

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JUNE 2018

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Rudy Levasseur, Flounder Fishing

Fishing Tips: Captain Jay Leach, *First Landing Charters, LLC*,

Fishing Reports:

- Tower Reef: Tautog, Black Sea Bass
- CBBT: Flounder, Bluefish
- Lynnhaven: Flounder, Red Drum
- Lafayette River: Rockfish
- Freshwater: Shellcracker
- Appomattox River: Stripers
- Cape Henry: Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish, Cobia
- Norfolk Canyon: Golden Tilefish, Black Belly Rosefish
- North Carolina: Cobia, Blue Marlin, Tuna, Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

What a difference a month makes for fishing! After a slow winter and spring season for fishing, May really kicked into gear and we're finally enjoying some time catching. Lots of fishing reports in this edition and many thanks to our anglers for sending their reports.

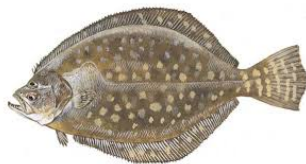
With the Spring Trophy Rockfish season ending this month DO NOT forget to make your harvest (or no harvest) report to VMRC. The free online permits VMRC provide come with a catch, required reporting even if you didn't fish.

June 1st also starts the Cobia season for recreational anglers. Same size and possession limits as last year and you can legally use the gaff this year. If you're targeting cobia this year you'll need a VMRC Landing Permit. They're FREE and available on-line from VMRC (www.mrc.virginia.gov)

- Will



On the cover: A photo from Capt Kenny Louderback with *Fish Freaks Guide Service* out of Cape Charles, Virginia. Capt Louderback specializes in fishing the Chesapeake Bay on light tackle for BIG fish. Check out Fish Freaks Guide Service on facebook!



Meeting

Guest Speaker: Capt Rudy Levasseur on Flounder fishing

Join us on Monday, June 11th to hear Capt Rudy Levasseur share his expertise on Flounder fishing in our area. Capt Levasseur was an invited Instructor with the 2018 Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series. He's a distinguished inshore and offshore angler and a three time winner of the Founder Bowl. If fishing Flounder is your plan this year, you don't want to miss this opportunity to learn from the best.

Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, June 11th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

Publishers NOTES

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Club Calendar

June

Monday, June 11th: Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 19th: VMRC Commission Meeting
in Newport News

Saturday, June 23rd: Rescheduled Hunt-For-The-
Hardheads Club Tournament
at Portsmouth City Park



Norfolk Opens Lake Whitehurst Public Boat Ramp

After more than eight years without public access to Lake Whitehurst the City of Norfolk opened the Lake Whitehurst Public Boat Ramp on May 24th. In cooperation with Dominion Energy, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the City of Norfolk access to one of the best freshwater fishing sites is once again possible. The ramp is open from sunrise to sunset.

Anglers are reminded that outboard motors less than 12hp are permitted and anglers must have a City of Norfolk Boat Permit displayed on the left side of their boat, kayaks included. Freshwater fishing licenses are also required.



**"Hunt for the
Hardheads"
Challenge**



**Sign Up
at the
June 11th
Meeting!!**

**Rescheduled to
June 23rd**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"
Saturday June 23, 2018**

Norfolk Anglers Club, Virginia Beach Anglers Club,
Portsmouth Anglers Club, and Great Bridge Fishing Association

A Croaker, Bluefish, and Flounder
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

Rescheduled Date: Saturday **June 23, 2018**

Location: Portsmouth City Park Lines In: 7:00am

Measure In: Starts at 12:30pm ends at 1:30pm

Entry Fee: \$30.00 per boat (includes 3 anglers,
additional anglers \$10.00. Includes Fishing,
Picnic, and Wish-a-Fish Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

Rules:

1. Clubs are limited to five boat entries. Team Captains must be Club Members.
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port.
3. Eastern Boundary is 500 yards east of HRBT.
4. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
5. Five Points awarded for longest fish, Four Points for second longest, etc. Up to five fish entries for each species. The Club with the most points wins!

Attention Club Members!

Did you know that you don't need to have a Virginia Saltwater Tournament or DGIF Citation fish to enter the Club's Prize Fish Tournament? Our Prize Fish program includes Freshwater and Saltwater species caught in Virginia or North Carolina waters. Our top Anglers are recognized at the annual Awards Banquet in February.

Check out our Club Webpage at www.norfolkanglersclub.com for the revised standards and the Club Prize Fish Entry Form.

