

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

AUGUST 2025

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Rock Huber with *Big Dog Charters* on coastal Virginia fishing

Fishing Tips: Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Update

Fishing Reports;

- Inshore: Triggerfish, Spadefish, Flounder
- Offshore: Golden Tilefish, Black Belly Rosefish, Barrelfish
- CBBT: Flounder
- Lynnhaven: Spot
- Little Creek/Pretty Lake: Croaker, Spot, Pigfish, Black Sea Bass
- Elizabeth River: Red Drum, Bluefish, Croaker
- James River: Flounder, Rockfish, White Perch
- Chuckatuck/Brewers Creek: Red Drum, Croaker
- Massachusetts/Cape Cod: Rockfish

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

WOW! we've gone from a blazing HOT end of July to cooler but windy conditions in August. Seems we just can't catch a break! For those who were able to venture out or stay inland your fishing reports are much appreciated!

Last month's meeting with Chief Pat Geer we learned he was retiring from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission in August as the Chief of Fisheries Division. Pat has supported us since 2016 when he transferred in from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Pat has been a tremendous asset in protecting and improving our fisheries. He will be missed greatly and we wish him the very best!

Don't forget our Member's Fall Social is fast approaching! We're having it on Saturday, September 27th at the Izaak Walton League Park. We'll be signing up members and their families starting at the next meeting!



On The Cover: A photo provided by Rich Califf taken at Back Bay Wildlife Refuge's Children's Surf Fishing Clinic. Thanks to the Norfolk and Virginia Beach anglers who supported this event.

Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Capt Rock Huber with Big Dog Charters

We're very pleased to have Capt Rock Huber with *Big Dog Charters* joining us to discuss his Charter Operation out of Rudee Inlet and the local fishing opportunities. *Big Dog* runs a 46' Sportfisher and specializes in nearshore, inshore, and offshore trips.



Important:

August 18th, 2025 at 7:00pm

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422

NORFOLK ANGLERS



www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com

Club Calendar

August

Mon, Aug 4th; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

Thur, Aug 7th; NPS Children's Surf Fishing Clinic,
Back Bay WR

Mon, Aug 18th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Thur, Aug 21st; NPS Children's Surf Fishing Clinic,
Back Bay WR

Tue, Aug 26th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Thur, Aug 28th; VMRC Finfish Management Advisory
Committee Meeting, Ft Monroe, 5:00pm

September

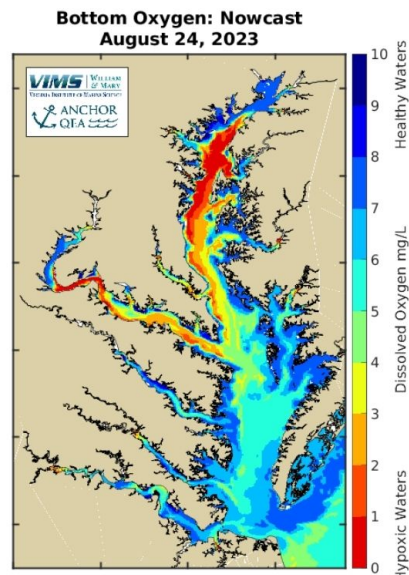
Mon, Sept 15th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Sept 23rd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Sat, Sept 27th; Club Members Fall Social, Izaak
Walton League Park, Chesapeake

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

Use our forecasts and real-time "nowcasts" of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms, waves and other environmental factors within the Chesapeake Bay to help plan your fishing! Based on observations and computer models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and partners, these tools accurately predict the current status of important environmental variables and how they are likely to change in the short-term. Check out this free resource to have a more productive day on the water!



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

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries

1 January - 31 July 2025

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (8) Bill Seemueller (1)
Largemouth Bass	Bill Seemueller (3) Mike Rheinhart (11)
Chain Pickerel	Bill Seemueller (1)
Gar	Bill Seemueller (1)
White Perch	Bill Seemueller (5)
Yellow Perch	Bill Seemueller (3)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Red Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Black Drum	Henry Troutner (1)
Sheepshead	Henry Troutner (2) Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
Wahoo	Greg Rogers (1)
Blueline Tilefish	Mike Hubert (3)
Flounder	Bert Sainz (1)
Triggerfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
Golden Tilefish	Wes Waters (1)

****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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Club Members Tournament for 2025



Redfish "Spots" Tournament Rules



- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- 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;

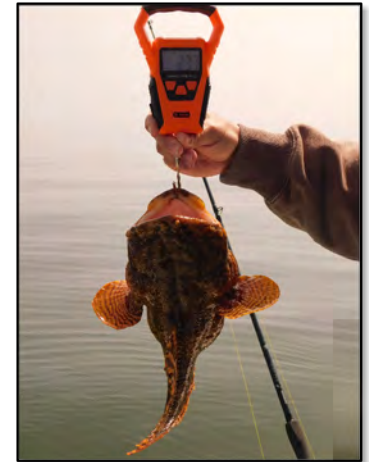
NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

- 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.

