

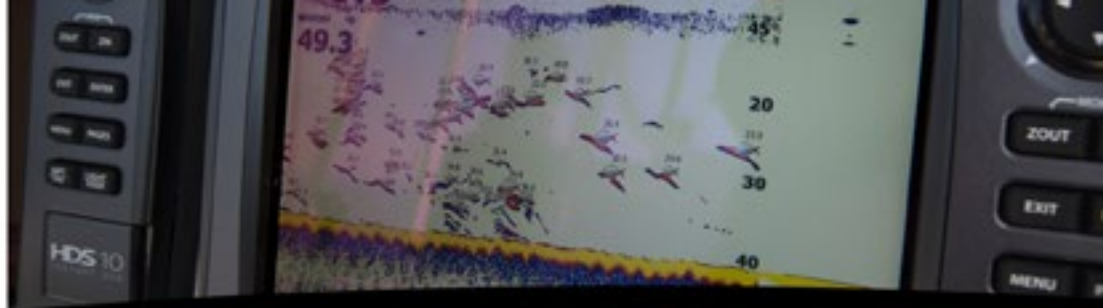
December Edition 2012



wireline

newsletter of the norfolk anglers club





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NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 10th, 2012 at 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 2012 GUEST SPEAKER

Steve Wray *presenting*

» Deep Dropping



The Norfolk Anglers Club is looking forward to a presentation by Capt. Steve Wray at our December 10, 2012 meeting. Capt Steve runs the charter fishing vessel Ocean Pearl and is also an owner of Long Bay Point Bait and Tackle. Capt Steve and the Ocean Pearl specialize in offshore and inshore fishing.

Capt Steve will be talking about deep dropping for a variety of bottom fish. Please attend the Norfolk Anglers Club December meeting to learn more about deep dropping and be with your friends.

LOCATION: Mom & Pop's

331 East Bayview Boulevard Norfolk, VA 23503 | 757-233-2453

All Meetings are Open to the Public, you do not have to be a member to come.

Christmas Came Early >>

Somehow, once it's September it's basically Christmas. Everyone is different and has their species that they're passionate about. Me, I'm passionate about Drum, Trout, Cobia, Stripers, and Tarpon. (And of course all the bluewater species I can catch). But one thing I find interesting about fishing certain species is that for some of my buddies, it's the only time of year I see them.

Now that the big stripers are here, I always chuckle when I'm on the water because I only see some of my buddies out JUST for stripers. They have their bibs over their deer hunting jackets while chewing on ultra-fresh venison jerky as they troll their mojo's for citation rocks. We banter back and forth about the bite, always second-guessing where we're fishing.

It's funny to me that when we're NOT catching, we should have run north... or further south... or tried trolling... or tried eeling... or fished deeper... or fished earlier... or fished later... The mental drain of carrying a skunk on the boat is depressing and maddening at the same time.

"While water temps, birds, tides and moon phases all play their roles in catching stripers, my bottom machine tells me when I've found the fish..."

I never let that stuff bother me most of the time because honestly, I'm just so thankful to be on the water that anything beyond that is a total gift from God.

The last couple of years, I've really had a "hot hand" for stripers. Like everyone, I do my homework and keep a close ear to the action. But really, nothing is better than getting out and experiencing the bite for yourself.

While water temps, birds, tides and moon phases all play their roles, my bottom machine is the very best source of decision making for me. When I see big marks spread out, I've found the fish. Then it's game on!



For this issue, most of my photos will showcase the Striper bite... but while the world is out looking for rocks, the ER is on fire with trophy trout too!!! Don't overlook this fishery. Our ER Expert JB will have a few great reports that should get your attention!

