

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JULY 2023

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Capt Aaron Maurer, Savage 3 Tackle Company, Drifting Fishing for Flounder

Fishing Tips: Trolling for Spanish Mackerel and King Mackerel with Captain Todd Beck, *Knot Wish'n Custom Charters*

Fishing Reports;

- Inshore Wrecks/CLT: Spadefish
- Hampton Roads/HRBT: Croaker, Flounder, Cobia, Whiting
- James River/MMBT: Flounder, Croaker
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Croaker, Tautog
- Chuckatuck River: Blue Catfish, Puppy Drum, White Perch, Croaker, Rockfish
- Offshore/Virginia: Black Sea Bass, Flounder
- Offshore/North Carolina: Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo
- Back River: Tautog, Croaker, Sharks, Skate

Next Meeting
moved to
July 24th

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

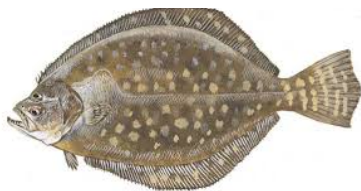
Welcome to our new Norfolk Anglers Club member: Capt Tom Jerome with Kraken Charters. We're very happy to have you with us and look forward to fishing with you.

Our July meeting had to be changed to Monday July 24th. Same location and same time. A scheduling conflict at Boil Bay Seafood City is the reason. In August we'll be back to the regular 3rd Monday meeting.

With great sadness, I report that Denny Dobbins passed away on June 19th. Not only was Denny a member of our club, he was also a long time President of the Portsmouth Anglers Club. He was passionate about the Make a Wish Foundation for fishing. Denny was a military veteran and will be laid to rest on July 11, at 3 pm with a Full Honors Military service at Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, VA. Following the service, per Denny's request, there will be a repass party for his many friends at Planter's Club, Suffolk, VA at 4:30pm.

Will

On The Cover: A photo from Captain Alex Perez while fishing around the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel with his family on June 10th. Read his fishing report and many more in this edition of the Wireline.



Meeting

Guest Speaker: Capt Aaron Maurer with Savage 3 Tackle Company

Slow drifting for Flounder is this month's Speaker Topic.

Aaron Maurer is both a Charter Captain in Hampton Roads and owner of Savage 3 Tackle Company in Chester, VA. Join us on Monday July 24th to learn his techniques slow drifting for flounder in our area.



Important:

July 24, 2023

Changed Meeting Date!

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

JULY

Thurs, Jul 6th: National Fish & Wildlife Service
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back Bay
National Wildlife Refuge

****Meeting
Change****

Mon, Jul 24th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Thurs, Jul 20th: National Fish & Wildlife Service
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back Bay
National Wildlife Refuge

AUGUST

Thurs, Aug 3rd: National Fish & Wildlife Service
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back Bay
National Wildlife Refuge

Mon, Aug 21st: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Thurs, Aug 17th: National Fish & Wildlife Service
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back
Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Earlier this year, we told you about the RecFish app being developed by Dr. Lisa Kellogg and colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Its goal is to encourage recreational anglers to collect and contribute catch data to help improve fisheries science. Once it's fully developed, the user-friendly, free app will also tell anglers the species and length of their catch and whether it is legal to keep and safe to eat.

Dr. Kellogg says that, with the help of photos you submitted, the computer model can now identify 60 fish species with 95% accuracy and another 20 species are in the works. That represents thousands of submitted pictures!

You can help by going to www.recfish.org and uploading your fish photos. RecFish especially needs photos of:

- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

Phase 2 of app development is almost complete, and, when it is, you will be able to use the app to upload your fish photos directly from your phone. Until then, keep those pictures coming at www.recfish.org!





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



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$5 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$100 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$50 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com) and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 30 June 2023

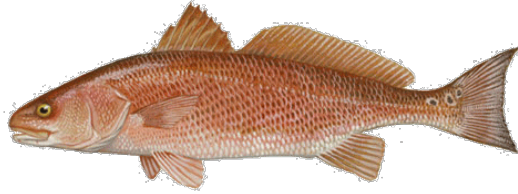
Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)	Spadefish	Henry Troutner (2) Mary Troutner (1) John Curry (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)		
White Perch	Marty Schriebl (1)		
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (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)



AWARDS BANQUET

Many THANKS to everyone who had a part in making our Annual Awards Banquet a great success! To all that donated their time to plan and setup the event, the members and business who gave generously, you are the ones who made this such a wonderful event.

