

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

FEBRUARY 2023

Mid-Atlantic Boat Show
February 3-5
Virginia Beach Convention
Center

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Craig Freeman, Grading Scales Sportfishing Charters, Jigging for Tautog and Sheepshead

Fishing Tips: Mike Burton, Fishing Rod Maintenance, Upkeep, and Repair

Fishing Reports;

- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- James River: Blue Catfish, Puppy Drum
- Inshore Wrecks: Black Sea Bass, Tautog
- Offshore: Golden Tilefish
- Freshwater/Lake Smith: Black Crappie, Chain Pickerel

Leadership Notes...

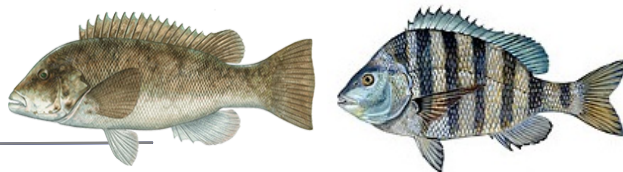
Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

February brings us the 70th Annual Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show to the Virginia Beach Convention Center. It's going to be larger than the previous years so come out and see what this year's manufacturers have to offer. Be sure to stop by the Norfolk Anglers Club table and say hello. It's Friday through Sunday, February 3-5th.

Black sea bass season is open for February. This is a special season that requires a VMRC permit which is free and available on line. Don't forget there's also a notification and reporting requirement for this special season. Check out this edition of the Wireline for more information.

Will

Meeting



Guest Speaker: Captain Craig Freeman with *Grading Scales Sportfishing Charters*.

Join us on Monday February 20th to learn from Captain Craig Freeman on jigging for tautog and sheepshead. Taugs and Sheepies are notorious bait stealers and here's your chance to learn from one of our areas most experienced Charter Captains.

Important:

February 20, 2023

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

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Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

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Club Calendar

FEBRUARY

Fri-Sun, Feb 3rd-5th: Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show, Virginia Beach Convention Center
Mon, Feb 20th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA
Tues, Feb 28th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission Meeting, Fort Monroe

MARCH

Sat, Mar 11th: Fishing Flea Market, Chesapeake Convention Center (8:00am-2:30pm)

JUNE

Sat, Jun 3rd: Norfolk Anglers Club Annual Awards Banquet, NYCC (Private Event)

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 31 January 2023

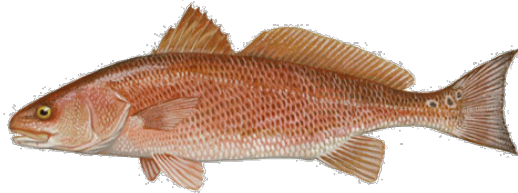
<u>Freshwater</u>		<u>Saltwater</u>	
<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Crappie	James Eisenhower (5) Russell Willoughby (6)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz 1
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (1)		

For the 2023 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.

****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

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)
- 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 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)

Congratulations to Henry Trountr for his 2022 Winning 3.40# OysterToad!



WIN THIS BOAT



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Specs of the 2021 Sea Skimmer include:

Length Overall 18'

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Trailer

This is YOUR opportunity to win a great boat, while supporting the mission of Hooked on Hope VB.

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.

You do not have to live in the state of VA to win this boat. The winner will be responsible for titling and registration of the boat for their state.

<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>

**Drawing
March 1, 2023**

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Custom Rod Building with Mike Burton

We were very fortunate to have fellow Norfolk Angler Mike Burton share his experiences with rod building and repair. If you're like most anglers you've got a collection of rods for different species. There's light tackle speckled trout rods, medium weight tautog rods, heavier offshore angling rods. Then there's the "other collection", the rods that have broken tips or damaged line guides. Without getting them repaired they'll remain unused and that's a waste.

Mike shared it's very rewarding to catch a fish on a rod that you built. From selecting the rod blank, the guides, the tip, and then customizing it with your own color markings, the rod represents completely your effort. Mike shared, it's expected to make mistakes building rods, that's all part of the learning process. For Mike, is a source of relaxation to focus on a process that can't be rushed and a sense of pride and enjoyment.



