made a stop to fish the grass banks of the Chuckatuck. The bite was on, and we caught five Reds, one short and four between 21 inches & 22 inches. A great end to a beautiful day on the water. Drum all caught on minnows fished on a 1/8 oz. jig.

- Henry Troutner

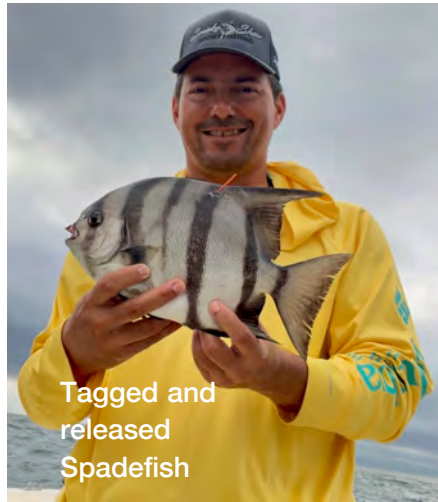




9 JUL: I fished the tower reef using clam and live blue crabs. While arriving at the reef area, I could see Spanish Mackerel jumping out of the water while chasing bait. I began trolling a #3 Drone spoon on a #2 planer and trolled a figure eight through the reef area in hopes of a large Spanish or False Albacore. After catching four 18 to 20-inch Spanish, I stopped trolling after hitting numerous Spadefish with the planer line. I switched gears to drifting with calm. The Spadefish school were holding about 20 feet under the boat, so I used a 1/4 ounce lead, 15-pound test leader to a #1 size hook. The fish weren't readily biting, and minutes would pass before finding a fish to bite. Seeing so many fish without getting them to bite was a test of your patience.



Spanish Mackerel in the suds



Tagged and released Spadefish

Before the weather started to deteriorate, I had three Spadefish up to 14 inches.

I ran inshore a few miles to the Santore and Winthrop wrecks, where the sea state was better. I anchored on each of the wrecks to catch Black Sea Bass, small Tautog, and Triggerfish using quartered Blue Crab.

- Alex Perez



A Shearwater that kept me company



Andrew Anderson has been catching 21 inch drum over by Norfolk Yacht Club. He's been using shrimp for bait.

*Well Done Andrew! That's some great catching!*



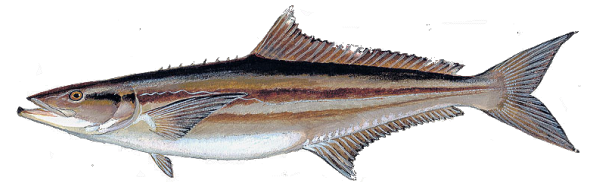


# Angler Interests

## Black Sea Bass Season Reopens August 9th!!



Black Sea Bass season will reopen on August 9th after the mid-season closure. The season will remain open through the remainder of the year (December 31st). Landing sea bass in Virginia allows for a possession limit of 15 fish per person per day and a minimum size of 13.0 inches for recreational anglers.



## VMRC Announces Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative for 2023 Season



The Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted at the February 28th Commission Meeting to replace the Recreational Cobia Mandatory Reporting Program with the Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative. This initiative has been

developed by VMRC staff to begin collecting voluntary length and age data from recreational cobia anglers to help assess the health of the stock. This initiative will take effect starting with the 2023 cobia season and taking part in this new initiative is not required to be able to recreationally fish for cobia.

VMRC is looking to collect the following length data from any recreational anglers:

- released cobia under 40 inches
- cobia over 50 inches if a 50-plus inch fish has already been harvested
- cobia caught after the daily allowed bag limit has been reached,
- cobia caught pre- and post-season.

Recreational anglers can submit cobia release length data through the Virginia Saltwater Journal (<https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/>). If you are an active fish tagger in the Virginia Gamefish Tagging Program ([https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report\\_tagged\\_fish.php](https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php)), please only submit length data through the tagging program and not through the Virginia Saltwater Journal. The length data submitted through the tagging program will be pooled together with release length data collected from the Virginia Saltwater Journal.

To properly record length data, anglers will measure cobia with the ruler stretched straight underneath the center of the fish, the fish's mouth should be closed, and the length will be measured to the tip of the pinched tail. Lengths should be recorded to the nearest possible measurement without rounding, while recognizing the goal is a live and healthy release. Release length data should be submitted through "Voluntary Recreational Reporting" in the Virginia Saltwater Journal, and we encourage everyone to submit length data by the end of the calendar year.