Entries to date: Alex Perez (1), Will Bransom (1)



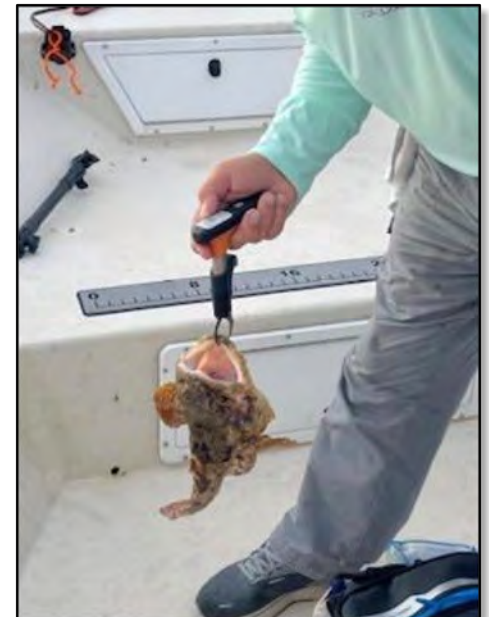
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules



- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- 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

Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr.
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)

Entries to date: None...yet!



East Ocean View Community Center Children's Fishing Trip - August 4th

Challenged by windy conditions in the Bay it was still great to take kids from the Norfolk City Recreation Program out on a Headboat fishing trip on the *Nancy Ann* followed up with lunch at the East Ocean View Community Center. Many THANKS to our Volunteers who made it possible; Greg Rogers, Wes Waters, Karen Schrader, Jere Humphrey, Steve York (VMP), Mike Rheinhardt, Dr "Ike" Eisenhower, and Joe Miller. The kids caught fish inside Lynnhaven including a shark and learned proper handling and release

techniques when fishing. This event wouldn't be possible without the support of our volunteers throughout the season and funding from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund, the Norfolk Anglers Club, and generous donations of time & material from our membership and SeaTow Hampton Roads. Our Special Thanks to the Virginia Beach Marco's Pizza restaurants who supported us with plenty of pizza for hungry kids!



Club needs a little help....

Our Club was recently gifted a number of nice light-weight rods, some with reels, most without through Oceans East from a generous donor. We could use some help getting reels on the rods, specifically Zebco 404 reels. Once we have rods/reel combinations set we're going to donate them to the East Ocean View Community Center and a local Veteran's Resident Care Center. Both of these groups have fishing facilities on site.

We need 10 Zebco 404 reels, which run less than \$15 each on Amazon. They come pre-spooled with monofilament line as well. If you'd like to donate a Zebco 404 reel, please let us know at NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Our Gear Count so far;
14 Light-weight Spinning Rods w/Reels
5 Light-weight Rods w/ Reels

10 Light-weight Rods needing reels



Got triggers?

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is recruiting conservation-minded anglers with excellent catch & release handling skills to help us take fin clips for a Grey Triggerfish genetics study.

