

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JANUARY 2020



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: John Curry, *Striper Fishing on the James River*

Fishing Reports:

- Little Creek: Striped Bass
- Lynnhaven: Puppy Drum
- Offshore/Wrecks and Norfolk Canyon: Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Black Belly Rosefish
- Inshore/Wrecks: Black Sea Bass, Tautog
- Inshore/Tower Reef: Tautog, Black Sea Bass, Scup
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- James River/MMBT: Striped Bass
- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Tautog

Angler Interests:

- Atlantic Menhaden Moratorium

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Happy New Year! I hope 2020 brings good health, prosperity, and lots of fishing to you and your family.

Welcome Allen Holton to the Norfolk Anglers Club. We're glad you joined our group and look forward to fishing with you!

Thanks to each of you who supported the SeaTow Holiday Stuff-a-Boat toy drive in support of the USMCR Toys-for-Tots campaign. More than 2,074 toys, including 25 bicycles, were collected for local children. That's an amazing success from YOUR efforts and generosity. Well Done!

We're still collecting non-perishable food items for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. In fact, we never stop collecting, so please remember to bring something to the January meeting and we'll get it to the foodbank.

- Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker; John Curry, *James River Rockfish*

John Curry lives on Brewers Creek, which flows to the Chuckatuck then into the James River, equal distance to James River Bridge, Monitor and Merrimac Bridge Tunnel and Nansemond River bridge. John fishes from his 20 foot Key West cuddy cabin kept on a boat lift at his house. He'll share his Striper fishing experiences trolling and cannon balling at our January meeting.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 13 January, 2020
at 7pm

Location:

[Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill](#)

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

Publishers NOTES

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NORFOLK ANGLERS



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Club Calendar

January

Tues, January 7th, ASMFC Public Hearing on
Atlantic Croaker & Spot DRAFT Addenda
Mon, January 13th, Club Meeting
Tues, January 28th, VMRC Meeting

February

Fri-Sun, February 7-9th, Mid-Atlantic Boat Show
(Virginia Beach Convention Center)
Mon, February 10th, Club Meeting



**TRY SOMETHING
NEW IN 2020. PLACE
AN AD IN THE
NORFOLK ANGLERS
CLUB WIRELINE
NEWSLETTER!**

We deliver the Wireline to more than 130 Direct Emails, Webpage and Regional Fishing Forums, several Hampton Roads Marina Offices and Tackle Shops. We also highlight the Wireline many times on our Facebook page that has 1,300 Likes, 1,339 Follows and our Posts reach around over 500 weekly. Our Wireline gets read by many Anglers in the Hampton Roads area; if you go to one of the local Tackle Shops you'll see the Wireline at the end of the month, it will resemble a well read paperback. There is a fee that is paid once which enables your ad to appear in the Wireline for 12 Months. Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/norfolk.anglersclub>.

Full Page = \$200.00 Half Page = \$150.00 Quarter Page = 100.00
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You can also change your ad month to month or just keep it the same for 12 months. If you are interested contact the Wireline Editor, you can find the POC information at our website <http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com>. You also can check out our Wireline Newsletters for 2019 at the same website.



29 NOV: I snuck out on a Monday to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) for three hours. Fishing the incoming tide, I anchored up on the up current side of the island.

Happy Gulp! Swimming Mullet on a quarter ounce jig head, I caught a 20 inch speckled trout and three small trout right after. I also used a half-ounce blue Crab I found at the ramp that helped me catch two Puppy Drum up to 17.5 inches, a Pufferfish, and a 14 inch Tautog into the boat.

The two Drum were caught within minutes of each other but one had a much darker gold color to it. They are beautiful fish. All fish were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Pappas

20 OCT: Mike, Greg and Kim took my boat to the Triangle. Although we met at 6:30am a problem with my RedGreen running lights (now corrected) delayed our departure to 7:15am. We fished 4 miles, the Morgan debris field and the Brass Spike on the way in. The results were a slow pick of mostly small sea bass. We only kept those over 14 inches and only had a dozen.