If you have any questions about the new initiative or how to become involved, please reach out to Joshua McGilly at 757-247-2299 or [Joshua.mcgilly@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Joshua.mcgilly@mrc.virginia.gov)



# Angler Interests



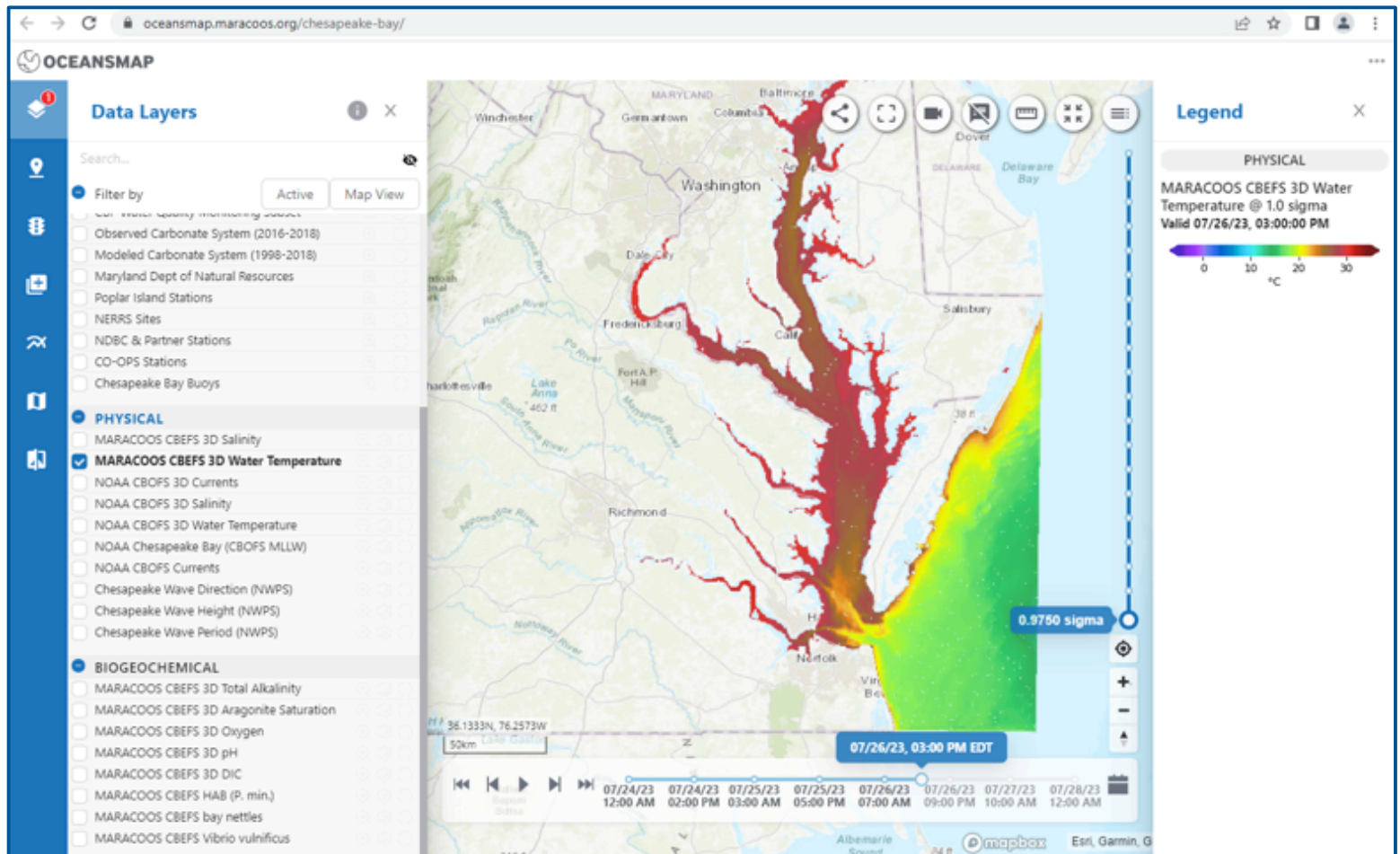
MARACOOS is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System, covering the region from Cape Cod, MA to Cape Hatteras, NC. MARACOOS is a regional association of partners that collect unique ocean and coastal data that is transformed into information products that support jobs, the economy, safety and well-being for the more than 78 million people living, visiting, and working in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Working with people who actually work in and around the ocean, coasts, bays, and rivers, MARACOOS cultivates data with purpose.