Photo Courtesy of www.northhouse.org

Getting Started

There's an initial investment in equipment and supplies need to build and repair fishing rods. When compared to the cost of a new rod or sending a number of rods out to be repaired, it's quite inexpensive in the long run. Some of the materials you'll need to get started building and repairing rods;

- Acetone (removes adhesive and prepares the rod for build up)
- Razor Blades (used for scraping and removing softened adhesive)
- Low Power Heat Gun (gentle heat will soften protective coatings and make them easier to remove)
- Wrapping Thread (to secure the rod guides to the rod)
- Burnishing Tool (Aligns and tightens thread wraps together)
- Thread Finish Epoxy (a 2 part epoxy for coating the thread wraps)
- West System G-Flex Epoxy (a better epoxy for attaching rod grips)
- Small mixing cups (disposable epoxy mixing cup)
- Application Brushes (assortment of high quality and low quality brushes)
- Rod Stands (holds the rod horizontal while wrapping thread or applying epoxy)
- Drier (a holder that slowly rotates the rod to allow smooth epoxy curing)



Mike shared there's plenty of rod assembly videos online as a source of guidance and inspiration. There's also a number of rod building suppliers, like Mud Hole® Rod Building & Tackle Crafting in Oviedo, FL.



Norfolk Anglers Club

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Fishing Tips...



Perhaps the easiest rod repair to complete is replacing a damaged rod tip. Removing the rod tip is easier if gentle heat is applied to soften the adhesive. Clean up the rod surface with acetone and reattach a new guide tip with adhesive making sure to align the guide with the other rod guides. Dampen a cloth with acetone to remove any excess adhesive and allow time for the repair to cure.

A more complex repair is replacing a rod guide. Mike advises to use gentle heat to soften the adhesive. An open flame or excessive heat can damage the composite material of the rod. He recommended using a box cutter type razor knife to work at the adhesive once it softens. The razor blade box cutter style of knife provides a better grip and control than holding a single blade. Once the adhesive, thread wrapping, and guide have been removed use acetone and the blade to clean the rod surface.



Select a replacement rod guide of the right size and design to match the existing guides and position it on the rod. Use tape to hold it in place while you wrap the thread to secure it. *Mud Hole® Rod Building & Tackle Crafting* (<https://mudhole.com>) has a large supply of rod blanks, guides, tips, and other supplies needed to complete your project.

With your rod guide taped in position and aligned begin the thread wrap with a single overlapping wrap. While maintaining a consistent thread pressure

from the spool slowly rotate the rod and begin the thread wraps.

After getting 5-6 thread wraps around the guide carefully trim the loose end close to the wraps. Then continue the thread wrapping until you are close to the base of the rod guide (guide foot). Lay a

loop of thread along the rod with both the loop end and cut ends exposed. Continue the thread wrapping over the thread loop to the base of the guide foot. While holding the thread wraps secure cut the line from the spool and insert the end through the loop. Carefully pull the loop with the captured thread back under the thread wraps until the single thread is exposed. Then closely trim off the thread near the wrapping. While wrapping the thread it's important to get a snug and consistent thread wrap. Mike recommends using a burnishing tool to aid in aligning

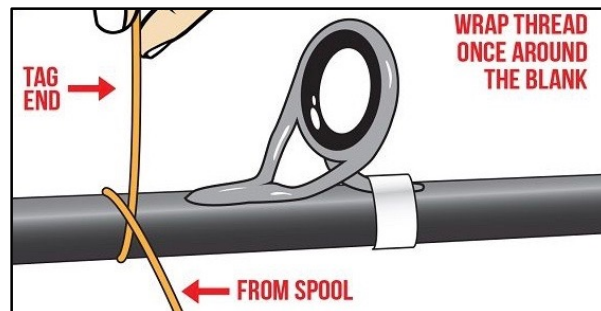
each thread wrap tightly along the next (see photo left). Now it's a good opportunity to check the alignment of the guide to the others. At this point you should be able to make a slight adjustment for perfect alignment before moving on. With the rod guide aligned repeat the process on the opposite rod foot.



Courtesy of www.hooklineandsinker.ca

use the Fuji brand wrapping thread as it seems to be easier and more consistent to apply. Thread that has a color preserving and is UV resistant is also preferred.