It seems to me we are going to have a problem with the sea bass fishery this year. I commercially fished for sea bass with a gill net 2 Saturdays. We fished deep wrecks South the first and North the second. Although we caught plenty of fish, it was no where the numbers we are use to. The northern wrecks were covered with bluish.

1 NOV: May was out of town so I fished the Chuckatuck in my little skiff. While jigging I caught stripers, drum and specks all mixed together.

The fishing got so hot, with a fish on every cast, I called George from the C.G. AUK and picked him up at his house on the creek. We returned to catching a mix of fish for another hour.

Stripers were all short, specks and drum were up to 19 inches. All were released.

- Henry Troutner



SEA TOW TOYS FOR TOTS!



It was a cloudy and rainy day but Sea Tow Hampton Road's Toys for Tots was another successful event for 2019. They collected a total of 2,074 toys; 25 of those were bikes! They even improved from last year when they only collected 1,827 toys. Everyone enjoyed hot Apple cider pastries and pizza. The Marines took all toys back to the distribution center and sorted by age to start distributing to families. Thanks to all who participated in making a child's holiday a little brighter this year.





Thanks to all the NAC members who helped to get the toys on the boat and the Sea Tow truck. It was not easy. They successfully kept all the toys dry except the bikes, they got a little wet. They had some hard rain for a time but were able to get tarps up. At least it was warmer than past years. Even with the conditions everyone had a great time. Below logos are all the local Angler Clubs who participated along with local businesses.



Holiday Party

The NAC Holiday Party was a lot of fun this year. Thanks to Mike Hubert, Will and Wendy Bransom for setting up. Also thanks to Karen and Ed Schrader for the beautiful poinsettias, everyone loved them. The crazy gift exchange was a lot of laughs. We had several thieves that kept stealing other peoples presents, check out the pictures. We loved watching everyone unwrap presents, especially the camp fire fishing rod. Enjoy the pictures!









Fishing Reports...



4, 9, 16 DEC: I fished with Louis Glaser three days in December in Little Creek for stripers. On the fourth we got two, a 29 inches and a 28 inches on Wind Cheaters. But, unfortunately, we only caught one 23 inches on ninth and a 21 inches on sixteenth. Again, Wind Cheaters were the ticket in a very fast moving tide, either incoming or outgoing. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



