

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELIN

DECEMBER 2022

What's Inside

**Fishing Tips: Inshore Light Tackle Fishing, Capt Robert Smith with
*Adventures on the Water***

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay: Tautog, Puppy Drum
- Lafayette River: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout
- Little Creek: Speckled Trout
- Lynnhaven: Speckled Trout
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- James River: Puppy Drum, Striped Bass
- James River/Chucktuck Creek: Striped Bass, Speckled Trout, Flounder

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Lots of speckled trout fishing happening now. I hope you have a chance to get out and give it a try. Check out all the fishing reports in this edition.

We're advertising the Hooked on Hope charity raffle in this edition. It's a wonderful program, please check it out and consider them in your charitable giving.

Our next big Club event is the Holiday Party, which will take the place of our regular December meeting. Same place and time. We've got a gift exchange planned, which is always great fun.

In lieu of a guest speaker at our December meeting we'll be holding our Holiday Gift Exchange. Some call it a Yankee Gift Swap or White Elephant Gift Exchange, whatever you want to call it, it can be a lot of fun. To participate bring along a wrapped gift in the \$20 range. We'll collect the gift and give you a raffle ticket. We'll then use the ticket to randomly set the order to select a gift.

Holiday Gift Exchange Rules

- Gifts range \$20
- When you're selected you can pick a wrapped gift or select one that's already been opened.
- Gifts must be opened once selected.
- If the gift you opened is selected by someone else you can then select a wrapped gift or grab someone else's unwrapped gift. but you can't take back the one you just had.
- Gifts can only be swiped twice. Meaning, the gift once opened can be taken by someone else and then taken a second time. After that the gift isn't available to change ownership again.
- There can be only three gift "swipes" during a turn. After the third gift "swipe" the next person draws an unwrapped gift...and we begin again.

Will

Important:

December 19th, 2022

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Hooked On Hope VB serves the pediatric cancer community. They provide fishing outings at no cost for the families they serve. They also provide the families with charter boat fishing events, onshore fishing events, and camping trips.

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<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/lancetmarine>



About Hooked on Hope VB

Founders Mike and Joanne Robey

Our family of five navigated through our youngest daughter's leukemia diagnosis one day at a time. Pediatric cancer affects the entire family. All of our lives were turned up-side-down and, at times, it felt as though we were being consumed by fear and the walls were closing in on us.

We had to escape, literally.

Our neighborhood lake became a refuge and fishing offered us that escape. We fished, we smiled, we exhaled, the sun warmed our bodies, we relaxed and we felt renewed. Fishing became therapy.

We are hooked on offering that feeling to other families, just like ours.

Hooked on Hope VB launched on our daughter's diagnosis day, three years later. We are thankful to give that date new meaning. Fishing continues to heal us.

Thank you for joining us and families like ours on this journey.

For more information check out their website at:

<https://hookedonhopevb.org>

Club Calendar

December

Mon-Fri, Dec 5-9th: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission Meeting, Wrightsville Beach, NC
Tues, Dec 6th: Virginia Marine Resources
Commission Meeting, Fort Monroe
Sun, Dec 11th: Virginia Black Sea Bass Season Closes
at midnight
Mon-Thurs, Dec 12-15th: MidAtlantic Fishery
Management Council Meeting,
Annapolis, MD
Mon, Dec 19th: Club Holiday Party, Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries January 1, 2022 - November 30, 2022

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (5)
	Russell Willoughby (6)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)
	George Langdon (1)

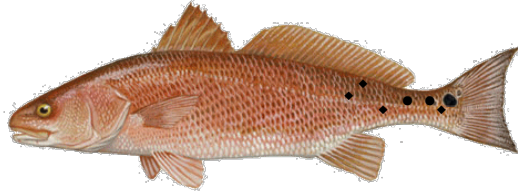
Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Shark	Kelly Hoggard (2)
Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard (1)
Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (9)
	Ned Smith (1)
	Bert Sainz (2)
	Louis Glaser (1)
	Will Bransom (1)
Cobia	Alex Perez, Sr (2)
Red Drum	Kelly Hoggard (4)
Blueline Tilefish	Jere Humphrey (1)
	Mike Hubert (2)
	Mike Burton (1)
	Henry Troutner (1)
Blue Marlin	Mike Hubert (1)
Pompano	Kelly Hoggard (1)
Black Sea Bass	Mike Hubert (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

***For the 2022 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be
submitted to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com***

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

Club Members Tournament for 2022



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022
- 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.
- Red Drum/Redfish up to 26 inches in length only and caught in Virginia and North Carolina waters
- Awards determined by 1st: number of Spots (on one side), 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50.00 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler.