With the guide foot tightly wrapped to the rod the next step is to apply epoxy over the thread wrap. This is the most time consuming process in rod building and repair. Multiple coats of epoxy are needed for strength and



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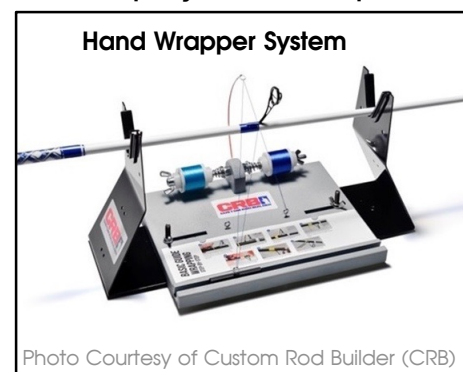
Fishing Tips...

security of the wraps. The adhesive Mike prefers for securing the thread wraps is ProGlu (photo right). It's a 2-Part with a quick cure time (5 minutes) however, for a full and complete cure and maximum strength Mike recommends allowing the ProGlu to setup for hours between coats. Equal parts of adhesive and hardener are mixed and applied to the thread wraps. Ensure each thread wrap is coated with a thin application of epoxy before turning on the "dryer". The dryer is a device to slowly rotate the rod. It's used when making the thread wraps as well as while the epoxy is setting up. The constant rotation makes for a uniform coating of epoxy around the threads and prevents sagging or drooping of the adhesives. The rod dryer has an electric drive motor to keep the rod rotating.



After building up multiple thin coats of epoxy the finished product is a strong, smooth, and uniform thickness of adhesive (photo left). The key to a professional finish is taking your time to get tight uniform wraps and consistent epoxy coats. One piece of equipment for accurate and tight thread wrapping is a component called a *Hand Wrapper*

System. When wrapping the guides it's essential to make tight consistent thread wraps while rotating the rod. The Hand Wrapper System is designed to keep constant tension on the thread during the wrapping process. When combined with the Rod Dryer which rotates the rod during the wrapping phase, as well as when applying epoxy, the Hand Wrapper System's consistent tension allows you to use both hands to guide the wraps.



Heavier offshore rods with stronger rod guides may incorporate multiple layers of thread wrap and epoxy layers. The multiple thread wraps would begin with the initial underwrap of the lighter weight Size "A" thread with a coat of epoxy applied. Epoxy is applied to the underwrap and cured before mounting the guides. After the first wrap secures and aligns the guides the heavier thread (Size D) is wrapped and epoxy coated for additional strength. For rods intended for heavier use (above 30lb class) a second overwrap should be added to the guides followed by at least three coats of epoxy.

Mike shared that getting into rod building isn't as expensive as one might think. The Mud Hole® website has inexpensive rod kits and all the equipment and materials needed to create the perfect custom rod as well as repair damaged rods.

Final thoughts;

- * Inspect your rod guide, reel seats, and handles for security during the season.
- * Don't be hesitant to try custom rod building, it's very satisfying to build your own rod and catch fish.
- * Rods components are easily damaged, having the expertise can make repairs quick and inexpensive.
- * Don't leave your rods in a hot vehicle. Just like the heat applied to soften adhesive on rod guides, the heat in a vehicle is sufficient to damage your rod's epoxy, reel seats, and handles.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email Mike at mburton61@cox.net

REGISTER TODAY

VIRGINIA CHARTER BOAT WORKSHOP

March 25, 2023

on Zoom & in person at VIMS
hosted by Virginia Institute of
Marine Science & Virginia Saltwater
Sportfishing Association

Free registration - space limited
Email: susanna@vims.edu



Visit us at the Boat Show!