6 DEC : Hot! I got my limit in 30 minutes! - Jerry Hughes



27 Dec: I got another limit!
- Jerry Hughes





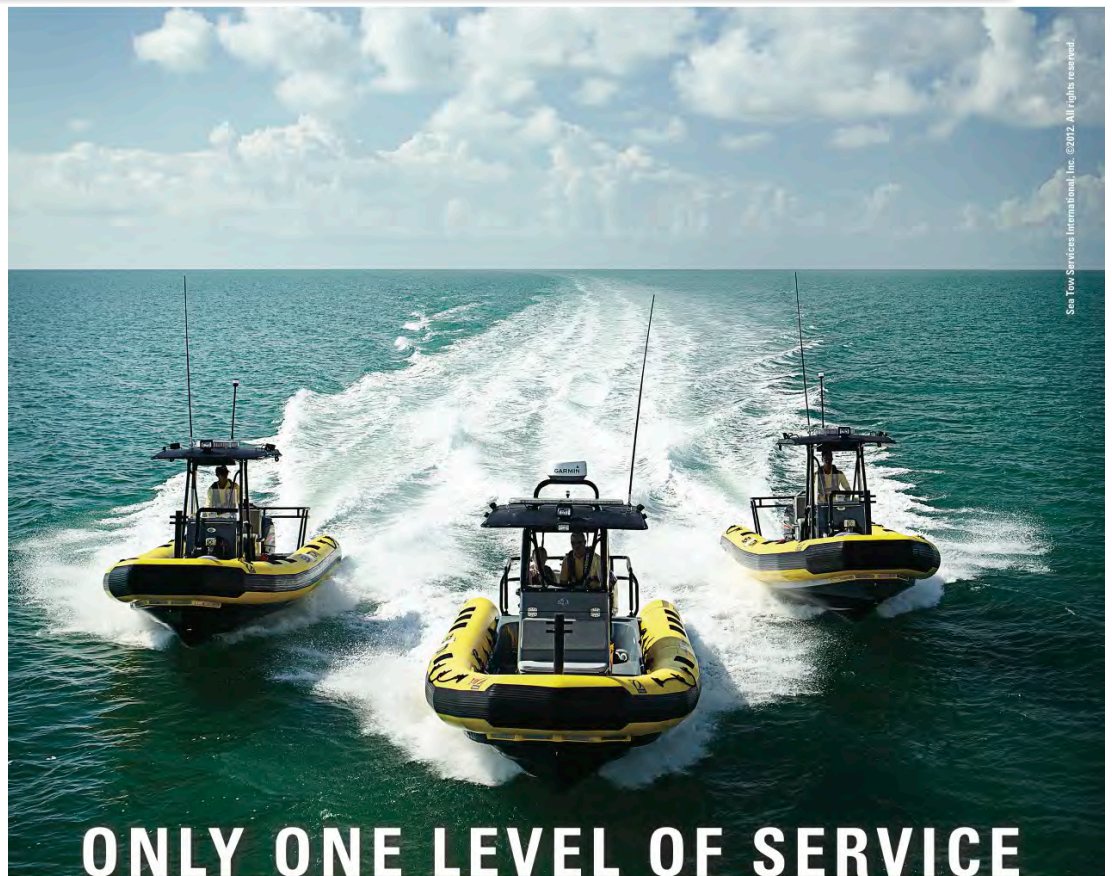
23 Dec: Mary and I fished with John Curry at the M & M Bridge. Trolling red/white stretches, we caught two really fat stripers, 22 and 24 inches.

- Henry Troutner



31 Nov:, I had Mike, Greg and Angela out to the CBBT for tautog. We fished the 2nd and 4th Islands without much luck. We caught one short at 15 inches and one toadfish. The weather man had various predictions but overall it was pretty nice other than a little chilly.

- Henry Troutner



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Black Sea Bass (tagged and released).

22 Dec: We fished the tower reef from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We used clams and frozen Green Crabs looking for Tautog but only managed a dozen or smaller Black Sea Bass and six Scup. *We were fortunate to be visited by only one Dog Shark!* -Alex Perez



Scup
(Porgy)

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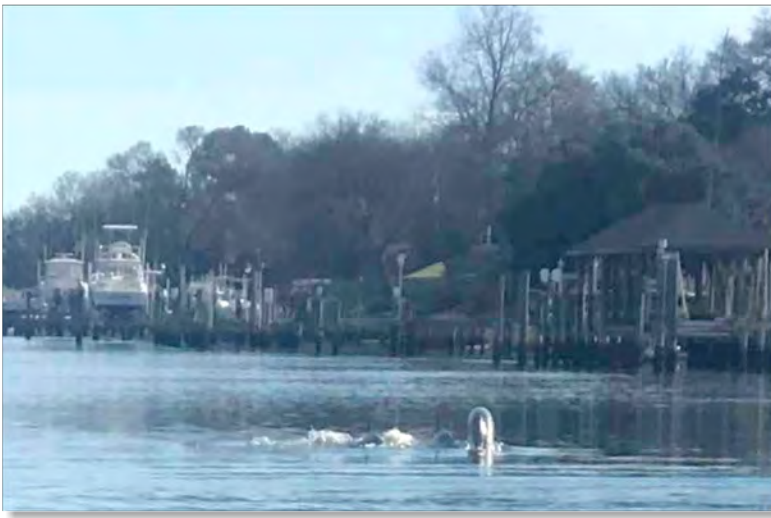
follow the fishing on facebook!

24 DEC: I fished with Russell Willoughby and Jerry Hughes on Christmas Eve on his Mako in the Elizabeth River. The wind was blowing bad out of the North on the bay so we opted to check out the Elizabeth River for speckled trout since both of them had fished it earlier and caught several keepers. We started back in the Deep Creek once we found an area out of the blowing wind.