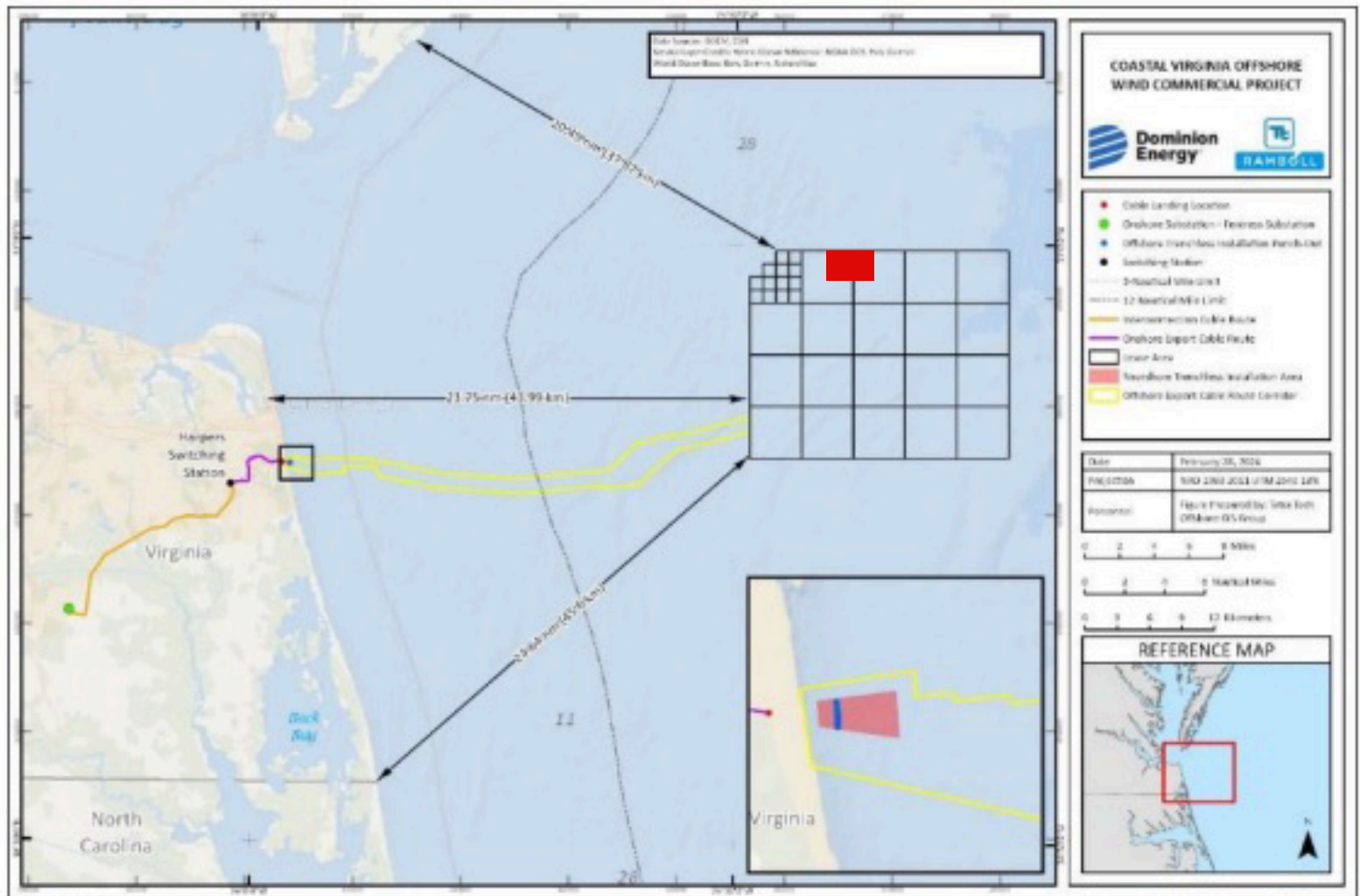
To learn more email:
susanna@vims.edu

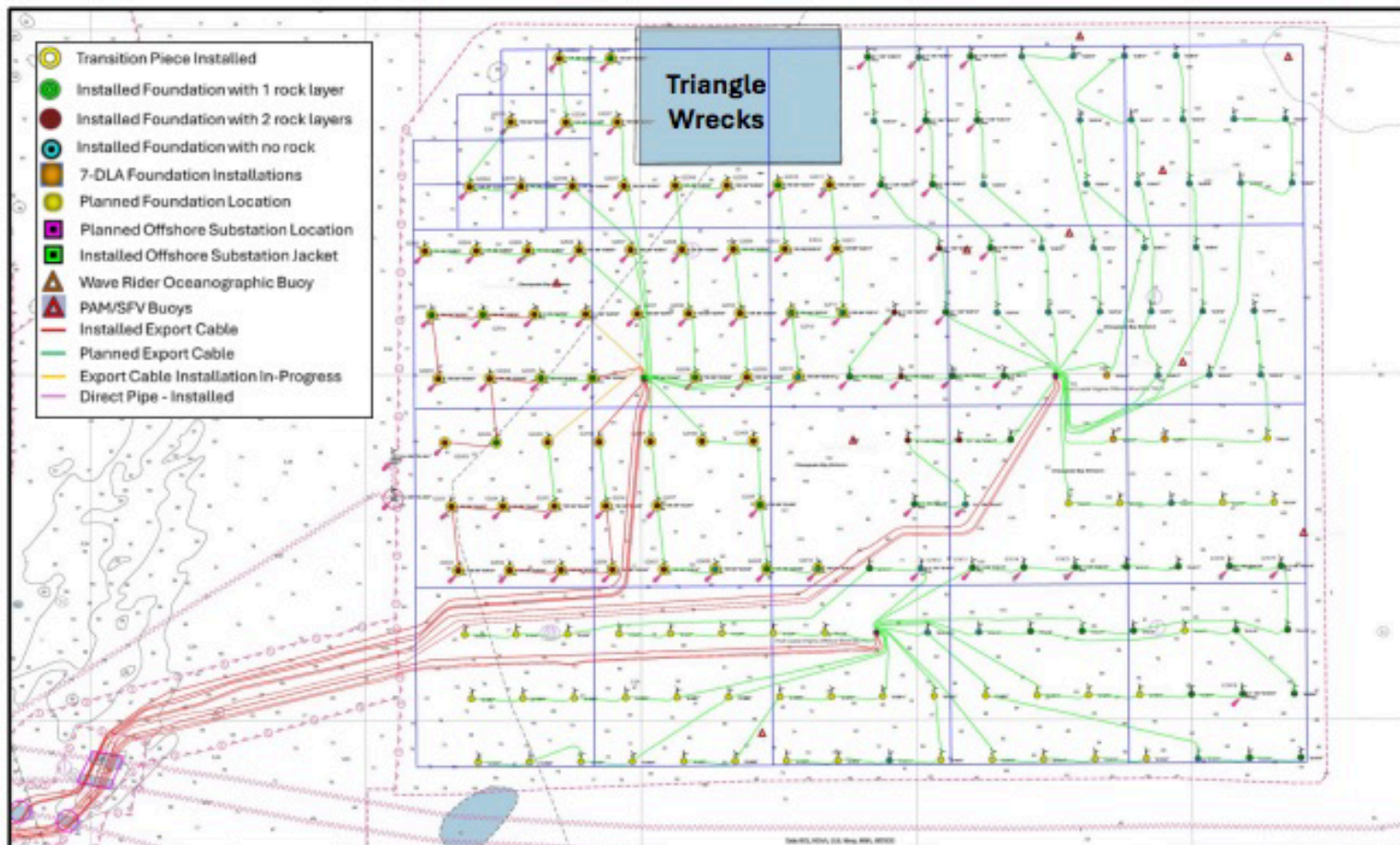


Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Update August 2025

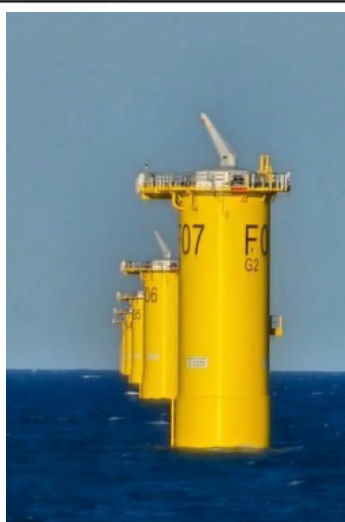
For our July meeting we welcomed Ron Larsen with SeaRisk Solutions and a Fisheries Liaison for Dominion Energy and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project. The progress of the CVOW program is amazing! With 132 of 176 foundations (Monopiles) in place, Offshore SubStations (OSS) being installed, and cable laying operations, there's lots of construction activity from the CVOW project area to the shore. He reminded anglers that during the construction phase to avoid the area and give the vessels a wide berth. There are Notice to Mariners announcing specific areas and construction operations and the requirement for stand-off. He added, when there's no active construction operations there are no restrictions for fishing around the structure. Just don't contact or tie off to any CVOW structures.

The most visible construction area is directly east, west, and south of the Triangle Artificial Reef area (noted in Red). This is where 176 Wind Turbine Generators and 3 Offshore SubStations are being constructed. Extending from the southwest corner to just south of Rudee Inlet is the export cable laying corridor.





Monopile Foundation
with Temporary Marine Lighting



Transition Piece Installed



Offshore SubStation

Ron shared that anglers can access the chart above from the Dominion Energy CVOW Program website for the most recent update on installations. The chart details which monopiles have been installed and the degree of rock scour protection has been placed. Each of these structures have marine lighting to warn vessels but operators deciding to transit the area are advised to exercise caution and report any marine lighting outages. There are also a number of marine buoys anchored in and around the CVOW area. The location of each buoy is listed on their website in their monthly Mariner Update at <https://coastalvawind.com/>