**70th Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show
Friday February 3rd - Sunday February 5th
Virginia Beach Convention Center**

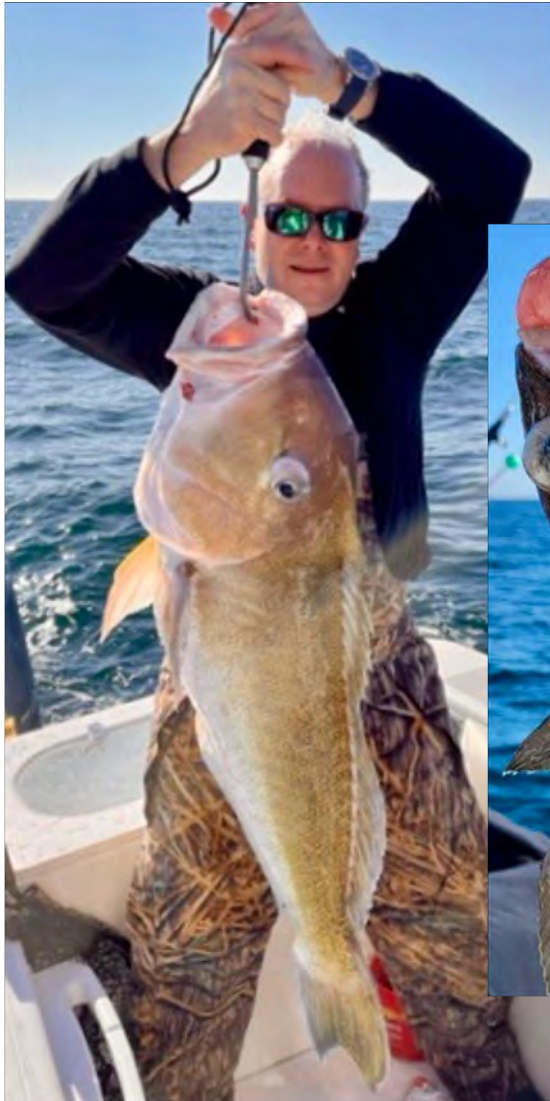
Fishing Reports...

2 JAN: Club member Mike Hubert and I left shore at dawn with Mike's neighbor and our mutual friend Mike B. We headed for Norfolk Canyon after hearing about a great trip right after Christmas. I was given some rigged swordfish baits and "pro tips" from a knowledgeable friend, so we hoped to catch a swordfish and some golden tilefish.

We made a leisurely trip out and tried some "presidential" areas provided by Will Bransom. After a few drops with only some humble dogfish coming to the boat, I decided prospecting was our next choice. We found our tilefish in waters 720-800 feet deep and some rose fish. Mike Hubert was on the reel when a great golden tilefish reached the surface! We caught one nice hake and finished the day drifting for swordfish without success.

We were rewarded with great fishing and flat calm seas for a quick return home traveling 92 miles in less than 2 1/2 hours and mild weather.

- Jack Salvant, Jr., MD



2 JAN: We went with the close of Striper Season, and a beautiful day was predicted. John Curry, Mary, and I trailered the Shamrock to Surry to fish for Catfish, Speckled trout, and Drum. Mary and John concentrated on Catfish fishing with cut Shad, Shrimp, and Striper belly. Within ten minutes, Mary and John had both landed nice Catfish, Mary's being 30 inches, a NAC citation.

We caught eight or ten Catfish, and I landed a small Drum that hit a catfish bait. I spent most of my time casting every Speckled Trout/Drum lure I had in the box with negative results. Note: There were twenty boats fishing the discharge. Ninety-five percent were casting for Speckled trout and Drum, including me. I only saw one boat catch any.

Two guys fishing within casting range of my boat caught several nice Speckled trout and then started catching Drums, one after the other. They appeared to be using a light-color soft plastic, casting up the current and letting it drift back with minimal rod action and reeling just enough to keep the line tight. I mimicked their tactics but never got a hit.

- Mary and Henry Troutner



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2 JAN: Burt Whitt and I went speckled trout fishing with Bert Sainz on the Elizabeth River. We got on the water at 9:30 am and returned to the dock at 2:30 pm. We had a good outgoing tide and 50-degree water with light winds. The day turned out to be great.

We caught approximately 40 speckled trout ranging from 17 to 24 inches and six throwbacks. All were caught on the main river. We tried Deep Creek but have yet to bite. The bait of choice was Mirrolures 27s and 28s in 808, electric chicken colors, and Paul Brown 3 5/8" soft baits. All fish were released.