We tried mostly jigs and soft bodies until Russell put on a 3 inch swim bait in shad color and caught one immediately in about 10 foot depth as we drifted. This was a nice 18 inch speckled trout. In no time we had 5 in the boat, between 17-20 inches speckled trout. However the tide died and that was it for the day. We tried other places along the Deep Creek and Elizabeth River but no luck as the incoming tide was slow moving.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



7 Dec: Dolphins were in the Canal in the Canal on a Saturday Morning. They were eating all the bait!

- James Robinson

The 2020 Boat Show season kicks off February 7 - 9 2020, at the Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show; where the latest models in boats, personal watercraft and new marine technology/accessories will be on display. No matter the type of boat, accessory, or new gear you're looking for, you will have plenty to choose from at the Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show.

For more info, visit VaBoatShow.com.

Tickets: \$10, Kids 12 & under FREE

Virginia Beach Convention Center
1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach,
Virginia 23451

Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Sports &
Boat Show

Contact one of the Norfolk Anglers
Club Board Members if you would like
to work at the NAC Booth!

67th Annual Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show



28 Dec: Headed out to the Ocean Venture and Norfolk Canyon before the Black Sea Bass season ends. We had a plan to load up with Sea Bass and then move over to the Canyon and catch a few Golden Tilefish. Fully expecting to find more than a few dogfish sharks in the Norfolk Canyon however, being early in the season for them, we figured it would not be too bad. Things were NOT as expected.

We pulled up on the Ocean Venture with seas very calm and a light wind. The first drop pulled up an undersized Sea Bass which was tagged and released back on the bottom. Then Jere had a real big knothead alongside and before the net made it to the rail, it was gone! We only got a brief glimpse of the fish and it was clearly a citation fish. The first two bites came slow then everything changed. All the rods bent over and everyone had multiple hook ups. The party crashers showed up and it wasn't what we expected. As the anglers retrieved their lines I was imagining the tangled mess that a few dogfish sharks can cause. Knowing we had multiple fish on everyone's lines and five anglers reeling them at the same time made me think of one thing, "Keep the lines out of the propellers!" Kim landed the first doubles catch for the day. The party crashers weren't dogfish but hungry bluefish, and lots of them! Ranging 26-29 inches these eating machines got every bait we dropped down to the wreck. In fact, many drops were taken before we even got to the wreck. At first it was fun, it was "catching", then it wasn't fun. So, we moved further east to the Norfolk Canyon to target Golden Tilefish.

Setting up in 700 feet of water we switched out gear to higher capacity reels, larger hooks, and heavier leaders. Golden Tiles can get quite big and provide quite a tugging if they get in their mud burrow. When they hit it's usually a hard and heavy strike. The first deep drop hit wasn't hard or heavy but a lighter strike of a Black Belly Rosefish. Jere and Kim were the first to bring in the Rosefish. The largest weighed in ashore at 3.6 pounds. The crew brought in two more for a total of four before the party crashers showed up again.



It was the bluefish again! Now, when you're dropping baits down to 160 feet catching a few bluefish can be fun. When you're reeling in bluefish from 700 feet, it's much less fun. Even from 400 feet it's still less fun.

We'd been fishing one of my favorite spots along the south wall of the canyon so we picked up and move to another south wall location. More of the same class of bluefish. You could feel the blues hitting the bait on the way down before reeling back in. After too many deep drops for bluefish, we pulled up and headed to the north wall of the canyon. Sometimes making a location change like that will turn everything around. It didn't. The bluefish must be following the boat because we've never seen them cover such a large area.

Thankfully, Kim caught the only dogfish shark for the day. We kept a few bluefish for fresh bait and the

backyard smoker and decided to head south. Perhaps we could outrun the bluefish that were seemingly following our boat. I mean, they covered a ten square mile area we were fishing.

We pulled up and got the boat ready for a run and took off, fast, to the south. We arrived at the wrecks 20 nautical miles south and started checking the drift while the crew got the gear swapped out. The first wreck was in 160 ft and in a few drifts we caught Sea Bass, gladly we didn't catch any bluefish!