Congratulations to our Freshwater Angler of the Year Russell Willoughby and to Kelly Hoggard our Saltwater Angler of the Year!





**Your support of the raffle and all those who've donated
their time and gifts, Thank You! Your generosity with
your time and resources is truly appreciated!**



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Susanna Musick, "BJ" Karwatt, Wesley Waters,
Jerry Hughes, Mike Hubert, Terry Waters,
Mike Reinhart, Bert and Sandy Sainz,
Henry and Mary Troutner, Greg Rogers and Kim Rote,
Will and Wendy Bransom,**

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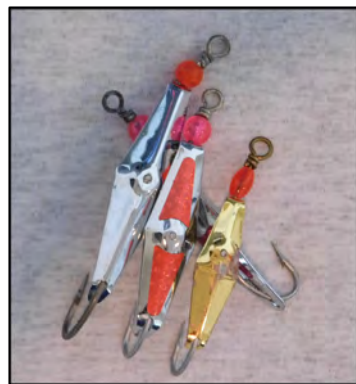
Spanish and King Mackerel Fishing with Captain Todd Beck, Knot Wish'n Custom Charters



Spanish Mackerel are a great fish to target in late spring and throughout the summer. They're fun to catch and you don't have far for travel to get on them. "Capt Todd" shared, he's takes charters out of Rudee Inlet in his 23 foot Parker Center Console and quickly setup for trolling while heading south of the jetties. Generally, you'll troll about 5 knots speed with four fishing lines out in around 20 feet of water. Along the oceanfront isn't the only location to find them, he added, many anglers will also troll the Chesapeake Bay and around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

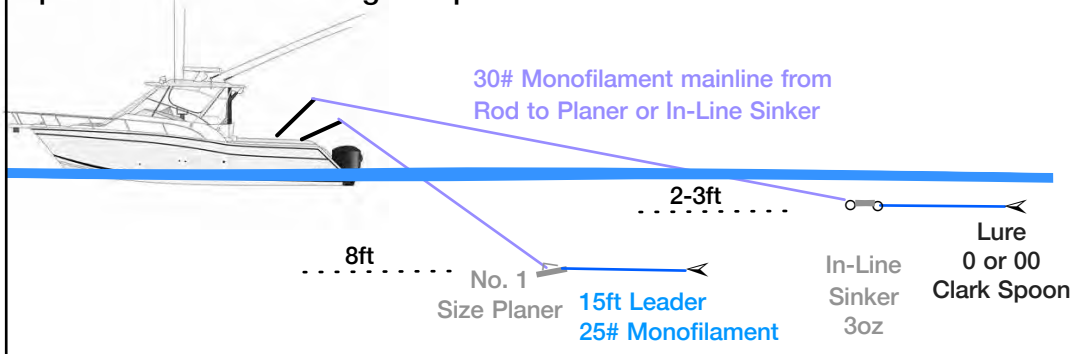
A typical trolling setup includes four rods, two for each side of the boat. Capt Todd prefers using a levelwind reel like the Penn Squall for a number of reasons. First, they're easy to use and retrieve the line evenly on the spool without any additional effort on the part of the angler. Second, the levelwind line guide can be used to consistently set the distance of the lure behind the boat.

Knowing how much line each pass of the guide represents and counting the passes from one side to the other an angler can determine how much line is deployed. This is important when using planers in shallow water. Generally, planers will dive deeper with more line out and may strike the bottom. Knot Wish'n Charters prefers to set the planers at a depth of about 8 feet on what they call their short lines. They also run lures on in-line sinker further behind the boat on their long lines. Depending on vessel speed and the in-line sinker weight, they can set the lure to a target depth between 2-3 feet. Whether it's planers or in-line sinkers, the lure of choice is the Clark Spoon, size 0 or 00 in gold and silver finishes. The leader from the planer or sinker is 15 feet of 25# monofilament line. Capt Todd shared, fluorocarbon fishing line is nice but it's not needed for this application. He recommends setting up with different color Clark Spoons on each side of the boat. If the spanish mackerel prefer one color over another be prepared to switch all the lure to the same. Because the spanish mackerel target the small silver colored bait fish and strike hard when they find them Cap Todd recommends painting your planers a dark color (photo right). He's experienced mackerel striking the metal planer as it's trolled by and lost rigs when their sharp teeth cut the line.