Project Background Information

Offshore construction work for CVOW commenced in February 2024 with relocation of Munitions of Explosive Concern (MECs). Monopile (MP) foundation installation began in May 2024, subsea cable installation activities began in August 2024, and Transition Piece (TP) installation commenced in late December 2024. MP installation resumed in May 2025.

Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion Energy) is constructing and will operate the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project (Project or CVOW). The Project is located in the Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Virginia - Lease No. OCS-A 0483 (Lease Area), with buried subsea cables connecting CVOW to shore. The purpose of this Project is to provide 2.6 gigawatts of clean, reliable offshore wind energy to our customers while providing substantial economic and environmental benefits to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Offshore components of the Project will consist of the following:

- 176 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), each with a capacity of 14.7 megawatts, and associated MP foundations;
- Three (3) Offshore Substations (OSS);
- Approximately 231 miles (372 kilometers) of total length of Inter-Array Cables (IACs) in the CVOW Lease Area; average IAC length of 5,868 feet (1,789 meters) between WTGs and connected to OSSs; and
- Nine (9) buried submarine high-voltage alternating-current Offshore Export Cables (OECs), approximately 350 miles (563 kilometers) of total length, connecting the OSSs to shore at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The offshore project components, including the WTGs, OSSs, IACs and OECs, will be located in federal waters in the Lease Area. Portions of the OECs will also be located in Commonwealth of Virginia waters (within three miles of shore).