No bluefish was a good sign! After landing nearly 50 in deep water the crew had enough of that kind of catching fun.

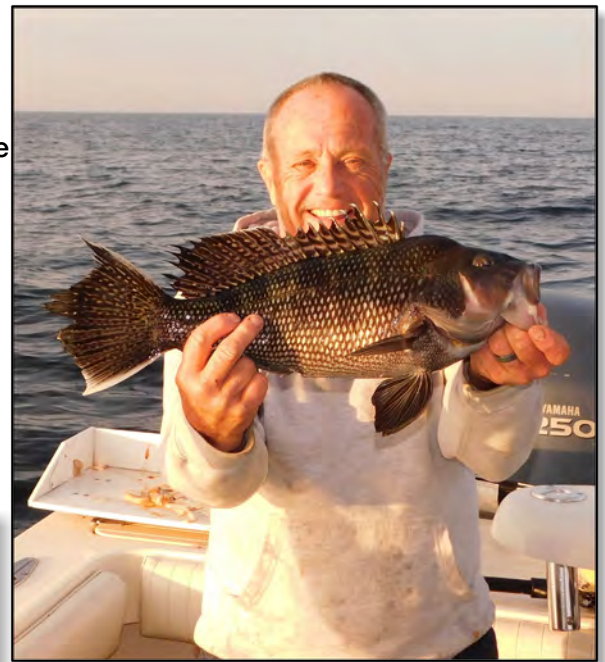
We soon moved over to another wreck and caught a few more keeper sized Sea Bass. It wasn't as fast action as I'd expected but the fish were a good size. Any Sea Bass less than 15 inches we generally tag and release for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

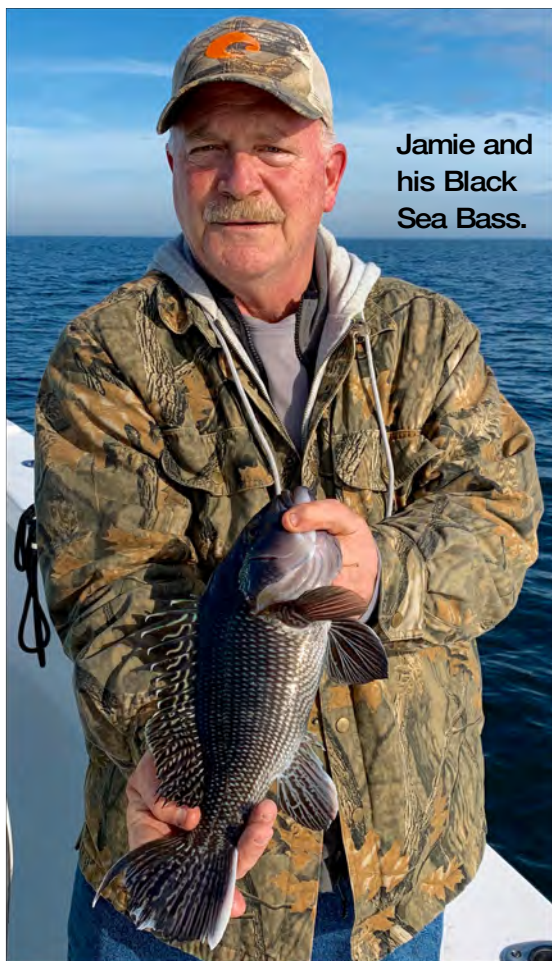
We picked up and move further south and set up on a larger wreck that fortunately lined up on our drift heading. With everything set and baits bouncing off the bottom we drifted to the wreck and it was immediately obvious we were on the fish. Double and triple Sea Bass hookups were the norm on nearly every drift. Out of a 5 person limit of Sea Bass I was only able to tag & release 11 fish under 15 inches.



Thanks for another great day of fishing. Along for the trip were Kim Rote, Greg Rogers, Andy Potvin, and Jere Humphrey. A great crew, beautiful weather, and plenty of Sea Bass made the day near perfect.