He shared trolling speed for spanish mackerel is about 5 knots. Occasionally you'll start catching small bluefish along with mackerel. To avoid the bluefish he increases speed. Spanish mackerel have no problem chasing a lure over 5 knots. Capt Todd also shared when you see a spanish mackerel slam your lure at the surface and hook up, don't stop to reel it in. When you stop or slow your lures will sink to the bottom. Spanish mackerel swim in schools and where there's one there's more. Keep your troll going and keep fishing!

Spanish Mackerel Trolling Setup



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



Though spanish mackerel and king mackerel are both "mackerel", they're fished very differently. While spanish mackerel are trolled at 5+ knots with spoons, king mackerel are usually fished with live bait and very slowly (1 knot) however, fast trolling lures are also an option. Capt Todd's preferred bait is live menhaden but spot, croaker, and small bluefish are also good bait choices. Rigging for king mackerel involves using wire leader material to prevent the mackerel from biting off your bait. 60# and up to 90# multi-strand wire leader is used and tied with a figure 8 knot. Another difference fishing for king mackerel is levelwind reels are not generally used. Once a king mackerel hits they can make a blistering run and peel line off a reel at a surprising pace. The best choice of reel are the open spool reels that can dispense line quickly and cleanly. Take care when retrieving the line to evenly lay it back on the spool and prevent "high centering". Try to select a 2-speed reel with heavier drag settings. Capt Todd likes to use a 30# monofilament mainline with a 60# monofilament "topshot" to connect to his wire leader. The heavier monofilament line makes handling easier and is less likely to break a fish off alongside the boat.

King Mackerel Trolling Rig



Depending on live bait size Many anglers will also rig a "stinger hook", which is a second treble hook either trailing behind and alongside the bait or lightly hooked into the back of the dorsal of the bait. King mackerel are known for biting off the tails of their prey before coming back around to devour the entire fish. Using a trailing "stinger hook" may increase the number of hook ups. Capt Todd stressed not to troll the live bait too fast, it needs to swim as naturally as possible and use care to not place a stinger hook where it will interfere with the fish.

For artificial lures, using this same rig an angler may replace the live bait with a larger L.B. Huntington spoon (photo below) trolled about 25-50ft back. The Huntington spoons come in silver, gold, and other colors with/without reflective color accents.

There's also the option to use a lipped lure like the one shown right. This particular lure comes with a tandem hook vice treble hooks and like any king mackerel rig they should be rigged with a wire leader. Capt Todd will position this lure close to the boat & propwash off the corner of the transom.



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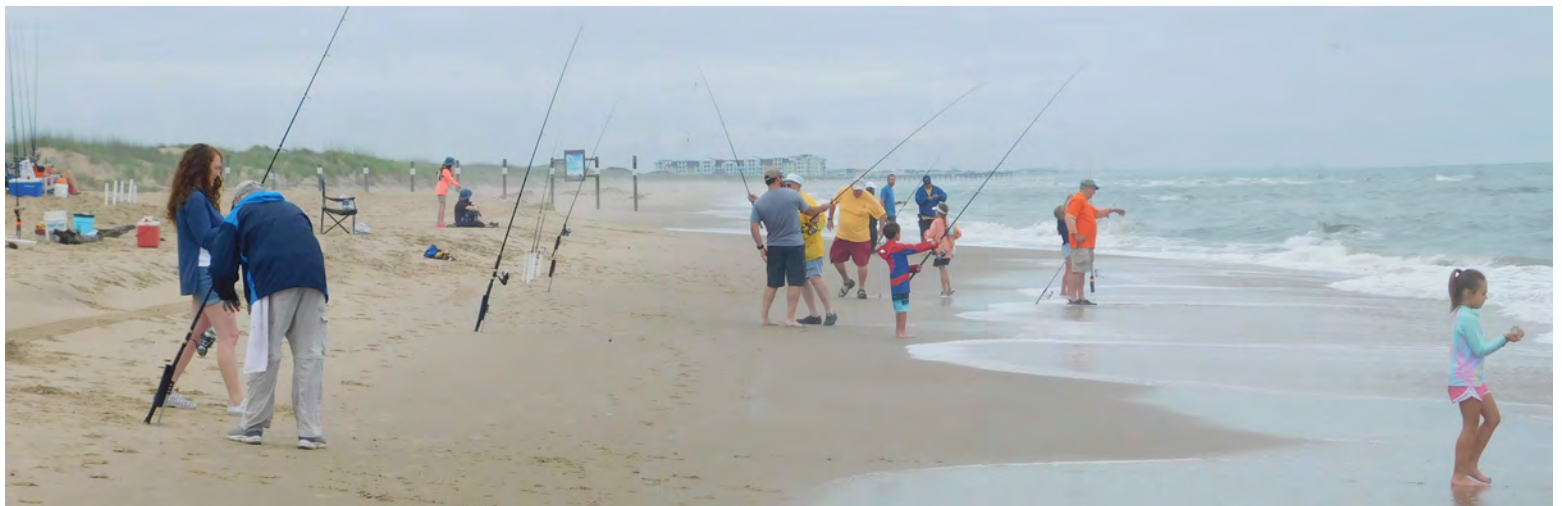
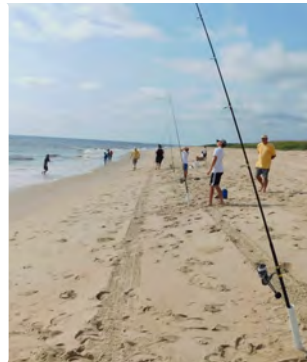
Summer Kids Surf Fishing Event Volunteers Needed