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022
- 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

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



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Inshore Light Tackle Fishing

Captain Robert Smith, *Adventures on the Water*

The Fall season in Hampton Roads brings out the speckled trout (spotted sea trout) anglers. While there's anglers targeting them year around, when the season changes and fish start migrating little compares to catching speckled trout on light tackle.

Captain Robert Smith with Adventures on the Water specializes in light tackle fishing for speckled trout. He's a USCG Licensed 100 Ton Master who fishes from a 2021 Robalo 226 Cayman, equipped with Simrad electronics, trolling motor and stake pole. For speckled trout fishing ideal locations are the Elizabeth River, Lynnhaven River, and many of the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Depending on conditions you'll find speckled trout in the shallow areas, around any kind of structure (docks, rocks, grass beds, etc) and in the deeper water. A key point he emphasizes is a quiet approach matters, especially when fishing trout in shallow area. Noise travels easily in water and while lure rattle or popping cork will interest and attract speckled trout, the anchor chain clanking over the rail will drive them away. A quiet stealthy approach to trout fishing is always best.



Fishing trout on one day will be different on the next day. Tide, winds, water temperature, bait schools, and fishing pressure will all affect the fishing in an area. The best an angler can do is get to know that area they fish and learn how all these factors influence the behavior of the fish. The hardest thing an angler can do is fish an area totally unfamiliar to them. Capt Smith shared his advice on fishing new areas, like locating transition points. A transition point might be the end of a rock lined shore, a grass bed or oyster bar, or the drop off along a channel. Trout will seek these areas for protection as well as a source for food. He recommends using a number of fishing techniques such as hard baits, jig heads with artificial tails, or popping corks to evaluate an area. If one tactic doesn't work try another. One tactic he successfully uses to help locate fish is to slow troll an area. Trolling a couple sinking lures at 1-1.5 mph over an area will allow you to cover more area than casting from your boat.

The suspending and sinking hard bait lures by MirrOlure® are the most commonly found lure in a speckled trout angler's tackle box...for good reason. They are high quality lures that consistently delivers results. Capt Smith uses a selection of the 17MR and 27MR lures in cooler water and the 18MR and 28MR in warmer water however,



he recommends using them in every condition Find out what works for your fishing technique. Every angler has their favorite color and size MirrOlure®, he recommends trying different combinations to find what works best for your fishing. So, What's the difference in the lures? Basically, the MirrOlure® number lets you know the size of the lure and the "R" denotes it also incorporates a rattle. The 17/18MR lure are the same size at 2 5/8 inches long however, the 18MR is a sinking lure while the 17MR is a suspending. The 18MR has "Heavy Dine" imprinted on the lure to help identify between the two lures.

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

MirrOlure's 27MR/28MR are larger than the 17/18MR lures at 3 1/8 inches in length and follow the same pattern with the 27MR being a suspending lure and the 28MR a sinking lure. The 17MR & 27MR are designed to suspend in the 0-2+ ft range while the 18MR & 28MR are designed to sink down in the 2-5+ft range. There's another advantage to casting the larger 27/28MR lures and that is distance. These lures are a bit larger and a little heavier which enables longer casts.



MirrOlure® makes plenty of other lures too.

The 52MR is longer (3 5/8") and more streamlined than the 28MR and designed to sink to the 3-8+ft range. Its distinctive with three sets of treble hooks and its eyelet on the top of the lure (photo left). The 52MR is a good choice for trolling and area and locating the trout.