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Tournament

Saltwater Species

Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament			Norfolk Anglers Club		
Species	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	
Amberjack	RELEASE	50"	RELEASE	38"	
Bigeye Tuna	70 lbs	n/a	53 lbs	n/a	
Black Drum	80 lbs	46"	60 lbs	35"	
Black Sea Bass	5 lbs	n/a	3 lbs 12 oz	n/a	
Bluefin Tuna*	100 lbs	60"	75 lbs	45"	
Bluefish	16 lbs	36"	12 lbs	27"	
Blueline Tilefish	10 lbs	n/a	7 lbs 8 oz	n/a	
Cobia	55 lbs	50"	42 lbs	38"	
Croaker	3 lbs	20"	2 lbs 4 oz	15"	
Dolphin	25 lbs	n/a	19 lbs	n/a	
Flounder	6 lbs	26"	4 lbs 8 oz	20"	
Golden Tilefish	30 lbs	n/a	23 lbs	n/a	
Gray Triggerfish	4 lbs	20"	3 lbs	15"	
Gray Trout	9 lbs	30"	7 lbs	23"	
Jack Crevalle	RELEASE	40"	RELEASE	30"	

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Tournament

Freshwater Species

Virginia DGIF Trophy Size Fish			Norfolk Anglers Club		
Species	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	
Blue Catfish	30 lbs	38"	22 lbs 8 oz	29"	
Bowfin	10 lbs	30"	7 lbs 8 oz	23"	
Brook Trout	2 lbs	16"	1 lb 8 oz	12"	
Brown Torot	5 lbs	25"	3 lbs 12 oz	19"	
Carp	20 lbs	34"	15 lbs	26"	
Chain Pickerel	4 lbs	24"	3 lbs	18"	
Channel Catfish	12 lbs	30"	9 lbs	23"	
Crappie	2 lbs	15"	1 lb 8 oz	12"	
Flathead Catfish	25 lbs	40"	18 lbs 12 oz	30"	
Freshwater Drum	6 lbs	24"	4 lbs 8 oz	18"	
Gar	10 lbs	40"	7 lbs 8 oz	30"	
Hybrid Striped Bass**	8 lbs	24"	6 lbs	18"	
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs	22"	6 lbs	17"	
Muskellunge	15 lbs	40"	11 lbs 4 oz	30"	

Norfolk Anglers Club

Prize Fish Entry Form

Please fill out the following information. All weights must be on certified scales, witnessed, and caught using Hook & Line.

Species: _____

Date Caught: ____/____/____ ☐ Virginia ☐ North Carolina

Lure or Bait: _____

Weight: ____ lbs ____ oz Length: ____ inches

☐ Jr. Angler ☐ Adult Angler

☐ Fish Released ** ☐ Fish Tagged

Angler's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

I/We certify that the information provided is correct.

Angler's Signature: _____

Witness/Weighmaster Signature: _____

Witness/Weighmaster Name (Print): _____

** Anglers fishing alone must provide a clear, sideview photograph of the fish on a measuring device, which clearly shows the entire length of the fish.

Membership must be in good standing at the time of the catch to be eligible.

Please submit your Prize Fish Entry form to the Awards Director at any of the Norfolk Anglers Club regular meetings, or mail it to:
Norfolk Anglers Club
Awards Director
P.O. Box 8422
Norfolk, VA 23503-0422

(Amended January 2017)



August 25, 2018

Willoughby Harbor Marina

Consider giving back to those who serve our Nation with one simple, THANKS! Your giving back can be taking our Military out for a day of fishing, supporting the event at Willoughby Harbor Marina, to contributing to MAD Tidewater. Visit the Military Appreciation Day website at militaryappreciationday.org or visit the MAD Tidewater Chapter's facebook page for more information at Military Appreciation Day, Inc. - Tidewater Chapter



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com



Fishing Tips...

Coastal Virginia Fishing , Captain Jay Leach and Captain Wendell Cosenza, *First Landing Charters, LLC.*

One of the first things Captain Leach will tell you is "There are no absolutes on the water". Much has changed in the Chesapeake Bay in the last few decades and it will continue to change. The key to promoting and enjoying the sport, and being safe out on the water is sharing information among anglers. Captain Leach and Cosenza share their perspective on the Bay and their many years of fishing expertise.

"Fish like change" Captain Leach advised. Whether it's a change in temperature, depth contour (natural or artificial), sunny or cloudy, water clarity, or current, fishing around a change in conditions can be the difference in fishing any species. Spending time on the water, whether successful or not, is important and time well-spent understanding how these changing conditions affect your targeted species.

Offshore Fishing

Making the run offshore for the deeper water pelagic species, like tuna, swordfish, and marlin means lots of preparation. It's a fishery that requires a different class of tackle, rigging, and technique. Rods and reels capable of handling a powerful fish are needed to keep constant pressure on the fish once hooked. Captain Leach explains when you're fishing for big tuna it's the lines 300 yards behind the boat that draw the strike. The smaller Yellowfin Tuna (pictured right), in Capt Leach's experience, typically strike much closer to the boat. Whether fishing for Bluefin or Yellowfin tuna he recommends deploying a combination of lure types and colors initially. Don't underestimate the benefit dredges and teasers provide in attracting the fish. Note the position of the sun in relation to the boat's heading and the side the strikes occur. Once you know what color and lure type is preferred match the trolling speed, sun angle, etc. It's also important to note the area you're fishing. Are there unique bottom contours? A definitive temperature break or weed line? A good practice is to record all of these observations in order to maximize your time on the water.