During the summer the US Fish & Wildlife Service hosts a kid's surf fishing event at the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. USF&W provides all the fishing equipment and bait necessary. We're looking for volunteers to help the kids with baiting rigs, casting, and handling the fish. Sign up at the next Club meeting. The dates are:

Thursdays; July 6th, July 20th, August 3rd, August 17th

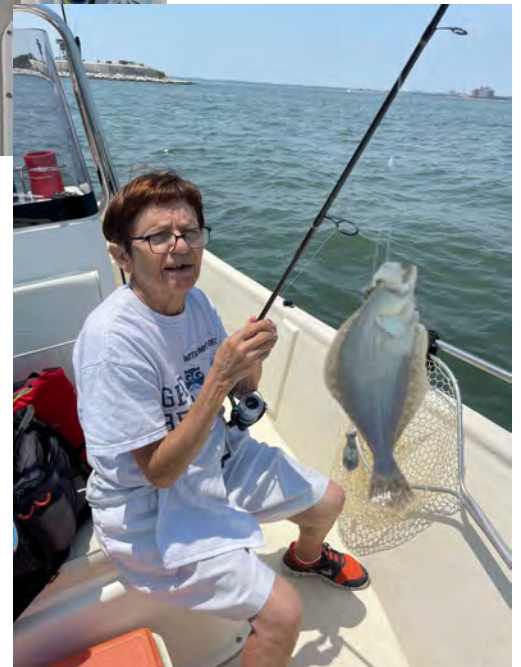
To Register Children to fish

Kids ages 7-15 can participate in this activity, with a reservation. Spaces are limited so please call (757)301-7329 ext. 3106 to secure your spot. Parents are required to remain with children during this program.



Fishing Reports...

10 JUN: I loaded my family in the boat and headed to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT). My Parents, Brother, and Nephew were in town from Florida. Using frozen shrimp and cut Mullet on dropper rigs, we fished just east of Fort Wool to find a steady bite of small Croaker, Whiting, and Flounder. Once the incoming tide began to slow down, we moved in between the HRBT bridge spans and continued catching Croaker. The highlight of the trip was Mom's 13 inch Cobia which we photographed, tagged, and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. Water temperature was 68-69 degrees. - Alex Perez





10 JUN: Took a run to the Chuckatuck for striper. I caught a 23 inch on a stretch. The tide had just changed to incoming. I rarely fish incoming tide. Based on my lack of results this year, it may be time to change,

- John Curry



15 JUN: Ran out solo to a bridge last day of spring season, June 15. There was a outgoing tide, red and white bandit, 23" jumped on, on second pass.

- George Langdon



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3 JUN: I was picked from a lottery of VBAC members for this trip on Havoc Charter's HAVOC 2 . The boat was the Ocean Pearl that Captain Brandon Baldwin bought from Steve Wray of Long Bay Point. We boarded at Southall Landings Marina on the Salt Ponds in Hampton. Went to Chesapeake Light Tower which was a 2 hour trip in pea soup thick fog for spadefish. Pretty crowded there. Had to re-anchor several times. Some were catching a few that were positioned close to the tower. I got a 6lb 2oz, a club minimum in and pulled the hook on another. Fish were right on the bottom. When we finally figured it out and got in closer to the tower the wind blew up bad. Only two others on the boat were caught. That boat is a smooth riding boat for rough seas like we had heading back. The CLT was just too far a trip for that boat.