We met up the next morning to clean our catch at Jere's home. Many thanks to Jere, who decided to get an earlier start on the filleting the fish before we arrived. Jere, armed with an electric knife, a big mug of coffee, and a pile of Sea Bass is something to behold. Just don't get too close to the action when he's in the zone. Kind of reminds me of one of those Japanese restaurant Chefs, slicing and dicing, flipping fish fillets over his shoulder into the cooler to the applause of the crowd. - Will Bransom

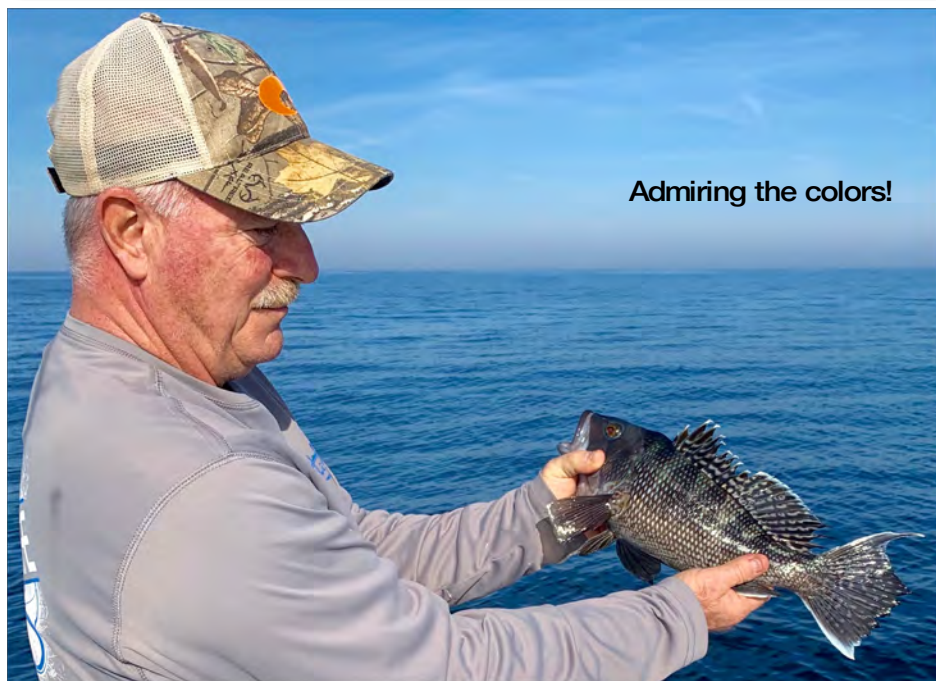




Jamie and
his Black
Sea Bass.



My Black Sea Bass.



Admiring the colors!

28 Dec: After taking advice from our very own Captain Will, we took a ride out to the Brass Spike wreck in search for Tautog.

I was not able to secure my favorite bait, live crabs, so we made do with what we could get. We ended up taking Chowder clams and Shrimp and anchored up shortly after 7:00 am.

There was barely any current and we immediately started catching Black Sea Bass. It was non stop smaller Sea Bass action all day; nine were keeper sized from 13 to 16.5 inches.

Other incidental catches were a dogfish, a Skate and the ever present Oyster Toad. We did manage to catch and release our intended target fish, a 14 inches Tautog.

- Alex Perez



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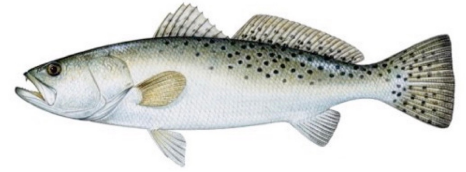
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26 Dec: Norfolk Anglers Louis Glaser, Ned Smith, and Bert Sainz fishing the Elizabeth River on a very foggy holiday morning. Each got their limit using MirrOlure 52MR lures and 4 inches Storm lures.