3 JAN: We dropped the boat in the Elizabeth River at 8:30 am and returned at 1:30 pm. Bert, Louis, and I returned to yesterday's honey holes and again had great success. We had an outgoing tide, 51-degree water, with five to ten southwest winds. Bert and I each picked up a 24-inch speckled trout we released, and we caught 14 more quality trout. We also had some smaller throwbacks. We used the same baits as the day before.

4 JAN: Andy Reid and I went fishing with Bert on the third day in the Elizabeth River. We fished from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. The temperature was 53, and we had an excellent outgoing current with a slight breeze.

We had to work hard for the bite, catching six keepers and 8 - 10 throwbacks. We emptied our tackle boxes, trying different baits and colors.

- Ned Smith



11 JAN: Russell Willoughby and I fished the Lake Smith/Larsen Lake complex looking for black crappie. We weren't disappointed!

Very light winds, but a cloudy day offered up the first crappies almost as soon as we got on the water. The 48-degree water turned up a 13-inch for Russell and a 12.5-inch for me, each a club minimum release.



We took home three nice eating sizes (10-11 inches) and threw back about five. We were so focused on releasing the big ones that we forgot to take pictures.

But I also took a picture of a couple we kept to eat and Russell's 25-inch chain pickerel minimum release. All fish were fat, and shad was noted throughout the lake. A great day for a cold one. All taken on shiners under bobbers.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

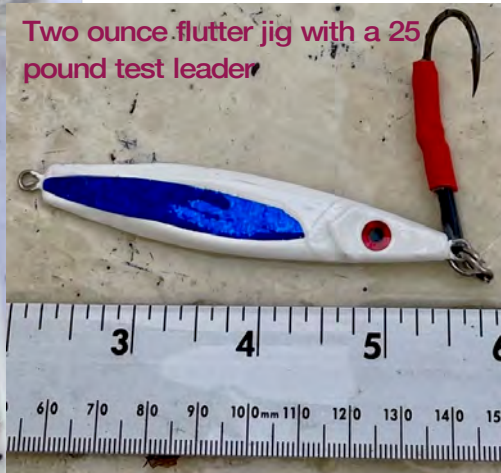
30 JAN: We fished the Kingston Ceylonite HMT and Tiger wrecks off the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Using two ounce flutter jigs and frozen Shrimp on dropper loops, we were able to catch Black Sea Bass and Tautog up to 14 inches. A majority of the larger Sea Bass (up to 16 inches) were caught on the flutter jigs. The water temperature was 46 degrees. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. - ALEX Perez



Black Sea Bass, tagged before the release

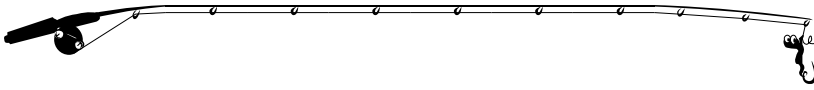


Tautog, tagged for the release



Black Sea Bass that is all smiles

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18 JAN: Bert and I fished the Elizabeth River for four hours in the morning on the outgoing tide.

Water temperature was 45 - 47 degrees and clear, with SW winds from 5 - 15.

We caught six keeper-speckled trout, including a 23 3/4. All were caught in deep water, 10 to 15 feet. Paul Brown Soft Bait XL (pink) and MR 28s were the baits of choice.

For this time of year, we had a pretty good day!

- Ned Smith



20-24 JAN: Russell Willoughby and I went fishing for black crappie out of Lake Smith's ramp on January 20. Really nice weather with low winds and 50s temperatures lured us out on the water, and it wasn't disappointing each time. Russell caught a 13-inch and 11.5-inch club minimum release, and I caught a 12-inch club minimum release along with four keeper crappie, each around 10-11 inches long, and several throwback-sized crappies, yellow perch, and chain pickerel. The water temperature was 49-51 degrees, and we used medium-sized shiners for bait. We fished both Smith and Lawson Lakes.



On January 24, the afternoon wind was low, and it was sunny but colder, so we tried again for black crappie at Smith/Lawson in the afternoon hours. The bite was much slower than last week, and it really wasn't until after 3:00 pm that we scored.