Besides hard baits MirrOlure® makes a selection of soft baits designed for trout fishing. One of their recent developments is their "Lil John™" twitch bait (photo right). It comes in 3 3/4 and 4 1/4 inch sizes and has a molded pocket for easier rigging. They come with an infused shrimp scent as an added benefit. A noticeable difference when you handle this soft bait is it feels more durable than many of the other soft baits on the market.



Captain Smith explained his technique to using the Lil John™ lure is not the traditional vertical jigging motion but rather working the rod to the side. By working the jig to the side it results in the lure dancing along the bottom similar to a shrimp or small bait.



Electric Chicken, Purple Demon™, Fire Tiger, Color 808,...the choices of lure colors seem endless! And then there's all the custom colors to deal with! Every angler has their favorite color combination for their fishing location. Capt Smith trout fishes all around the Hampton Roads area and in North Carolina. He shared the conditions vary widely between each area but he recommends a few thoughts on lure colors. When you're fishing clean or clearer water start off with a lighter colored lure. When fishing cloudy or dark water try using a darker colored lure at first. That's not to say you must always stick to that plan. He added, a lot of the time it's the flash of the lure, the way you present it, or a color differential in the lure color itself. In some areas fishing in the dark tannic colored water a lure with a color break (Red head/white body or Yellow head/purple body) is enough contrast to entice a strike. He emphasized to always try different lures and different colors in an area to gauge what the fish *that day* are interested in. Lots of factors influence trout feeding behavior, lure color is only one of them. There's the concentration of bait, water temperature and clarity, and along with that the time of year and their migration habits. Trout have no hobbies, except to feed, spawn, and swim around. They can be fickle sometimes when something changes, like water temperature. In cold water your presentation and retrieve should be much slower. The trout are looking for an easy meal and will strike anything they can get in their mouths. without expending a lot of energy. So, give them a nice slow and injured looking "bait fish" to bite into.



ORIGINAL **MirrOlure®**

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Fishing Tips...

As discussed, noise can be a good or a bad thing when trout fishing. The rattle of a lure bead or clicking sound of a popping cork will interest the speckled trout, a good thing. Capt Smith likes to use popping corks when fishing the shallower water, usually 5 ft or less. Capt Smith uses the Four Horsemen Tackle (www.4HorsemenTackle.com) popping cork. Popping corks incorporate a float and a bead or rattle rigged on a wire. Some are weighted others are not. The popping cork pictured right incorporates a large plastic bead above and below the float and a 3/8 oz weight. The plastic rattle will give this popping cork a deeper sounding rattle. They are exceptionally well made and durable.



Rigging is very simple with a popping cork. Capt Smith rigs about 30 inches of 15# flourocarbon leader below the popping cork and attaches a Vudu® Shrimp to fish a water depth between 4-5ft. The leader can be longer or shorter to place the bait above the bottom or above a grass bed. Speckled trout will forage in and around grass beds and oyster beds where they have their camouflage to hide them from predators while allowing them to feed on the bait fish and shrimp.



Egret Baits (www.EgretBaits.com) carries a full line of soft plastic baits in various sizes, styles, and colors. Their line of swim baits includes shad, mullet, minnows with classic swim tails and unique wedgetail design. Then there's their Vudu® Shrimp. It comes in four sizes, 2", 3.25", 3.5" and 4 inches. It's got a very realistic presentation with a seemingly indestructible body and tail. The Vudu® Shrimp is a weighted design that provides a natural presentation and features a weedless version.



Capt Smith shared that whichever bait you choose using fish attractant can help in most fishing circumstances. His preference is the Pro-Cure line of attractants. You can find a selection in just about any retailer that sells anything fishing. They have a thick gel consistency and are designed for hard and soft baits. What's nice about the Pro-Cure attractant is that it stays on the lures after many casts. What flavor to choose? Capt Smith's choices are the Pro-Cure Shrimp, Trophy Trout and Mullet.



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Fishing Tips...

When it comes to rods, reels, and rigging Capt Smith uses 7' custom rods from ReelBlessed Custom Rods in Newport News, VA. They're high quality medium to medium-fast custom rods perfect for light tackle fishing [[f](#) ReelBlessed Sportfishing Custom Fishing Rods].