Capt Leach recommends that in addition to preparing for fishing the offshore pelagics that you don't forget about the fantastic bottom fishing we have off our coast. Whether it's taking a break from trolling tuna or the bite died off, make an effort to try deep drop fishing. You're already out there and for bottom fishing in 300 ft or less of water a typical Sea Bass rod/reel and rigging is all that's needed. With great Blueline Tilefish fishing in 300 ft or wrecks like



the Ocean Venture (a well known haven for a larger class of Sea Bass) not far from the areas typically targeting tuna, they make for a quick detour while offshore. On the way home stop at the Triangle Artificial Reef (approx. 30nm off Virginia Beach) and fish many of the WWII wrecks, Liberty Ships, or other structure placed by the Virginia Marine Resource Commission Artificial Reefing Program.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

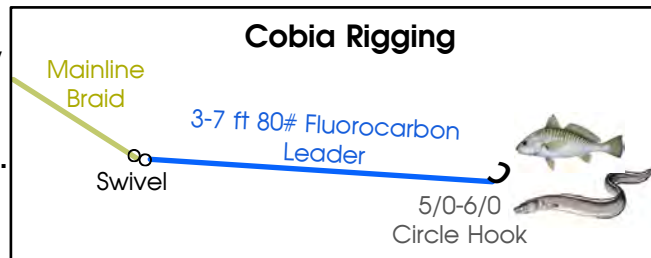
Inshore Fishing

The number of inshore species an angler can target is amazing. During the summer anglers can even land Mahi (Dolphin/Dorado) near the Chesapeake Light Tower. There's many wrecks and artificial reefing areas that hold bait fish and that creates lots of opportunities from bottom fishing, sight casting, drift fishing, or trolling.



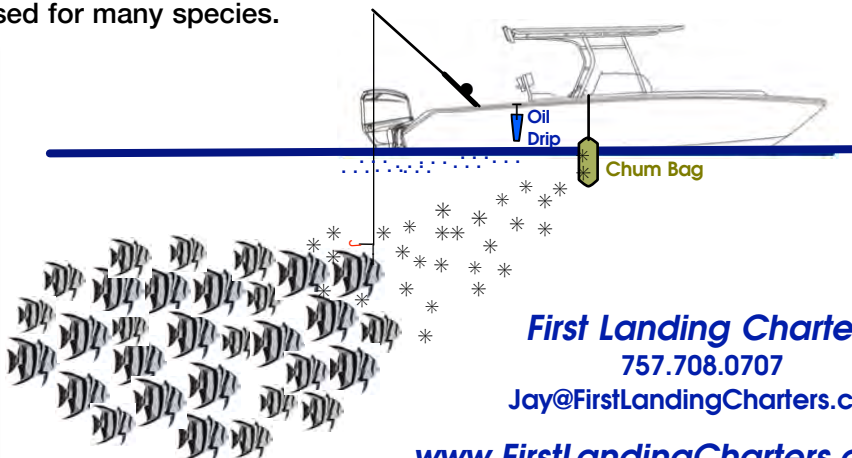
One of the most sought after summer species is Cobia. Early in the season (June) First Landing Charters will entice cobia with chum while anchored near the Nine Foot Shoals area before moving over to the Poquoson Flats mid-season. Later in the season (July-August) they'll shift to sight casting and target cobia along the Virginia Beach buoy lines and along the oceanfront. Their choice of bait for sight casting is live eels and live croaker. Each angler has their preference for rigging cobia baits, as Captain Cosenza explained, they prefer to use a fluorocarbon leader anywhere from 3-7 feet with a 5/0-6/0 circle hook. A particular eel size isn't really a factor as he went on to explain, you want a variety of size in eels and croakers. The most important thing is to have a number of ready-rigged and lively baits to cast when you spot a cobia. Capt Conseza keeps a couple of baits rigged to casting rods and individually stored in the live well for immediate use. When casting, accuracy is important as you may have only a single chance to make your cast before the cobia gets "spooked" and dives down. The best approach to the fish is a very slow and steady troll toward the fish.

Cobia fishing is weather dependent. Look for calm seas and bright sun. One absolute necessity is a good pair of polarizing sunglasses to cut through the glare and spot the cobia! First Landing Charters prefers to target cobia mid-morning to early afternoon.