The bottom line is, get out there and fish. ■



Harry R. Hindmarsh
harry@eraboard.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Harry R. Hindmarsh

"One of the things I love most about striper season is seeing my friends on the water while in the hunt. This was the end of the day as Lucian took a nice rock using 4lb test line." - Harry R. Hindmarsh





a day on the water

» THE EARLY DECEMBER STRIPER BITE

The photos in this series are just some of the sights from this year's striped migration off of Cape Charles. If fishing until dusk, you'll likely see some of the pretties sunsets of the season in the western sky. This bite lasts through December, so get on a boat and get out there to experience the same!





Photo by Lucian Montagna



Photo by Lucian Montagna



Photo by Lucian Montagna





fishing reports



ELIZABETH RIVER SPEC ACTION

LOCATION: Elizabeth River

REPORTING ANGLER: "JB" - John Brown

The ER continues to produce unbelievable numbers of keeper Specks as well as more and more citation fish. I know of at least 232" fish caught and released since mid-November. The VSWFT citation list reflects the same...more and more ER citations as fish migrate into the river. Trollers, casters, live baiters all seem to be doing well. I personally have had 60+ fish release days...solo! All were above the minimum size to keep - most 17" - 25" - unreal. Shallow or deep, you just have to find them. Everything from jerk shads to hard baits has been working for me. Top water is pretty much done though we did catch them into mid-November on the top in water temps as low as 53.5 degrees.

Equally exciting, I took a trip with charter boat Captain Herb Gordon on the "Pretty Work" inside the bay to Cape Charles today - 11/30/2012. We were prepared to eel for Stripers along with the rest of the eeling fleet but Cap'n Herb wanted to give the troll a chance first. Using dual parachute rigs (white and chartreuse), we fished well outside the eeling fleet (meaning "all alone") and within 30 minutes had our first fish in the boat. Then another, then another, then another and then a double on the same rod. All fish were 35" - 42" with the heaviest estimated at 30 lbs...a nice darn class of fish. With our limit, we headed to the barn and left most of the eelers looking for their first bite! Nice to see the big fish are moving into the area. By the time you read this, most likely ocean Stripers will have been caught locally off Cape Henry.





FIRST STRIPER TRIP OF THE SEASON

LOCATION: Cape Charles

REPORTING ANGLER: Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

Went on my first striper fishing trip for the season on 11/29 on Russell Willoughby's Rabalo along with Jerry Hughes. We launched out of Willoughby Spit's free ramp since the Crab Creek has been so fouled with sand that it's almost impassable. We headed for the Concrete Ships to find stripers with eels. This trip was really is only 16 miles straight NE from Willoughby Spit ramp and while there was a light NE wind we made good time getting there. The distance is actually shorter than if we had gone out of Lynnhaven. It was calm on the ES side and soon we were slowly looking for bait and stripers in the beginning of the outgoing tide. There were plenty of bait balls and we soon had bobber's out with eels and some free lines too. There were plenty of boats out there doing the same thing from north of Cape Charles harbor to the Concrete ships. Not ten minutes later my bobber starts going under and I brought the line tight hoping that circle hook settled in its mouth. But I didn't get much of a fight and I thought I had a shark on but as I got it closer to the boat and it saw the boat then it took off and then I knew I had a nice striper, not a shark. It ripped off line for a while then I got back to the boat side and into the net. The striper was 40" long about 30 lbs. One nice keeper for meat since my freezer only had a little speckled trout left in it from this fall's bite. This quick of a bite looked promising for the all three of us but unfortunately it the luck didn't hold. We moved around with the bait but saw only a few stripers caught around us and I got two other hook ups but both got off. They seemed to be hitting only my eels on bobbers that were the farthest away from the boat. One of those missed ones was a really heavy fish I fought for about 5 minutes but he just wasn't hooked up well. We left at the end of the tide near dusk with only my one fish for the trip. Hopefully we'll have better luck next time. Thanks Russell for a great trip. Now I need my paper striper for the year.



BIG UPPER-BAY STRIPERS

LOCATION: Cape Charles

REPORTING ANGLER: Harry R. Hindmarsh

I always end my Thanksgiving dinner the same way. On black Friday, I always have a second plate of leftovers and completely spend the day rigging for stripers. This year was no different.