Rods are matched with Shimano 2500-3000 series spinning reels spooled with 15# braided mainline. A 2-3ft length of 15# fluorocarbon leader is tied to the mainline for most lures for speckled trout fishing. He added, if he's fishing an area where there's trout but they're not biting, he'll drop the fluorocarbon leader size down as light as 10# test. When rigging to a popping cork he'll also tie on a 4' length of 30# fluorocarbon leader between the cork and the mainline.



Attaching the lures is easy using the Tactical Anglers Micro Power Clips. They come in various sizes and strengths, Capt Smith prefers the 25# test power clips. They're a strong single piece stainless steel clip that makes lure change-outs fast and easy. He added, make sure you tie your leader on the correct end of the clip! Just remember the angled bent tab points toward the line.

Drag settings on your reel is another area that many anglers don't understand and often are set too light. A too light a drag setting will result in fighting the fish too long and often results in a lost catch. Conversely, drag setting don't need to be cranked down tight to land a speckled trout. If you're seeing the fish take line off the reel each time they pull you're likely set too light. You want a drag setting that will give some when the fish

pulls hard. You want to be able to land the fish quickly without an excessive fight. Speckled trout have tender mouths. With each pull your hook works a little larger hole in the fishes mouth and with one head shake you can lose your fish.

Remember to land the fish quickly, practice good handling and release methods if you're releasing your catch. Minimize the time out of the water (an in water release is best), use a knotless rubber coated landing net, handle with wet hands and supported and lower the fish back into the water.



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Fishing Reports...

6 OCT: Mega trout and hooks in fingers: October fishing, for me, is all about trout. But since I was going to have my hip replacement revised on October 14, I didn't have much time to get out after them. Nevertheless, my fishing pals Louis, Bert Sainz, Ned, and Jerry Gaines managed to get me out as much as I could despite my painful hips. The big trout was starting to come into the Little Creek in numbers when on 10/6, Louis and Bert got me out a little after daybreak to fish the jetties. The trout were out there, and one nailed my 27MR as soon as it hit the water. We had planned to only fish for a couple of hours, so for that two hours on the water, we caught one keeper trout after another and began releasing 17-inch fish at the boat without the net. Keeping our limit for each of us was easy. Most fish we kept were 19-20 inches long.

But suddenly, while trying to keep a nice trout and get it out of the net, he jumped so that two of the hooks of a triple hook went into my right thumb and middle finger! OUCH. To say the least. The hook in the thumb came up into the thumb with all of the hook embedded and the end poking out of the skin. The hook in the middle also embedded the barb, but I did, with effort, pull it out. While the fish were still biting, it was close to our time to stop, so Louis got me to the dock at Morningstar, where Doug Wilburn had some wire cutters and managed to cut the lure off of the hook. East Beach Urgent care is just across the Pretty Lake bridge I drove to, and they fixed me. I numbed the PA and could pull the rest of the hook out without cutting it out. Something they have much experience with, given their proximity to Little Creek. But unfortunately, we didn't take pictures except for my wounds which you don't need to see except for the ending.



7 OCT: I went out with Ned Smith the next day a little earlier at LC, and it seemed that we could only find throwback-sized fish. We fished for three hours, with Ned getting a 21-inch and me 19 inches as the biggest, with three more around 17 inches. 20+ throwbacks. No pics, sorry.

Oct 9 Out with Louis and Jerry Gaines:
9 OCT: Back to the Jetties, which was slow at first, Louis Glaser, Jerry Gaines, and I began hooking up with one keeper-sized fish after another.

All were around 18 inches. It ended three hours, with each having a limit but didn't keep as much. I caught over ten keeper sized. Pick with Jerry provided. Great morning fishing before working my last shift with VMRC before surgery.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



12 NOV: No pictures since I went solo to the Chuckatuck. I caught four short, plus 1 x 20", 1 x 21", and 1 x 22" stripers, all within 1 hour on 11/12/22 on the incoming tide. I Released all but the 22". All caught on the red and white bandit. Bite was on 10:30 am.