Work planned for the period of August 1 – August 30

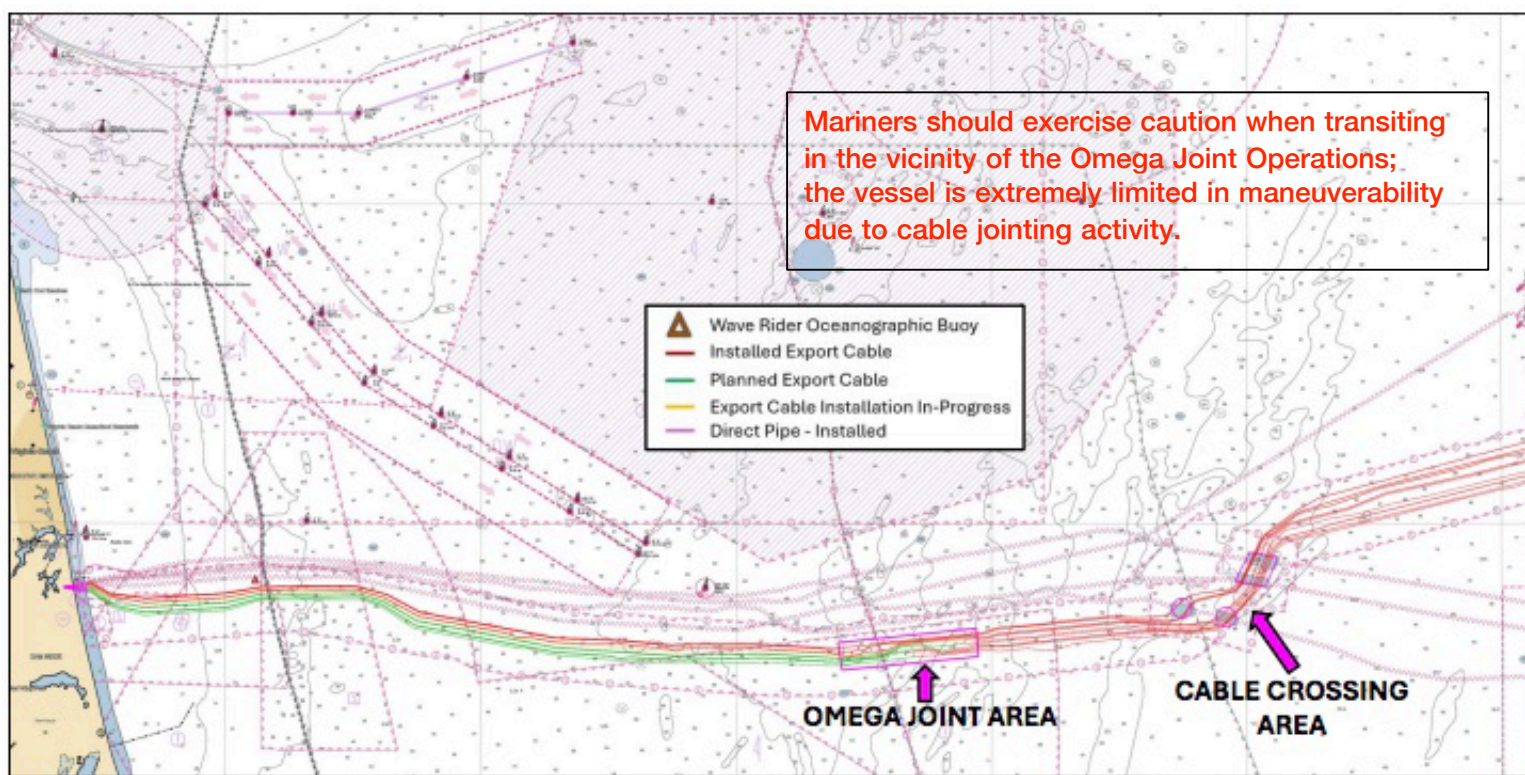
Lease Area Activities

- The Wind Turbine Installation Vessel (WTIV) CHARYBDIS is anticipated to join the project and begin WTG installation offshore in the lease area. WTG installation will occur in the western third of the lease area.
- M/V ORION continues MP installation, which resumed in early May.
 - o The HOS BLACKHAWK and HOS BENELLI are providing support with Double Big Bubble Curtains during pile driving operations.
 - o The GO EXPLORER, GO PURSUIT, and TM DILIGENCE will provide Protected Species Observer platforms and buoy maintenance support.
 - o The Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) DOLPHIN01, operated remotely from ORION, will be conducting periodic survey operations of rock placement around MPs. Updates on specific locations will be provided in the weekly Local Notice to Mariners.
- The CLV LIVING STONE will install IACs, supported by the HOS BLACKFOOT.
- The M/V HOS BRIARWOOD is supporting commissioning work on OSS #2.
- The M/V YELLOWSTONE will continue installing scour (rock) protection at the foundation bases.
- The R/V FUGRO BRASILIS will conduct seabed surveys around monopile foundations in preparation for arrival of the WTIV CHARYBDIS.



Deepwater OEC Activities

- The CLV LIVING STONE will conduct Omega Jointing operations (see chart below) on OEC #7 southeast of the “CB-Buoy” marking the Chesapeake Bay deepwater channel entrance during the month.
 - o Mariners are advised to exercise caution when operating in the vicinity of the Omega Jointing operations, the installation vessel is extremely limited in maneuverability due to the nature of the cable jointing activity.
- The HOS BAYOU will conduct concrete mattress installation at crossing locations with existing telecommunications cables.
- The M/V ROLLING STONE will conduct rock bag and concrete mattress installations.



Shallow Water OEC Activities

- The Cable Laying Barge ULISSE will conduct nearshore cable #7 and #9 installation from the shore landing to ~12-nautical miles offshore.
 - o The USCG has established a moving Safety Zone with a 1000-yard radius surrounding the ULISSE while this work is ongoing. Please see the Federal Register for additional details.
 - o The ULISSE will be supported by anchor handling tugs, cable handling vessels, diver support vessels, and dedicated safety vessels.