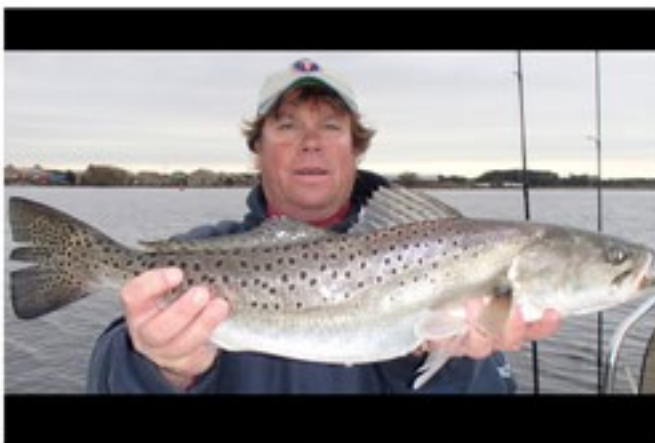
The December waters off of Cape Charles hold some of the biggest stripers in the country this time of year. There are two primary methods for catching these big monsters. Trolling and eeling.

I prefer the eeling method as my methodology of choice. I enjoy using my bottom machine to identify the thermocline where the stripers are holding. Getting my baits just right takes little practice as each eel performs differently in the water. I like deploying two long lines with the eels swimming as deep as possible, two short lines keeping the eels in mid column and two or four bobbers on top to ensure my spread is complete. I also prefer the incoming tide bite as the water traps bait on the northeastern shelf of the 100 hole. This strategy has produces some big fish over the years and I hope it works for you.

Trolling is another fine method. Anglers are using Mojo rigs with a three way trailing swimming shads. Stretch 25's and 30's are also another great bait to reach controlled depths. Be sure to monitor your trolling speed though, big, cold stripers don't swim very fast. =)

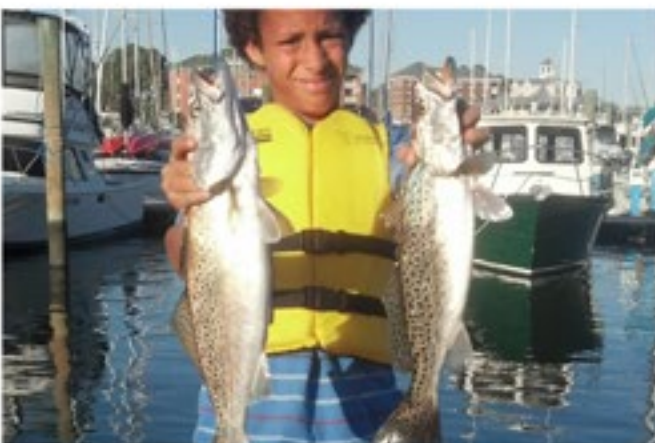
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www.FishCrazy.info

Outdoor writer Ric Burnley provides up-to-date, reliable fishing reports, step-by-step how-to articles, news and events, professional guides and everything you need to fish the Mid Atlantic.

www.PilotOnline.com | Lee Tolliver

Lee Tolliver's Fishing Forecast appears on PilotOnline.com and in the Virginian Pilot sports section every Thursday from the first week in April through Thanksgiving Day.

www.baydreaming.com

Chesapeake Bay Guide provides information on boating, fishing, travel, events, and history for many areas throughout Virginia.

www.fishva.org

An online resource for choosing a VA Saltwater Fishing charter service. Over 100 licensed Captains in the organization.

www.boat-ed.com

The official site for boater education. Boat Ed is the only place on the Web where you can study the official boating safety manual developed specifically for your state government's boating agency.

www.chesapeake-angler.com

A comprehensive fishing network dedicated to all types of Virginia fishing.