Blessings,
Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



8 JUN: I got invited to go again to the Chesapeake Light Tower for spadefish this time with Scott Payne on his friend Pete Ansten's 24 foot center console Sea Hunt. We left out of Lynnhaven Marina and made the CLT in less than an hour making 30-35 mph in pretty calm seas but again the tower was slammed with 20+ boats already. We could see decent sized spades getting caught close in to the tower where most people were. Most had trolling motors on with Spot Lock holding their positions. It took us a while to get anchored in a good position when I caught the first spade, a 5lb fish. Soon after that I caught my big one at 7lbs 3ozs a club minimum on my scale verified at Long Bay Point as well. Pete caught a nice one too but we didn't weight it. The a major thunderstorm with lightning pulled in the area soaking us so we headed home in 3-5 foot waves. Well that's all I'm doing at the CLT. Hopefully they will be a the CBBT soon in better weather.

Blessings,
Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



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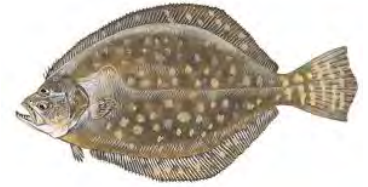
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5 JUN: John Curry invited Mary and I for an afternoon fishing. It started breezy on Brewers Creek where Mary caught a 18 1/2" Red. We then moved onto the Chuckatuck where Mary caught another Red, 19 1/2". The wind died down and we moved to the M & M where Mary allowed John and I to catch three flounder, one of which was a keeper, and a couple croakers. Next stop the JRB where we made one pass trolling for Stripers with no luck. - Henry Troutner



31 MAY: Cloudy, cool and breezy. John Curry invited Mary and I to hit the Chuckatuck for a couple hours out of the wind. Not much luck but everybody caught a fish or two. The first striper of the season at the Chuckatuck Bridge (Short), Catfish, white perch and a croaker.
- Henry Troutner



7 JUN: Went out to the Chesapeake light tower. The water was very calm. The smoke in the air from the Canadian wildfires was so thick you could barely see a half a mile, but we made it out to the Chesapeake light tower in good time. We got anchored up where we could find a slot in between other boats, and the fishing started out slow but right around 130 the fishing picked up we caught more than 25 fish in between 7 and 8 pounds. We were fishing with clam on an one ought red gamakatsu hook and one split shot 12" above the hook. I tried the cheaper eagle claw hooks but, they were breaking under the strain of a spade and it's heart breaking when you get a good fish on to have your gear fail. Good fishing,



- Marty



16-18 JUN: Friday afternoon was sight fishing for cobia, landed 1 short 35" about 3mi west of island #2, saw 2 other before storms rolled in. On Saturday we landed 1 cobia chumming in the morning on peeler crab, sight fished from noon until 4pm. Most fish in North Channel. Sunday offshore 20-35mi out was slow. Fished half dozen wrecks, most black sea bass just short at 12-12.5 in only a handful of keepers. 1 nice flounder.

- Capt Tom Jerome, *Kraken Charters*

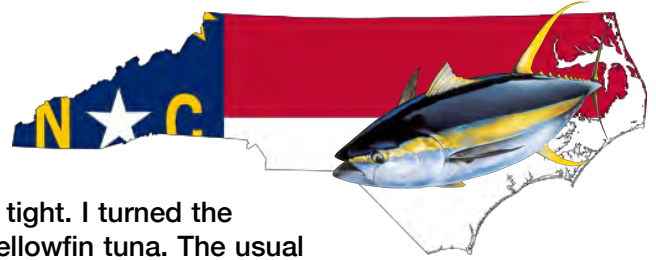


19 JUN: I fished off the Norfolk International Terminals in the Elizabeth River. Fishing the incoming tide, I used frozen Shrimp on 1/8 and 3/8 ounce jig heads, I had steady action from small Black Sea Bass, Croaker, Spot, and Pigfish. On every third or fourth fish, I would be surprised to catch something with a little more size. First was a 12.5 inch Speckled Trout, a couple of Croaker later, a 30 inch Red Drum, and the grand finale being a 17.25 inch Tautog. Everything was released and those that qualified were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



18 JUN: Club members Mike, Mike and Greg along with another friend Glenn left the dock at 3:45 am and ran the *Black Swan* out to the ocean off North Carolina. I picked a spot from the sea surface temps that was about 75 miles South and East of the third island of the CBBT. We arrived at 6:45am and within minutes of getting lines in we had a knock down that didn't come tight. I turned the boat back to the spot and not long after 6 rods went down with yellowfin tuna. The usual fire drill ensued with crossed lines, a broken hook and a pull off. With two tuna on the deck a third broke off beside the boat. The bite seemed to shut off and we trolled without a strike until we had a nice wahoo take the planer rig. With a nice catch aboard we trolled a while longer and then tried a couple spots for tilefish without success. We all enjoyed a fast ride in on calm seas!



- Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



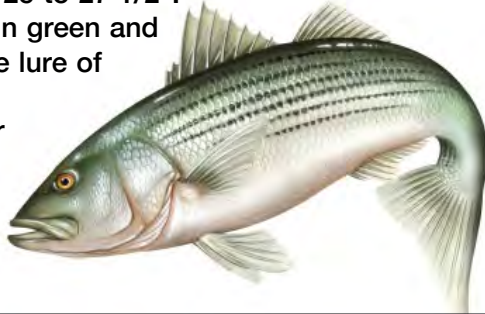
3 JUN: The NAC Banquet and the first nice weather window in a long time. Mary, John Curry, Marty Schriebl and I took the morning to fish the Shamrock at Back River Reef. We launched the at 7:00 am out of Dandy Point with some fog and knowing we could only fish till noon and make the banquet. This was also one of the first real test on of my new Minn Kota GPS motor. We, rather Mary and John, started off quick landing short, out of season tog. Marty and I just couldn't get in the action. We fished fiddlers, shedders, minnows, squid and even put a couple eels out for a stray Cobia. By the end of the day we had tagged and released 13 Tog, a couple Croakers, a Shark and a Skate. Fiddlers were the only bait the taug were interested in, I was surprised the shedders didn't catch any. The Minn Kota worked great and I see some great fishing coming from it.

- Henry Troutner



13 JUN: With only a few days left to the Spring Striper Season John Curry invited Mary and I to hit the JRB for a couple hours this morning. When we arrived at the bridge the water was covered with bait; Bunker, Herring and Mullet everywhere. It wasn't long before Mary connected with a beautiful 27 1/2" and shortly there after she had one pull the split ring on her lure. We ended with our three fish limit ranging from 25 to 27 1/2". Stretch 20's and 25's in green and red and white were the lure of choice.

- Henry Troutner



24 JUN: My cousin Rob from PA came down for a few days fishing. Fortunately, the previous week of foul weather subsided and we had a couple beautiful days on the water and even caught a couple fish. On Saturday, we launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point to fish the bay. First stop, the 3rd island for Spades - nothing happening there so moved to the 4th Island. There we caught a couple toads and Rob got a nice 25 1/2 Red. We tried the pylons for Sheepshead, but struck out. Next stop drifting for flounder at the rubble bay side of 3rd island where Rob caught a short flounder. A quick stop on our way in at the Back River Reef got us a short tog. Bait was Fiddlers, Squid, and Minnows

25 JUN: We launched the skiff on Brewer's Creek to fish the local area. First stop the M & M where Mary caught a short Flounder and I played a big fish until it broke off. I'd like to say it was a big Red but most likely a ray. We moved to Candy Island off the Chuckatuck. There we caught several small Speckled Trout. Bait was shedders and minnows. Hard to take a picture of Rob holding a fish as he's got fingers like a fire hose.

- Henry Troutner



15 JUN: Mary, John Curry, George Langdon and I trailered the Shamrock to Owl Creek and headed to the Chesapeake Tower following up on Marty Schriebl report of big Spadefish. We arrived at the tower at about 8:15AM to a parking lot of boats. The new Minn Kota allowed me to get the best position possible and we set up as we watched several nice Spades being landed. Wasn't too long and George had our first fish. We had slow but steady action including 4 VA or NAC citations. Spades are a blast to catch but the crowd is tough to handle. About Noon, with the cooler full of spades we headed for a wreck hoping for some Triggers, There we caught 9 Sea Bass (2 keepers up to 16"), 1 short Tog, and a few Toads but no Triggers. About 2PM the sky turned black and the rain started so we headed in. A late call for the ride in resulted in a torrential down pour, thunder & lighting the entire ride in and while loading the boat on the trailer.

- Henry Troutner

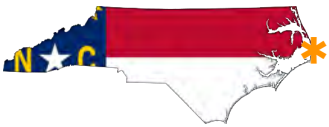


11 JUN: Caught a few fish this weekend. Got a decent Roundhead and a puppy drum on Friday. Saturday was the bluefish day. Caught bluefish up to 23.5". Fun weekend in Hatteras.

My Carolina Cast Pro gen 3 conventional with a drum rig is still kicking butt in the middle of summer!

Can't Catch Fish On The Couch!