Other Activities

- Safety vessels consisting of F/V NOREEN MARIE, F/V PONTOS, CHRISTINE MCALLISTER, and MOR MARLIN will support project activities.
- Large project components will continue to arrive and be staged at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal.
- Ongoing fisheries resource studies continue in and around the southern and southeastern portion of the Lease Area.

Seabed Preparation and Cable Installation

Cable installation operations will continue throughout the month within the cable corridor, which extends from a point approximately 400m offshore of State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, out to the OSS locations within the Lease Area.

Commercial fishermen utilizing fixed gear in the area of cable operations during this timeframe are requested to coordinate with the CVOW Fisheries Liaison (Ron Larsen: 570-242-5023) so that gear interactions can be avoided.

Inter-Array Cable Installation

The IAC installations within the Lease Area, between the WTGs and OSS #2, have begun and will continue through the month with CLV LIVING STONE, supported by the HOS BLACKFOOT. As of July 31, 2025, fifteen (15) of the planned 176 IAC cable sections have been installed.

Deepwater Cable Installation

All nine (9) deepwater sections and three (3) shallow water sections of the nine (9) export cables have been installed, totaling nearly 387 km in length. The CLV LIVING STONE will conduct OEC Omega Joint operations as needed. Each cable is secured at either end by a mushroom anchor until it is pulled into the OSS and/or the Omega Joint is completed.

The HOS BAYOU and MV ROLLING STONE will perform mattress and rock bag installations at crossings with the charted subsea telecommunications cables and other areas as needed. We ask that all mariners be mindful of these cables and avoid anchoring or any other seabed-impacting activities in the vicinity of the cables.

The Omega jointing operations, splicing together the nearshore OEC with the deepwater OEC, take ~10-days per cable. **Mariners should exercise caution when transiting in the vicinity of the omega joint operations. The vessels are extremely limited in maneuverability due to cable jointing activity. A 1,000-meter exclusion zone will be requested during these splicing operations.** Reference the latest Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) for additional details.

Shallow Water Cable Installation

The Cable Laying Barge ULISSE will conduct nearshore cable landfall and installation of OECs #7 and #9. Operations will begin with the shore landing and then proceed out to ~12 nautical miles offshore. The ULISSE will be supported by 6-9 vessels consisting of anchor handling tugs (VOE VIKING and VOE EARL), multiple work boats for cable handling (ANNABELLE MILLER, CAPT LES ELDRIDGE, CORNISHMAN, KERNOW, etc.), dive support vessels (STORM DIVER), and dedicated safety vessels (CHRISTINE MCALLISTER and MOR MARLIN). Up to eight (8) anchor lines are used to position the ULISSE during operations and can reach nearly 1000-meters in length. As a result, the USCG has established a moving Safety Zone with a 1000-yard radius surrounding the ULISSE while this work is ongoing, as published in the Federal Register.

At the nearshore installation site there will be occasional diving operations, which will be referenced with the international dive flag flown on the vessel during active activities. The STORM DIVER or her support vessels will also be broadcasting "Securita" messages to alert nearby marine traffic.

These nearshore operations should not interfere with normal beach activity such as swimming and surfing.

CVOW Marine Coordination Center

The CVOW project established a shoreside Marine Coordination Center (MCC) to monitor and coordinate all offshore activities related to project construction and operations. The MCC is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can provide further project details if required.

Marine Coordination Center Contact Information

757-366-7000 (desk)

757-731-8307 (cell)

Email: CVOWOps@dominionenergy.com



Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament May 1st - November 30th 2025



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$10 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 \$50 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$25 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) and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

22 JUL: While in Costa Rica in January, Mary and I met Scott Yelle, who runs Ortus Charters out of Cape Cod. He specializes in Striper and Bluefin Tuna Fishing. Having never been to Cape Cod, we planned a week that included a day fishing with Scott. We planned on fishing Monday with Scott's suggestion that if the weather didn't cooperate, we would fish another day. Monday, the wind blew 20 knots from the North, so we went on Tuesday, a gorgeous day. It started slow fishing the mouth of Cape Cod Bay, where Monday's cold North wind had the water

temperatures in the 50s. We ran about 15 miles up the bay and found some mid-60s and schools of Stripers feeding on Sand Eels. Although we saw Stripers on the surface, they wouldn't hit our top water plugs, and we started troll-jigging a 6-ounce Bucktail on a wire line setup. Game on! In the next few hours, we caught ten Stripers from 26 inches to 36 inches. Although Massachusetts Regulations allow one fish, 28 to 31 inches, with no way to keep them frozen on our trip home, we released all.

- Henry and Mary Troutner



29 JUN: I fished the Lafayette and Elizabeth Rivers with Bill Hamilton and Jason Williams. On the incoming tide, we tried all around the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) using three-inch grubs on 3/8-ounce jig heads. Fishing was slow, but we did catch small to medium Bluefish, Croaker, and two Red Drum at 20 and 34 inches.