- George Landon

25 OCT: Once again, Mary and I accompanied John Curry to the JRB for a couple of hours of striper fishing. Having hooked five and landed three a few days before on the same tide, we thought we'd have another short trip. I guess you can't predict fishing. We trolled once in each direction along the bridge during the outgoing tide. Mary got the only hit and landed a short. No pictures because we were sure we had some legal fish; hah.



27 OCT: Mary and I ran/biked at Lone Star Lakes in Suffolk every morning. One of the lakes breaks through to the Chuckatuck and is tidal. I had noticed 6 /8 boats launched every morning at this lake and asked what they were catching - Speckled Trout.

Thursday, Mary and I hit the lake with our kayaks (no gas motors allowed). We fished for a couple of hours. Our only catch was a nice Small Mouth Bass which I landed and released. We saw one of the boats catch a short, and a woman fishing from the ramp showed me three nice Speckled Trout one of the boaters had given her. I am going to check this out further.

- Mary and Henry Troutner



1 NOV: Mary and I fished with John Curry in the afternoon. Working the incoming current at the JRB for Stripers left us with no love, so we decided to try for Speckled Trout at Candy Island. Mary got the first fish, a short Flounder, and I scored with a nice 22-inch Speckled Trout. It was a beautiful day on the water, but the fishing was pretty slow.

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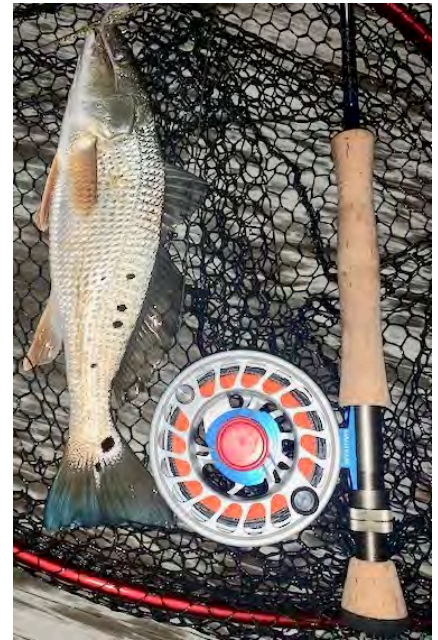
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2 NOV: Mary and I took the skiff to the Chuckatuck for Speckled Trout. We fished an abandoned dock with pink/green Z-Mans and minnows.

Both caught fish, and we ended up with 11 Speckled Trout, one 18-inch and the rest short. On the way in, we made a pass at the bridge for Stripers. Mary hooked a keeper that broke off at the boat —last seen heading toward the James with a red/white Stretch.

- Mary and Henry Troutner



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November: Pictures are from the James River over the last month, including my submission for the puppy drum with the most spots, which I count as 7.

Fish were caught from my dock on fly tackle and released. Fishing has gotten slower in the last ten days as the water in the James River is very clear.

Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



31 OCT: My son, Andrew Anderson, has been catching much Speckled Trout. Here he is by the Brambleton bridge. This one is just under 16 inches. *Thanks for your newsletter. Andrew reads every word and enjoys it every month!*

- Mary Ellen Anderson



31 OCT: I fished Fort Wool by the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) and the Thimble Shoal Lighthouse. Using Blue Crabs on 3/0 circle hooks, I caught just enough small Oyster Toadfish to convince me to try the lighthouse.

I arrived at the base of the lighthouse during slack tide and positioned the boat on the down-current side of the lighthouse base. As the incoming tide picked up, I caught, tagged, and released 10 Tautog up 14 inches and a 14.25-inch Puppy Drum. The water temperature was 61 degrees.

- Alex Perez Sr.



4 NOV: Mary, George Langdon, John Curry, and I hit the JRB in the Shamrock for two hours of trolling for Stripers. The weather was beautiful, tide and current was what we hoped for, but the fish weren't cooperating.

We made three passes between the lift and the small boat channel with only three hooks up. George got the only keeper at 22 inches; Mary released a short, and John had a keeper get off before landing it. We marked very few fish on the sounder. All were caught on Stretches or Bandit.