Russell had 13.5, 12.5, and 11.5-inch club minimum releases, while I had 12.5, 11.5, and 11-inch club minimum releases. All fish caught on shiners hooked on jigs with various colored Bobby Garlands.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



Angler Interests



Virginia Fuel Tax Refund Program

<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmv-fueltax/#/>

A refund of the Virginia fuels tax paid on purchases of fuel in quantities of five gallons or more is available to any person provided that they have paid the fuels tax and that the fuel was used for an Eligible Use. What's an eligible use? Some of the eligible uses that qualify for a fuel tax refund are; used in operating or propelling recreational and pleasure watercraft, used in operating or propelling commercial watercraft, and diesel fuel used in a passenger car, pickup or panel truck, or truck having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. The refund amount for diesel fuel tax is equal to the difference between the tax rate for diesel and the tax rate for gasoline.

How do I apply for a refund?

Registration is required the first time you use the Fuels Tax Online Refund system, thereafter, logon with your email address and the password you have chosen for your account. Read the system prompts carefully. First the claim is created then users must go to "Pending Claims", to add the claim(s) to the cart and check out.

What information do I need to file a fuels tax refund claim?

To submit a refund claim, you will need to provide the refund claim period, number of gallons, fuel type (gas, diesel, etc.), how the fuel was used, and other information required for the type of refund claim you are submitting. The system will guide you through the application process and display messages when the fuel receipts or other documentation is required to be submitted to DMV.

Fuels Tax Rates

In accordance with Code of Virginia § 58.1-2217, the DMV Commissioner is required to levy an excise tax on motor fuels. In addition to the tax, § 58.1-2217 requires a storage tank fee to be imposed on motor fuels sold and delivered or used in the Commonwealth.

Fuel Type	Rates per Gallon July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	Rates per Gallon July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
Gasoline	26.2 cents	28.0 cents
Diesel	27.0 cents	28.9 cents
Blended Fuels (Gasoline)	26.2 cents	28.0 cents
Blended Fuels (Diesel)	27.0 cents	28.9 cents
Aviation Fuels	5.0 cents	5.0 cents
Alternative Fuels (see below)	26.2 cents per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE)	28.0 cents per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE)
Storage Tank Fee	0.2 cents per gallon	0.6 cents per gallon

Angler Interests

Virginia Marine Resources Commission approves February Black Sea Bass season



At the Commission's January meeting the Commission voted to open a special recreational black sea bass season from February 1-28, 2023. During this special recreational season anglers may harvest 15 Black Sea Bass per person per day with a minimum size of 13.0 inches. The season also requires a vessel permit, notification to the Marine Operations Center, and harvest reporting or a report of no-activity. The following pages have more information on obtaining a permit, reporting requirements, and VMRC contact information.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2023 Recreational Management Measures



The MidAtlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) met jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASFMC) in December 2022 to set recreational bag, size, and season limits (i.e., management measures) for all three species for 2023. This was the first time setting recreational management measures using the new "Percent Change Approach," which was approved by the Council and Commission in June 2022. Under the new process, measures for the upcoming year(s) will aim to achieve a specified percent change in harvest compared to expected harvest under the current measures. Although this process intends for recreational measures to be set for two-year cycles, 2023 will be set for a single year to align with the timing of management track stock assessments.

During their deliberations for each species, the Council and Board reviewed the results of two statistical models: the Recreational Demand Model and the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model. These models predict the impacts of bag, size, and season limits on recreational harvest and discards of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Prior to the Council meeting, the Monitoring Committee reviewed both models and recommended using the Recreational Demand Model for summer flounder and the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model for scup and black sea bass. However, on December 8, 2022, the Council received a letter from the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) indicating they believe the Recreational Demand Model to be the best scientific information available for estimating coastwide harvest and determining the appropriate percent change in harvest for all three species for 2023. The letter indicated that GARFO would not approve measures set based on the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model. Although Council and Board members expressed serious concern about the timing and rationale for this determination from GARFO, they ultimately concluded that they had no choice but to use the Recreational Demand Model for all three species.