- Alex Perez Sr



18 JUL: I had my granddaughters, Kenzie and Avery, for a week after they spent a week at Triple R Ranch with the horses. I took them fishing on the only non-windy day, in 95-degree heat. But we beat the heat by fishing under the Pretty Lake Bridge. Great fun for them. Kenzie says she counted 29 fish that we caught. Spot was the biggest fish we caught, but we released them all. Croakers, Black Sea Bass, Oyster Toads, Pigfish, and Spot were plentiful, and we were comfortable as well in the shade. Avery has the hat on; Kenzie has the concerned look. Dairy Queen afterwards, of course. They don't have DQs in Nova Scotia.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



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12 JUL: Bert and I left Lynnhaven boat ramp at 6 am for a day of flounder fishing at the CBBT. Winds were light with some swell. We fished several spots around the 3rd island with 3 oz jig heads, grubs, and a piece of flounder belly. The bite was slow but steady. We fished through the end of the outgoing tide and two hours into the incoming tide. We caught seven flounders, ranging from 18 to 21 inches, along with some throwbacks. On the way back to the dock, we had a bumpy ride with southeast winds.

- Ned Smith



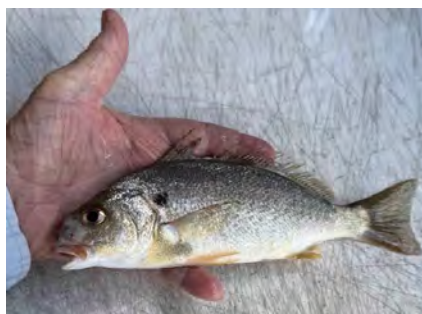
11 JUL: John Curry is always looking for new and productive fishing areas on the James River. On this day, he invited Mary and me to explore the Mulberry Island area. About an hour boat ride from his dock, we arrived in a beautiful area of small islands and grassy sod banks. Our 1st fish was Mary landing a 16-inch flounder. After that, we picked along the islands and banks catching five Rockfish and a half dozen White Perch. Couldn't believe we didn't hook into some Reds, but they're for our next trip. Fish were caught on Minnows, Crab, and Paddletails.

- Henry and Mary Troutner



4 AUG: Caught a few decent-sized spots in the creek on a Monday morning

- James Robinson



9 JUL: Fishing report. Left the dock at 6 am with seas at 3 feet. I started fishing at the Yancy wreck. Caught 5 trigger fish and some small tog there. About 9 am the seas settled down so I went to the Anglo-African wreck off Fisherman's Island and caught some trigger and some more small togs. Then hit another small wreck and caught some more triggers. Another great day fishing

- Jere Humphrey



4 JUL: I departed Morningstar Marina at 6:00am and headed straight to the Anglo-African wreck. As soon as I got lines in the triggerfish were biting. Soon after the spadefish came up and I quickly got a limit on them. Then landed two flounder for the box with more triggerfish. It was a great day fishing off the Eastern Shore!

- Jere Humphrey

Editor: When it comes to catching Triggerfish, Jere is the master!

3 Aug: Beautiful day but plenty of wind, fortunately, wind isn't a consideration if you don't leave Brewers Creek. I stopped by John Curry's to drop something off, and he said, "You should have brought a rod: we could check out the mouth of the creek". "Well, John, I'm sure you've got an extra rod". Since Mary wasn't with us, we didn't expect to catch anything. The Chuckatuck was all white caps, but Brewers Creek was flat. John was fishing for shrimp and shortly hooked up with a croaker. I trudged on casting an organic paddle tail and rewarded with a 22 3/4" red drum. Since I didn't have my tagging box, the fish went into the freezer! Mary insists it was her fish I caught.

- Henry Troutner

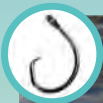


And....for those who venture out to the Eastern Shore this month, on the most miserably hot, humid, no wind, and biting fly days to target the *Silver King*. Preserve our unique fishery and practice good handling and release techniques!

Best Practices for Tarpon Catch & Release

Hooks:

- When using live bait, use circle hooks- these usually catch the mouth of the fish, rarely deep in the throat or belly like J-hooks.
- For deep-set hooks, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Tarpon can evict hooks over time.



Fight Time:

- Use tackle that matches the fish and conditions, and keep fight time short! Fight times over 30 – 40 minutes on adult tarpon will exhaust the fish and leave it vulnerable to predators. Fight times should be even shorter for smaller tarpon.

Predators:

- Tired fish are more vulnerable to predators like sharks. Avoid fishing in areas with high numbers of predators, and consider moving to another fishing location if predators are attracted by your activity. If you are fighting a tarpon when a shark appears, cut or break the line so the fish has a chance to escape.