- Mary and Henry Troutner

7 NOV: I had heard of the Speckled Trout, Reds, and Black Drum being caught at the Surry Discharge, so Mary and I took the Shamrock to try it for a few hours. The day was warm, sunny, and calm when we arrived, with about ten other boats. We set out bottom rigs with cut bait and crab for Drum and Catfish, then started casting jigs with minnows and paddle tails. We saw a few small Speckled Trout landed and a nice one lost at a boat before Mary landed our first fish, which I believed was a Small Mouth Bass. We then landed a couple of short Reds and two small Speckled Trout. Everything was caught on minnows. I could not believe we did not even catch a Catfish on our bottom rigs. They usually fish the Discharge in cooler weather, so hopefully, as things cool down, this fishing might pick up.



12 NOV: John Curry, Mary, and I were signed up for the Deep Creek Landing, James River Striper Tournament. The weather was almost scary, with the threat of high winds and rain from Hurricane Nicole in the headlines all week. We attended the Captain's Party on Friday night, a first-class event with food, beer, wine, and some great door prizes (we didn't win). Saturday, Mary and I met John at his house/dock and were treated to a beautiful morning with a mild breeze scheduled to decline during the day. We fished the Chuckatuck, JRB, MM, and Nansemond, trolling and cannonballing. We only caught two fish, one short and one 4.25LB, which took 4th place but did not have a payout. The event was great, and we plan on winning next year. - Mary and Henry Troutner



22 NOV: Fished with my friend Bert Sainz in the Elizabeth River. After looking in several places we found some quality specs. All caught on 28 MR Mirrolures in 6 to 12 feet of water. Water temperature was 55 degrees. - Louis Glaser



23 NOV: Slow day on Elizabeth River fishing for specs with Capt Will Bransom and Bert Sainz. Started off good with a few nice ones but wind picked up from North and the bite cut off. - Louis Glaser



12 NOV: Fished two hours in the morning and got three nice keepers, and lost one at the net. Plenty of throwbacks.



10 NOV: Lots of these little guys today. No keepers. All 15 to 17 inches.



7 NOV: Bailed them today. Two at a time as fast as I could pull them in, plenty of 8 to 10 inches Spot. - James Robinson



19 NOV: After a productive Friday Striper fishing on John Curry's boat, Mary, John, my daughter Kait, her friend Kevin and I hit the JRB in the Shamrock. The weather was slightly warmer (41*), with fewer wind/waves. We landed 5 (a short, 22 3/4", 23", and 2- 27") and lost a couple. John's fish had a tag from the Maryland DNR, which he is following up on.

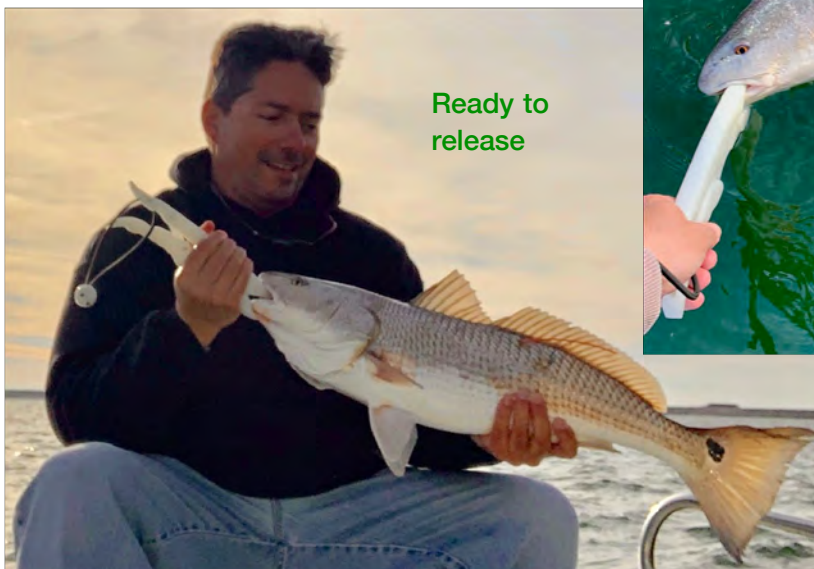


All fish were caught on Stretches, or Bandits trolled along the up current side of the JRB on an outgoing current. Red/White and Tiger Green caught the fish. The water was exceptionally clear.