MARACOOS (Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System) is pleased to announce the launch of a major upgrade to the [Chesapeake Bay Portal OceansMap](https://oceansmap.maracoos.org/chesapeake-bay/)! not only does this upgrade improve the overall appearance and user interface, but the Portal (powered by RPS) will now provide users with new and improved analytical tools, customizable features, and a smooth, enhanced backend that provides streamlined access to data and visualizations. Highlight your favorite fishing spots and choose your most important data features using the permalink tool, assess go/no-go situations with the Traffic Light tool, or compare multiple datasets using Compare More. Check out the Chesapeake Bay Portal OceansMap

here: <https://oceansmap.maracoos.org/chesapeake-bay/>

If you have any feedback or would like to request a demo, please reach out to [info@maracoos.org](mailto:info@maracoos.org)





# Angler Interests



## CVOW Fisheries and Mariners Update

July 2023

As our offshore work on Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) continues, we remain committed to maintaining communications with fishing communities and other mariners in the area via these periodic updates as well as dock visits, informational speaking engagements and additional information posted on the CVOW website.

All mariners are encouraged to contact Dominion Energy's Fisheries Liaisons below with any specific questions about CVOW project activities in relation to fisheries.

Recent announcements include:

The UXO identification work is underway with the M/V Subsea Responder I and the M/V Subsea Responder II. These vessels utilize Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to investigate targets identified by the previously conducted survey activities and determine if they are UXO. This operation is currently ongoing in Area B, then will proceed to Area A and Area C. These vessels will not be towing any survey equipment and should not pose a hazard to any fixed gear commercial fishing operations. These operations are expected to continue into the fall of 2023 and any targets confirmed to be UXO will be shared via the USCG 5th District Local Notice to Mariners.

*Mariners transiting or fishing in the operational area are requested to provide a 0.5 nautical mile-wide clearance to survey vessels, which may be limited in their ability to maneuver. Mariners should operate in a manner that will not endanger themselves, the survey vessel or its equipment.*

Vessel details are as follows:

### Subsea Responder I



Call Sign: V7A5816  
Flag: Marshall Islands  
MMSI: 538010258  
LOA: 217 ft  
IMO: 9201645  
Beam: 54 ft

### Subsea Responder II



Call Sign: V7FV9  
Flag: Marshall Islands  
MMSI: 538006153  
LOA: 238 ft  
IMO: 9225495  
Beam: 54 ft



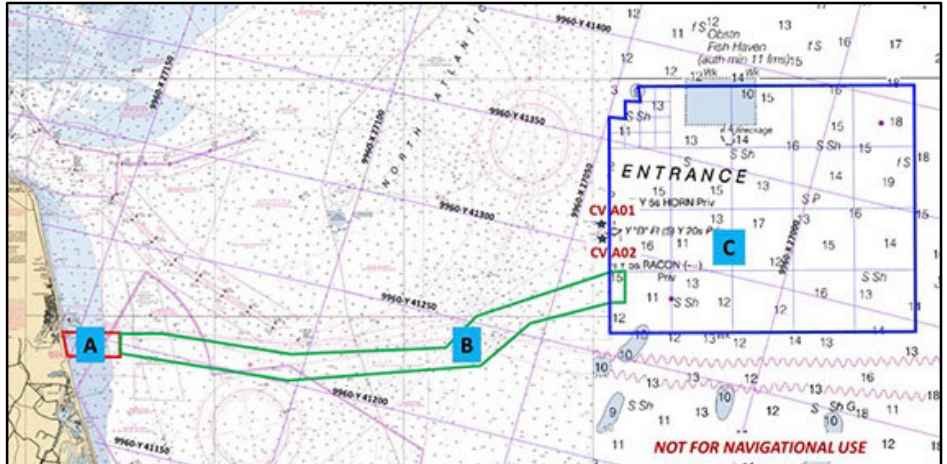
# Angler Interests

R/V Bay Eagle



Call Sign: WBR3978  
Flag: USA  
MMSI: 366749460  
LOA: 65 ft

Chart reflects UXO Identification Operational Areas (A, B & C) and CVOW Pilot Turbines (CV-A01 & CV-A02)



Please consult the USCG 5th District Local Notice to Mariners for additional information on offshore activity and, as always, please adhere to the USCG Rules of the Road for mariners.