5 Dec: Got up early and decided to take the skiff over to Crystal Lake to tag some Speckled Trout. It was cold and very windy as I trolled through Rainey Gut to Crystal Lake. I tried 17MR and 27MR MirrOlures without success, put out shrimp on a popping cork, slowed the retrieve way down without success. I rigging up a jig that Ed Cromwell showed us at the November meeting and immediately started catching Puppy Drum (17-18.5 inches). They were all tagged & released healthy. I beached at the entrance to Rainey Gut to fish the slough on the falling tide without any luck. - Will Bransom



Angler Interests

Secretary of Commerce declares Moratorium on Atlantic Menhaden in Virginia Waters



Secretary of Commerce concurs with the Commission's finding that the Commonwealth of Virginia is out of compliance with Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The Secretary has declared a moratorium on the Atlantic menhaden fisheries in Virginia waters, effective June 17, 2020. For more information see the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Press Release (next page).

MAFMC and ASMFC Recommend Recreational Bluefish Regulations for 2020



ANNAPOLIS, MD – in December, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved new recreational fishing regulations for the 2020 Atlantic bluefish fishery from Florida to Maine. These measures, which include a 3-fish bag limit for private anglers and shore-based fishermen and a 5-fish bag limit



for for-hire fishermen, represent a substantial reduction compared to the federal 15-fish bag limit that has been in place since 2000 [Editor: Virginia's Recreational Possession limit is currently 10]. The Commission's actions are final and apply to state waters (0-3 miles from shore), while the Council will forward its recommendation for federal waters (3 – 200 miles from shore) to the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Administrator for final approval. The most recent operational assessment of the Atlantic bluefish stock concluded that the stock is overfished but not experiencing overfishing.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Public Hearing on Atlantic Croaker and Spot



Arlington, VA – The Commission's South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board releases two documents for public comment: Draft Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Croaker and Draft Addendum III to the Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate FMPs for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout [Speckled Trout]. The Board initiated the development of the Draft Addenda for

Atlantic croaker and spot to incorporate updates on the annual traffic light approach (TLA) and propose changes to the management program. In the absence of an approved stock assessment, which is the case for both species, the TLA is conducted each year to evaluate fishery trends and develop management actions (e.g. bag limits, size restrictions, time and area closures, and gear restrictions) when harvest and abundance thresholds are exceeded. The TLA assigns a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of indicators on the condition of the fish population or fishery. The Public hearing for our area is being held on Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30pm at Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 380 Fenwick Road, Ft. Monroe, VA 23651. Contact: Adam Kenyon and Somers Smott at 757.247.2200 for additional information.

VMRC establishes Commercial Electrofishing regulation for catfish



At their December meeting, the commission voted unanimously to establish Chapter 4 VAC 20-1360-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Electrofishing," to create a commercial electrofishing license and fishery for catfish, with the addition of a prohibition against electrofishing within 100 yards of public boat ramps, fishing areas, and people in the water.

Angler Interests

Atlantic Menhaden Update



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2019

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

Secretary of Commerce Finds Commonwealth of Virginia Out of Compliance with Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3 *Menhaden Fishing in Virginia Waters to Close June 17, 2020 if 51,000 mt Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Not Implemented*

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission received notification today that the Secretary of Commerce concurs with the Commission's finding that the Commonwealth of Virginia is out of compliance with Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Specifically, the Commonwealth has failed to implement the 51,000 mt Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap (cap). In accordance with this finding, the Secretary has declared a moratorium on the Atlantic menhaden fisheries in Virginia waters, effective June 17, 2020. In order to avert the moratorium, the Commonwealth must effectively implement and enforce the cap prior to June 17th. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act) of 1993.

"I am grateful for the Secretary's support of the Commission's fisheries management process and, in particular, our efforts to manage Atlantic menhaden, an important forage species, in a precautionary manner," stated ASMFC Chair Patrick C. Keliher of Maine. "The Secretarial backstop is a key provision of the Atlantic Coastal Act."

In today's letter from NOAA Fisheries transmitting its determination of noncompliance, it stated, "NOAA Fisheries also finds that this management measure is necessary for the conservation of the menhaden resource. The best available information shows that menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay are an important component of the overall health of the stock, and further that their role as forage for predator species in the Chesapeake Bay is critical to the marine environment." The letter explains that the June closure was selected "to give Virginia the time necessary for its legislature to bring these regulations back into compliance."

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PR19-40

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.



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