- Mary and Henry Troutner



26 NOV: On Thanksgiving morning in the afternoon, I fished the Lafayette River and parts of the Elizabeth River near Tanner Point for Speckled Trout.



The bite had slowed down a bit compared to last week in the same area, but to my surprise, I've been finding Puppy Drum from 14 to 28 inches mixed in with them. I've seen them on both ebb and flood tides, using the same tackle I've been using for Specks, 1/8-3/8-ounce jig heads, and Z-man

curly tails or Gulp Shrimp. The water temperature was 51-53 degrees.

- Alex Perez Sr.

12 NOV: Bill Hamilton and Danny Moore joined me to fish the Lafayette River on the outgoing tide. Using Z-Man's three-inch curly tails, we did well catching Speckled Trout. Most of the fish were 12-13 inches, but we caught eight over 15 inches, with the largest at 23.5 inches. Orange or chartreuse was the most active color. The water temperature was 63 degrees.

- Alex Perez Sr.



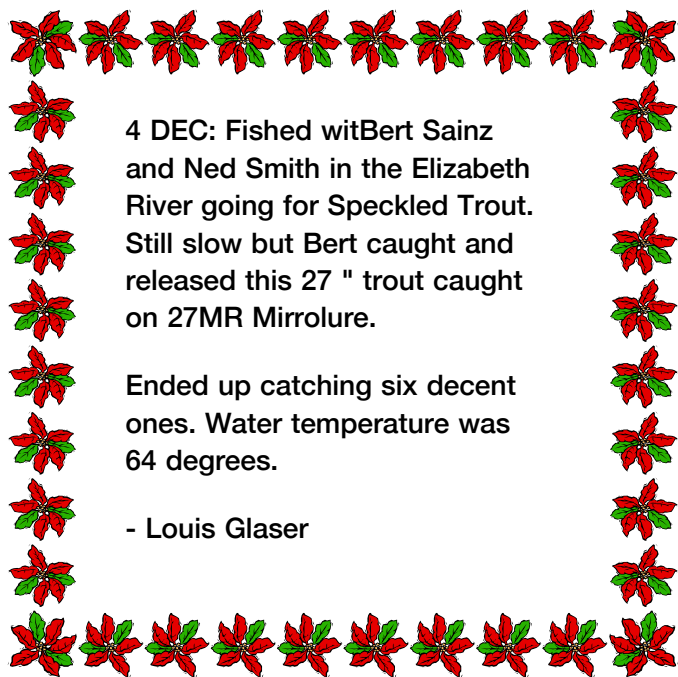
Bill and one of his many Speckled Trout



Danny and his healthy Speckled Trout



Smiling at each other



4 DEC: Fished with Bert Sainz and Ned Smith in the Elizabeth River going for Speckled Trout. Still slow but Bert caught and released this 27" trout caught on 27MR Mirrolure.

Ended up catching six decent ones. Water temperature was 64 degrees.

- Louis Glaser





15 NOV: I picked AJ up from school with the boat in tow, and we fished the Lafayette River, launching from the Haven Creek boat ramp.

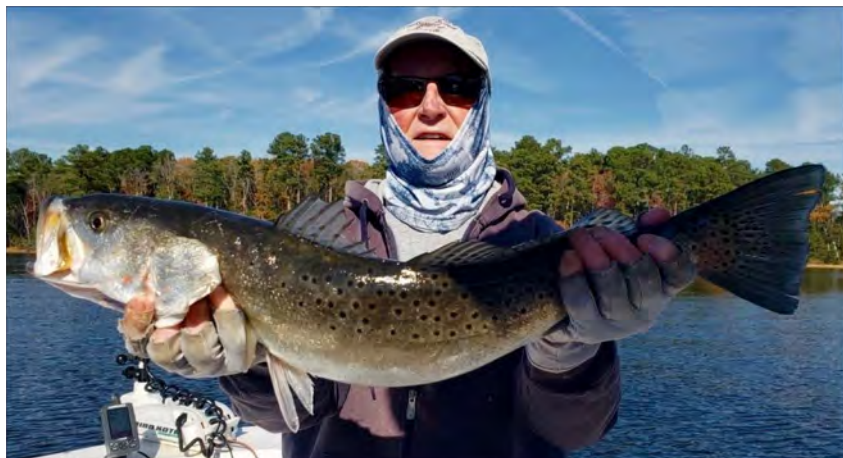
← AJ and a trout displaying its new tag.