Vessels are requested to avoid anchoring in the identified survey area and fishing vessels deploying fixed fishing gear (e.g., pots, traps, gillnets, etc.) are requested to coordinate activities with the Fisheries Liaison to avoid damage to fishing gear and/or the survey equipment.

For more information on Dominion Energy's CVOW activities, <https://coastalvawind.com/>

## CVOW and Fisheries Resource Surveys

In partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Dominion Energy is conducting resource assessment studies for Black Sea Bass, Atlantic Surfclam and Channeled Whelk in the project area.

Atlantic Surfclam: The work is now complete. Forty stations were sampled during June 2023.

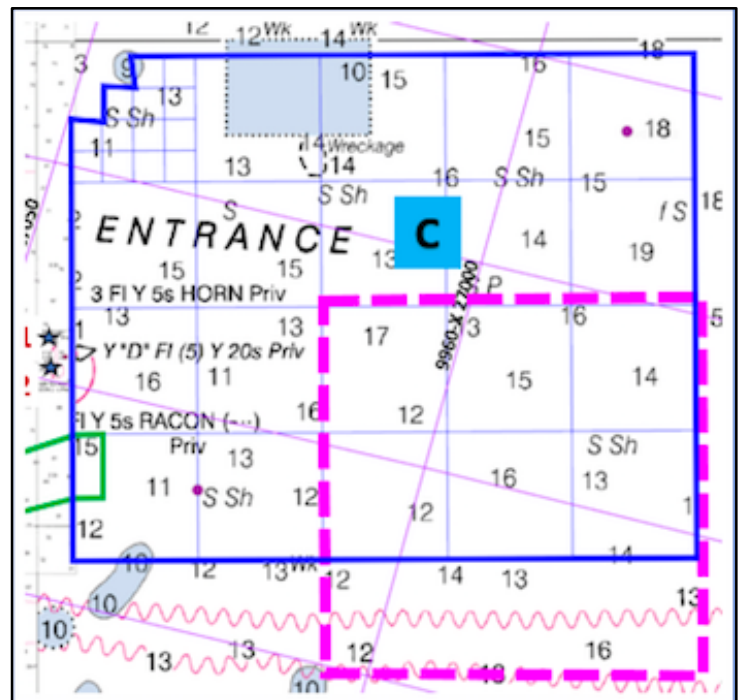
Channeled Whelk: Study design is complete and sampling gear is being acquired. This is a cooperative study that plans to utilize commercial whelk fishermen and their vessels. Fishermen interested in participating should contact the Dominion Energy Fisheries Liaison

Black Sea Bass: The study consists of 8-strings of ventless traps with 6-traps per string. Sampling once per month with a 48-hour soak utilizing acoustic release buoys to recover gear. The chart below displays sampling area, which includes locations south of the lease area. Sampling will begin July 2023 utilizing the VIMS R/V Bay Eagle.

### Contact Fisheries Liaisons

Ron Larsen (Fisheries Liaison)  
(570) 242-5023,  
[ronlarsen@searisksolutions.com](mailto:ronlarsen@searisksolutions.com)

Michael Lewis (Marine Affairs)  
[michael.b.lewis@dominionenergy.com](mailto:michael.b.lewis@dominionenergy.com)





# WANTED

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## TAUTOG

**WANTED ARE THE FILLETED WHOLE CARCASSES  
FOR THE MARINE SPORTFISH COLLECTION PROJECT**

**YOU CATCH IT AND YOU FILLET IT  
BUT INSTEAD OF THROWING THE REMAINS IN THE TRASH  
PLEASE DONATE THEM TO SCIENCE**

## REWARD

**ONE FREE PROJECT TEE SHIRT OR HAT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT  
PER MONTH OF THE DONATION**

**SEE THE MARINE SPORTFISH COLLECTION PROJECT POSTER  
FOR MORE SPECIES AND COLLECTION LOCATIONS**

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