Black Sea Bass

The Percent Change Approach also requires a 10% reduction in recreational black sea bass harvest in 2023, which will be achieved through the conservation equivalency process. The Council and Board adopted non-preferred coastwide measures, including a 15-inch minimum size limit, a 5 fish possession limit, and an open season of May 15 – September 8. These measures are intended to achieve a 10% reduction if implemented in all states and federal waters. If approved through the federal rulemaking process, these measures would be written into the federal regulations but waived in favor of state waters measures. The Council and Board also adopted precautionary default measures of a 16-inch minimum size limit, a 2 fish possession limit, and an open season of June 1 – August 31. These measures are intended to be implemented in any state or region that does not put forward a proposal that can be approved by the Board through the conservation equivalency process. State waters measures will be determined through the Commission process in early 2023. The Board also approved a proposal to open the recreational black sea bass fishery in Virginia state waters during February 2023 following the same process Virginia has used in prior years to monitor February harvest and modify the length of the open season later in the year as necessary to account for February harvest.

Angler Interests

2023 Recreational Reporting Fact Sheet

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE, please call (757) 247-2200 with any questions****

What's up with this mandatory reporting for recreational fishing?

All recreational anglers (private and for-hire) targeting or catching black sea bass during February (see bottom) must be covered under the corresponding species permit and must report for Virginia to keep opening this special season.

PERMITS

Who would need to physically have the permit?

The captain or operator of the vessel (whether private or for-hire) and every individual in the case of shore, pier, or kayak fishing. Guests on private boats and for-hire boats do not need a permit and the captain must also report for their activity.

I am a charter captain and private angler. Do I need two permits for one species?

No, you only need one permit for each species. However, when you report your trips, you need to indicate whether you took a private or for-hire trip.

Where can I sign up?

These free permits can be obtained online or from a VMRC Licensing Agent. For a list of agents, please refer to the website below or call the VMRC at (757) 247-2200. Sign up for your permit online:

<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/mpermits/index.php>

Visit a VMRC Licensing Agent: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/mrcagents.shtm>

What is a VMRC ID?

We assign a number specific to each person who is registered as a commercial fisherman or signs up for a recreational species permit. Most of the time, it will be of the format N0#####. It does not change from year to year, and is used to obtain all of your permits. It is different from the "permit number" and your DWR Customer ID/CID or saltwater fishing license number.

What happens if I fish for one of these species without a permit?

If you are stopped by a law enforcement and this is the case, an officer can write you a ticket.

What happens if I go fishing on my friend's boat, and he doesn't have a permit?

It is the obligation of the captain or operator of the boat to be permitted. Allowing passengers on the vessel to obtain permits could create confusion over reporting if those anglers also fish on boats whose captains are permitted.

REPORTING

How do I report?

You may meet your reporting requirements by utilizing the VA Saltwater Journal found at <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com>. The VA Saltwater Journal has a dedicated section for reporting for these mandatory species. You must also report your non-participation if you did

Angler Interests

not fish during their respective seasons. Alternatively, paper forms may be found on our website at <http://mrc.virginia.gov/forms/index.shtm> which will allow you to mail in your reports. Please call if you need one mailed to you.

If fishing for black sea bass during the February season, permittees are also responsible for contacting Law Enforcement Operations at 1-800-541-4646 before or immediately after the start of each fishing trip to coordinate sampling efforts by VMRC staff. The Operations Station is staffed 24 hours a day and is always available for your call. The permittee shall provide the dispatcher with their name, VMRC ID, point of landing, description of their vessel, approximate time of arrival and a contact phone number.

Can I report my trips by calling the VMRC?

No, there is no dedicated call-in system to report for any of these fisheries, nor does staff take specific trip reports.

Do I have to report every trip, even if I don't catch anything?

Yes, trips where you don't catch your target species are important for management, as the number of such "unsuccessful" trips can hint at the health of a fish population.

Do I have to report if I was not targeting one of these species, but caught one?

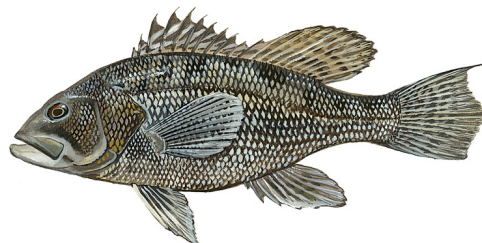
Yes, these trips are also relevant for estimating recreational landings.