Other Tips:

- Don't use a gaff; instead, carefully secure the fish in the water boat-side by hand or with a sling.
- Weight can be calculated using length and girth – use the calculator at BTT.org/Tarpon-Weight-Calculator.
- Minimize handling of the fish, avoid removing the fish's slime layer. The slime layer provides protection against bacteria and disease.
- Tired fish? Hold the tarpon upright until it recovers. If necessary, move the tarpon slowly forward to move water in the mouth and out of the gills from front to back. Wait until the fish can swim upright on its own before release, and shorten your fight time on the next fish.
- If the fish is larger than 40" or 1m fork length, do not remove it from the water. Take photos with the fish in the water, and keep boat-side time short.
- For smaller fish, in-water photos are still best. If the fish is removed from the water, minimize exposure of the fish to air. If the fish is not still dripping in the photo, it has been out of the water too long. Get the camera ready, and the photo set up before removing the fish from the water for the photo.



Learn More: BTT.org/Tarpon-Handling



28 JUL: I had a wonderful day on the water with Sam Justice and Zena aboard my Glacier Bay. We got to troll for Spanish Mackerel along the CBBT and catch croakers in Little Creek. Zena really enjoyed driving the boat as we trolled in the bay.

- Mike Hubert



29 JUL: Jack Salvant invited Mike Hubert (me), Wes Waters, Rich Califf, Dave Steal and Kennedy Daniels to troll and deep drop on his 32 Century 3200 offshore.

The south side crew got caught up in an HRBT tunnel closure until 0330 (the time we wanted to get to the boat) delaying our departure about 30 minutes.

On the way out we saw the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in flight-it was sight to behold! Kennedy got some great pix of it.

We had lines in the water by 0730 and worked hard until about 1130 with nothing to show but an under sized plastic bag that struck the short rigger. Jack has some good Golden tilefish numbers close to the blue water we trolled so we dropped 2 lines. The bite on the 1st set of numbers was slow yielding only 1 barrelfish (the first I'd ever seen in person) and 4 small blackbelly rose fish, 2 of them became bait. The second spot was more successful! Jack caught 2 GT on the same drop, I'd caught one earlier the went 22.5lbs on Wes' scale, Rich got 1 bigger than mine, maybe 25lbs and Wes had a 31lb 7oz citation. It was a great day to be on the water!

- Mike Hubert



Angler Interests



Back Bay Wildlife Refuge Summer Children's Surf Fishing Clinic

Looking for a new beach fishing experience this summer? Back Bay Wildlife Refuge will be hosting their Summer Fishing Clinics beginning in June. No previous fishing experience is needed. All the fishing gear is provided and local angling clubs will be there to help out. This program is open to children 7-15 years old and runs from 9-noon. Pre-Registration is required as these events fill up fast. Register online at <https://forms.office.com/g/EPG1ZG7GTT> beginning April 15th. Or call (757)301-7329 ext 3106. 2025 Dates are; ~~June 26, July 10, July 24,~~ August 7, and August 21.



Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) Meeting

FMAC will meet on Thursday, August 28th at 5:00pm at the VMRC Building, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe. The public is welcome to attend and participate. Agenda topics include Bluefish Reporting, Commercial Hook & Line Licence for Blue Catfish, VMRC Staff updates for Shrimp, Striped Bass, and Spiny Dogfish. There is also an opportunity for the public to address the Advisory Committee on items not on the agenda.



Virginia Junior Expert Angler Awards Program

Are you 15 or younger and love fishing in Virginia's saltwater? You could earn your very own Junior Expert Angler Citation Plaque - just by catching and releasing some of our amazing saltwater species.

Whether you're fishing off a pier, the beach, or from a boat leaving a Virginia port, your saltwater adventure could land you official recognition from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

To earn your Junior Expert Angler Award, here's what you'll need to do:

- Be 15 or younger on January 1st of the year you're fishing
- Catch and release qualifying saltwater species with rod and reel
- Fish must be caught in Virginia Marine waters, the Chesapeake Bay, or the Atlantic Ocean (and boats must launch and return to Virginia)
- Get a witness to each catch and complete the Junior Citation Form
- Submit your form by December 31st of the same year
- There's no entry fee - just fun and recognition

Fish Species Youth Citation Length

Atlantic Puffer 8 inches, Oyster Toad, Spot, Pinfish, Hogfish 10 inches, Bluefish, Croaker, Kingfish 12 inches
Sea Robin 14 inches, Speckled & Grey Trout 16 inches, Red Drum, Houndfish 18 inches, Flounder 22 inches

Go to the VMRC Website and download your Junior Citation Form and mail or email it to;

Mail to: Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road, Ft. Monroe, VA 23651

Email scanned form to: Virginia Saltwater Tournament Director at Matt.Hargis@mrc.virginia.gov



Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

**Last Revised
May 2025**



Atlantic Croaker

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Spot

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Kingfish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



Bluefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



Spanish Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



King Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Cobia

- Minimum Size Limit: 43 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
- Season: June 15 - September 20
- Gaffing prohibited



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: Jan 1-May 31: 16 inches
Jun 1-Dec 31: 17.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Striped Bass

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-31 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. www.mrc.virginia.gov



Spadefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Sheepshead

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 13
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15
- Season: May 15-July 15, Aug 5-Dec 31



Tautog

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



Speckled Trout

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



Red Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Black Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person