- Kelly Hoggard



Angler Interests

Black Sea Bass Season Mid-Season Closure July 7th-August 8th

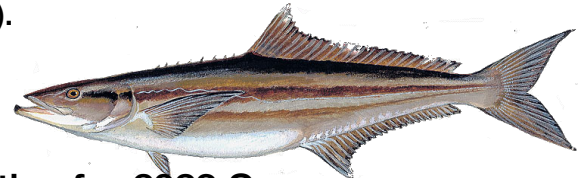


Black Sea Bass season will be closed from July 7th through August 8th for the mid-season closure. The mid-season closure was necessary to account for an ASMFC directed harvest reduction and the Virginia February season. When the season opens on August 9th it will remain open through the remainder of the year.

Striped Bass (Rockfish) Regulation Changes



At their June Commission meeting the Marine Resources Commission voted unanimously to amend Chapter 4VAC 20-252-10 Pertaining to the taking of Striped Bass to change the maximum size limit for Striped Bass for the Virginia Coastal Season, Chesapeake Bay Fall Season, and the Potomac River Tributaries Summer/Fall seasons from 36 inches to 31 inches in Total Length (TL).



VMRC Announces Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative for 2023 Season



The Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted at the February 28th Commission Meeting to replace the Recreational Cobia Mandatory Reporting Program with the Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative. This initiative has been developed by VMRC staff to begin collecting voluntary length and age data from recreational cobia anglers to help assess the health of the stock. This initiative will take effect starting with the 2023 cobia season and taking part in this new initiative is not required to be able to recreationally fish for cobia.

VMRC is looking to collect the following length data from any recreational anglers:

- released cobia under 40 inches
- cobia over 50 inches if a 50-plus inch fish has already been harvested
- cobia caught after the daily allowed bag limit has been reached,
- cobia caught pre- and post-season.

Recreational anglers can submit cobia release length data through the Virginia Saltwater Journal (<https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/>). If you are an active fish tagger in the Virginia Gamefish Tagging Program (https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php), please only submit length data through the tagging program and not through the Virginia Saltwater Journal. The length data submitted through the tagging program will be pooled together with release length data collected from the Virginia Saltwater Journal.

To properly record length data, anglers will measure cobia with the ruler stretched straight underneath the center of the fish, the fish's mouth should be closed, and the length will be measured to the tip of the pinched tail. Lengths should be recorded to the nearest possible measurement without rounding, while recognizing the goal is a live and healthy release. Release length data should be submitted through "Voluntary Recreational Reporting" in the Virginia Saltwater Journal, and we encourage everyone to submit length data by the end of the calendar year.

If you have any questions about the new initiative or how to become involved, please reach out to Joshua McGilly at 757-247-2299 or Joshua.mcgilly@mrc.virginia.gov

Angler Interests



CVOW Fisheries and Mariners Update

June 2023

As our offshore work on Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) continues, we remain committed to maintaining communications with fishing communities and other mariners in the area via these periodic updates as well as dock visits, informational speaking engagements and additional information posted on the CVOW website.

All mariners are encouraged to contact Dominion Energy's Fisheries Liaisons below with any specific questions about CVOW project activities in relation to fisheries.

Recent announcements include:

The UXO identification work is underway with the *M/V Subsea Responder I* and the *M/V Subsea Responder II*. These vessels utilize Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to investigate targets identified by the previously conducted survey activities and determine if they are UXO. This operation will begin in the nearshore cable corridor (Area A) and continue offshore through Area B and then into the Lease Area (Area C). These vessels will not be towing any survey equipment and should not pose a hazard to any fixed-gear commercial fishing operations. These operations are expected to continue into the fall of 2023 and any targets confirmed to be UXO will be shared via the USCG 5th District Local Notice to Mariners.

Mariners transiting or fishing in the operational area are requested to provide a 0.5 nautical mile-wide clearance to survey vessels, which may be limited in their ability to maneuver. Mariners should operate in a manner that will not endanger themselves, the survey vessel or its equipment.

Vessel details are as follows:

Subsea Responder I



Call Sign: V7A5816
Flag: Marshall Islands
MMSI: 538010258
LOA: 217 ft
IMO: 9201645
Beam: 54 ft

Subsea Responder II



Call Sign: V7FV9
Flag: Marshall Islands
MMSI: 538006153
LOA: 238 ft
IMO: 9225495
Beam: 54 ft

Angler Interests

F/V Joey D



Call Sign: WDL6409
Flag: USA
MMSI: 368150450
LOA: 79 ft

R/V Bay Eagle



Call Sign: WBR3978
Flag: USA
MMSI: 366749460
LOA: 65 ft

Please consult the USCG 5th District Local Notice to Mariners for additional information on offshore activity and, as always, please adhere to the USCG Rules of the Road for mariners.