If I called Law Enforcement Operations and told them how many black sea bass I caught, am I all set for reporting?

No, in addition to calling Law Enforcement, you must also report via the VA Saltwater Journal or on paper forms as described above.

What if I can't log in to the VA Saltwater Journal to report?

If you have never used the VA Saltwater Journal before, you will need to register by clicking the "Register Here" button at the top of the page. If you have previously registered but cannot remember your password, please click the "Forgot Password" button. The VA Saltwater Journal only allows one user per email address. However, a registered VA Saltwater Journal user can report for another permit holder in the Journal by entering their VMRC ID. If you continue to have trouble, you may call the VMRC or use the paper form to mail in the report.

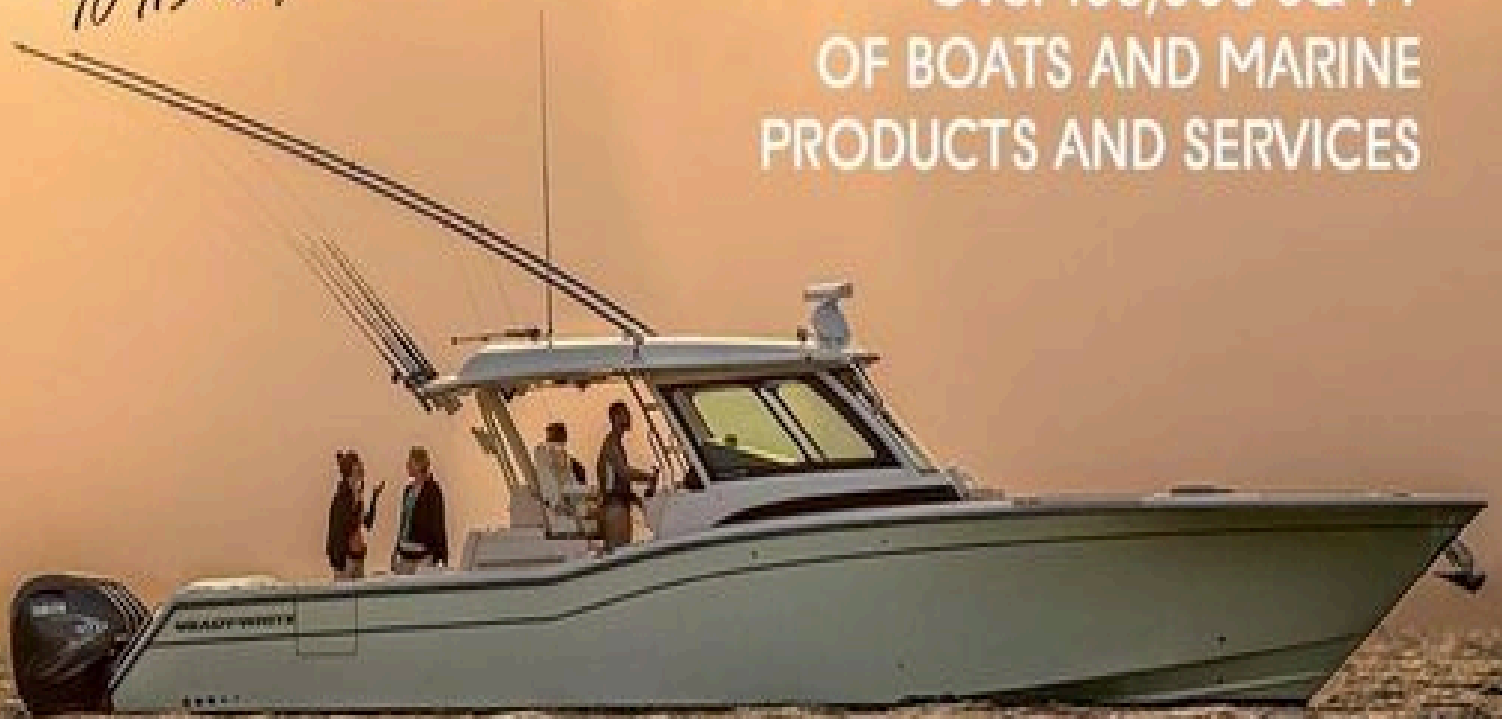


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