www.boatsafe.com

Boating safety courses with boating simulations, animations, boating safety quizzes and boating tips for powerboaters and sailboaters.

www.sportfishermen.com

Comprehensive fishing resource including, tournaments, articles, forums, pictures and video.

www.cbf.org

Features education material, access to critical bay issues, and tools for citizens to take action on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay.

www.dailypress.com/fishingspot

Official website of the Daily Press Newspaper Fishing Section. Offers forums and weekly fishing report.

www.discoverboating.com

Provides a variety of information on safety, maintenance, destinations and tips on buying a boat.

www.hamptonroads.com

Comprehensive resource for Hampton Roads. Includes Virginian Pilot newspaper fishing reports.

www.pierandsurf.com

Provides Virginia pier and surf fishing reports.

www.mrc.state.va.us/swr/saltwaterreview

Includes weekly Virginia Marine Resources Commission fishing report.

www.stripersonline.com

Brings you the most complete striped bass fishing information, including saltwater, surf and fly fishing articles, tackle, techniques, fishing reports and discussions.

www.takemefishing.org

Serves as a one-stop resource for those seeking boating, fishing and conservation information.

www.tidalfish.com

Provides fishing reports and fishing information covering saltwater fishing, freshwater fishing, fly fishing, fishing reports, etc.

www.vbsf.net

Virginia Beach Sport Fishing website links to fishing chat, fishing guides, and catches of the week.

www.vcanaccess.com

Virginia Coastal Access Now (VCAN) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers.

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Official site of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Provides easy access to regulatory and management information related to Virginia marine resources.

WEATHER & TIDES

www.noaa.gov

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States.

www.weather.com

Provides a national and local weather forecast for cities worldwide.

www.wtkr.com

Hampton Roads local CBS affiliate. Provides weather and marineforecast information.

www.wunderground.com

Provides weather forecasts for the US and the world with a fast, easy to use interface. Includes weather maps, graphics and radar images.

www.saltwatertides.com

Provides low and high tide predictions, sunset, moonrise, moonset, and moon phase information.

www.wvec.com

Hampton Roads local ABC affiliate. Provides weather and marineforecast information.

nac prize fish contest rules

NAC PRIZE FISH CONTEST RULES

Rules regarding our annual PRIZE FISH CONTEST and are posted on the NAC website.

In a nutshell, our rules will closely parallel the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament for saltwater fish and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for freshwater. However, there are a few small differences so please visit the NAC PRIZE FISH CONTEST page on the NAC website.

Most important, we need for everyone to PARTICIPATE in the contest. If you catch (or have caught) a fish in calendar year 2008 meeting citation criteria, simply make a copy of your citation application or fill out the NAC PRIZE FISH ENTRY FORM and provide that to our Awards Director at our next meeting, it's that easy.

At year's end, we will recognize those anglers that catch the "prize" fish in each category plus recognize some overall "Anglers of the Year". Again, please visit the website to learn the details of the contest rules. Let's make our contest fun and competitive, Please Participate.

NAC Prize Fish Entry Form

Please fill out the following information. All weights must be on certified scales, witnessed & caught on hook & line in accordance with the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Species: _____ Place Caught: _____

Lure or Bait: _____

Weight ____ lbs. ____ oz. Length ____ Feet ____ Inches

☐ The fish was released ☐ The fish was tagged ☐ Adult Angler ☐ Jr. Angler Age _____

Angler's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Boat name _____

I Certify that all the above information is correct:

Angler's Signature _____

Witness Signature _____

Witness Name (printed) _____

Please submit your awards to the new awards director who will be available at the meetings. You must be an NAC Member in good standing to qualify.

Closing image

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Harry R. Hindmarsh

"This year's cobia season came and went too fast for me. This was one of my favorite catches mainly because someone else was running the boat. Normally I'm running the boat from my tower and trying to boat these at the same time. One tasty eel and he was mine!" – Harry R. Hindmarsh