We fished the incoming tide at Tanner Point, doing well on small Speckled Trout up to 15 inches. We used two-inch gold and three-inch chartreuse Z Man curly tails on 1/8-ounce jig heads. A slow, steady retrieve caught most of the fish, and when the bite slowed, jiggling seemed to start the bite up again. Most fish were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. The water temperature was 62 degrees. - Alex Perez Sr.



Another happy release.

29 NOV: Bert Sainz took my brother (Ted), and I am fishing in the Elizabeth River, speckled trout fishing. The day was sunny in the mid-fifties, and the in-coming tides began to flow. We started the day fishing 4-6 feet. flat with MR 27s, 28s, and Paul Brown baits. Almost immediately, Ted had a big fish on; the citation speckled trout measured 24 inches. Over the next hour, Bert picked up four more nice 18 to 20-inch speckled trout. Later, Bert decided to fish Deep Creek.



We didn't have much of a bite, but I hooked up and measured a 24 1/2 inch speckled trout. We returned to the river flats where we had fished earlier and fished a fast-incoming tide. The bite started as soon as we threw our lines in the water. Over the next 1.5 hours, we picked up another dozen keepers (most 20 to 23 inches) and some throwbacks. We finished the day and kept 18, which we released, and four throwbacks. - Ned Smith



18 NOV: Mary and I Striper fished with John Curry at the JRB. We left his dock at 8 AM to cold - 28 degrees, windy conditions. With white caps and current pushing us toward the bridge pilings, John had his hands full handling the boat, but it was not for long. On a troll halfway between the lift and the small boat channel, we caught 7 Stripers, losing 4; 1- short, 24", 26", and 27". We were back at the dock at 10 AM with our limit in the box. Once again, red/white Stretches were the ticket. John owns an 18-foot Key West with a 115 Yamaha and a Mini-Kota GPS Electric. I have owned and fished a bunch of boats, and for its size, this is undoubtedly the driest, smoothest, easy-to-fish 18-foot boat I have ever been on.



- Mary and Henry Troutner



Little slow on Elizabeth River but my friend Douglas Wilburn landed and released this 24 1/2 inch speckled trout on a 28 MR Mirrolure. The water temperature 63.7 degrees.

- Louis Glaser
















THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION ***WANTS YOUR FISH.... TO MEASURE AND AGE.***



*You catch it, you fillet it,
but instead of throwing the remains in the trash,
please donate them to science.*

The Marine Sportfish Collection Project will focus on species of fish that are difficult to collect through the agency's normal sampling program. Anglers are asked to donate their filleted carcasses (head and tail intact) of legal and fresh-caught:

<u>BLUEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 36 INCHES) 	<u>TAUTOG</u> 	<u>COBIA</u> 	<u>RED DRUM</u> 
<u>SHEEPSHEAD</u> 	<u>SPADEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 12 INCHES) 	<u>SPANISH MACKEREL</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 	<u>SPECKLED TROUT</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 
<u>BLACK DRUM</u> 	<u>TILEFISH</u> (BLUELINE OR GOLDEN) 	<u>WRECKFISH, SNOWY GROUPEL, .</u> 	

**In return for participating in the project, the agency will provide
ONE FREE PROJECT TEE SHIRT, OR HAT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT,
PER MONTH of the DONATION.**



Please visit these merchants to participate:

Ocean's East-Eastern Shore (Capeville)
Port Messick Marina (Poquoson)
JEB Little Creek (Virginia Beach)
Long Bay Pointe Marina (Virginia Beach)
Lynnhaven Municipal Marina (Virginia Beach)
Mill's Marina (Seaford)