Vessels are requested to avoid anchoring in the identified survey area and fishing vessels deploying fixed fishing gear (e.g., pots, traps, gillnets, etc.) are requested to coordinate activities with the Fisheries Liaison to avoid damage to fishing gear and/or the survey equipment.

For more information on Dominion Energy's CVOW activities, <https://coastalvawind.com/>

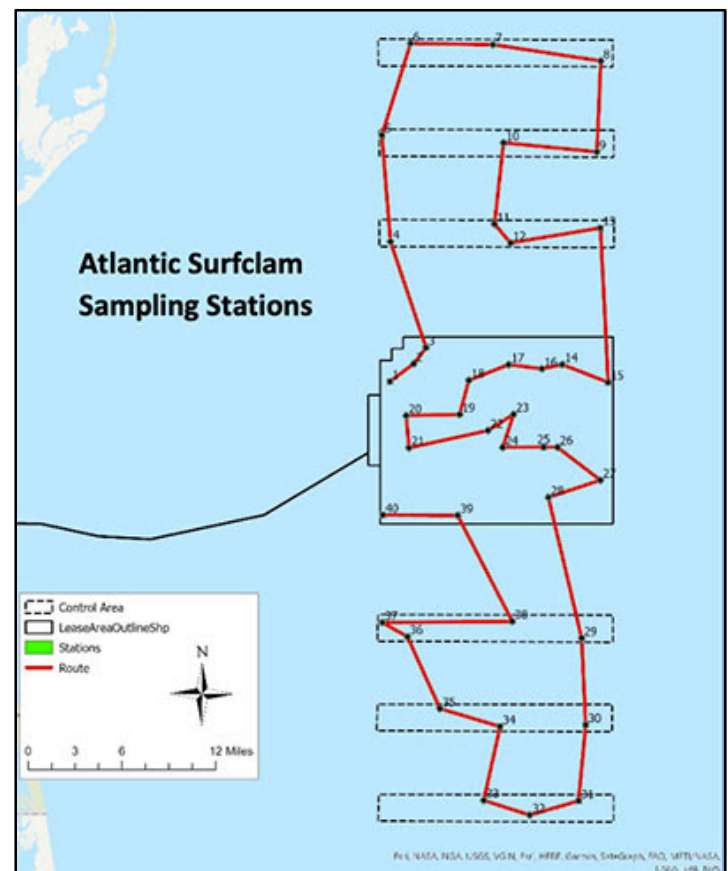
CVOW and Fisheries Resource Surveys

In partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Dominion Energy is conducting resource assessment studies for Black Sea Bass, Atlantic Surfclam and Channeled Whelk in the project area.

Black Sea Bass: The study consists of 8-strings of ventless traps with 6-traps per string. Sampling once per month with a 48-hour soak utilizing acoustic release buoys to recover gear. Randomly selected sampling sites will be inside lease with control sites area outside lease area. Sampling will begin in June 2023 utilizing the VIMS R/V Bay Eagle.

Atlantic Surfclam: With support from Rutgers University, the commercial F/V Joey D will sample 20-stations inside lease and 20-stations outside (40-sample tows in total). The work will take place June 18 and June 19, 2023 and will take 2-3 days to complete; sampling stations are shown in the chart below.

Channeled Whelk: Study design is complete and sampling gear is being acquired. This is a cooperative study that plans to utilize commercial whelk fishermen and their vessels. Fishermen interested in participating should contact the Dominion Energy Fisheries Liaison.





Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Recent Changes!



Atlantic Croaker

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



Spot

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



Kingfish

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



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

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



Bluefish

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



Spanish Mackerel

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



King Mackerel

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



Cobia

- Minimum Size Limit: 40 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive. Only 1 fish per vessel may be greater than 50 inches total length.
- Season: June 15 - September 15
- Gaffing prohibited



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Striped Bass

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

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- **Size Limit: 20-31 inches (Recent Change)**
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- **Size Limit: 20-31 inches (Recent Change)**
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- **Size Limit: 28-31 inches (Recent Change)**
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

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



Spadefish

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



Sheepshead

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



Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 13
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15
- Season: May 15 - July 6, August 9 - Dec. 31



Tautog

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



Speckled Trout

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



Red Drum

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



Black Drum

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