For their size, Spadefish put up a surprisingly hard fight and are fantastic table fare. Anglers can find Spadefish early in the season (May) around the entrance to the Two-Way Deep Water Route to Hampton Roads (9.5nm off Sandbridge) and the Chesapeake Light Tower. During the summer the amount of boat traffic around the Chesapeake Light Tower can be a bit much, especially if the Spadefish are around.

Spadefish feed on small crabs and clams, worms, plankton, and jellyfish. The premier bait is fresh clam rigged onto very small sharp circle hooks. Early season Spadefish can be found schooling in mid-water or around structure, like buoy mooring chains or the legs of the Light Tower. Once the water temperature rises and jellyfish show up anglers can find Spadefish much closer to the surface. One of the best tactics to entice the fish is putting out a bag of fresh clam chum. Hanging it at the waterline will allow wave action to agitate the bag and release a steady amount of small clam bits into the water. First Landing Charters also recommends using a menhaden oil drip by making a small dispensing bottle and hanging it to slowly drip into the water. The oil will attract and stimulate the fish. This technique can be used for many species.



First Landing Charters
757.708.0707
Jay@FirstLandingCharters.com
www.FirstLandingCharters.com

Fishing Reports...

12 May: On Saturday AJ and I fished the end of the incoming and slack tide on the Cape Henry Wreck using blue crab as bait. Oyster Toads kept us busy but no other fish seemed to be around. Other boats that were anchored around us didn't seem to be doing much either. A strong current kept us using no less than 12 ounces of lead to hold the bottom. We moved off to try the Westmoreland Wreck and only caught a "Mermaid's Purse" egg case with the anchor! We went in early so AJ could do a little Lynnhaven beach-combing. - Alex Perez



A face only a mother could love.
And a Toadfish!



AJ enjoying the pool.



Mermaid's
Purse

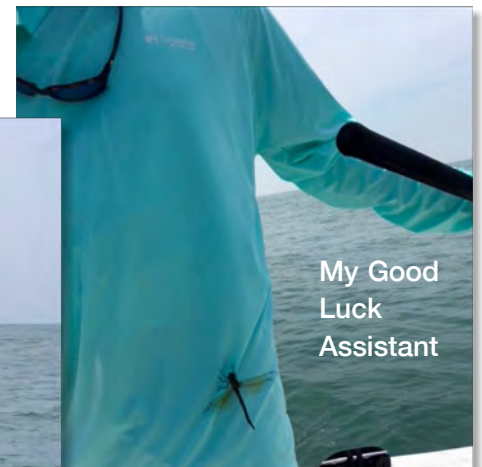
15 May: On a Monday, I fished with Billy Hamilton on the Tower Reef using Blue Crabs again. This time the current allowed us to use only four ounces of lead to hold bottom. We ended up catching six Tautogs up to 19 inches and four Black Sea Bass up to 15 inches. Things wouldn't be right if a few Oyster Toads didn't crash the party as well! It was a beautiful day, 66 degree surface water temperature and we were able to catch and tag a few fish. - Alex Perez



Black Sea Bass



Another one of
our Togs



My Good
Luck
Assistant



Billy and
his Tog

17 May: After canceling an offshore trip for sea bass due to weather, John Curry, George Langdon and I (All from the Coast Guard Aux.) braved some heavy rain to striper fish off the James River.



We only caught 3 and they were all short of the 20" regulation. All were caught on light colored swim tails trolled slow along the bridge. - Henry Troutner



27 May: I fished with Taz, Bert Sainz, Taylor and his son on a nice morning. We ended up with 2 Flounders. We caught them at the CBBT. Once the tide picked up the bite stopped. Make sure you bring bug spray, the flyers were bad - Louis Glaser



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26 May: Oregon Inlet had the most Boat trailers I have ever seen at the Boat launch. They were parking in every spot including the fishing Center. I saw boat trailers parked on the main road as well as in the camp grounds across the street. There were 4 NC Game Wardens checking each angler and every fish was measured on the returning boats. I was with 4 other GBFA fishermen. We caught 10 Cobia and kept two. The Game Warden told me every boat they checked had fish. I saw lots of fish. - Jerry Hughes

20 May: I went fishing with a good friend Nick Ferguson. We had a great morning, we caught 8 Rockfish. Five of them were 18.5 to 19 inches. One was 20 inches. We caught two that were 32 – 34 inches



We went to Lafayette River, the water temp was 74 degrees, with an incoming tide. Our bait was cut menhaden. - Edwin Cabal

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2018 Sea Hunt Gamefish 27

New 2018 Sea Hunt Gamefish 27 Forward Seating - Center Console w/ TWIN Yamaha 200 4-strokes, BLACK HULL COLOR - MEZZANINE SEAT - GARMIN Electronics Package - Loaded! [CLICK HERE TO SEE](#)



9 May: My first Flounder of the season plus a Bluefish bonus. - James Robinson

9 May: **First Shellcracker citations for 2018!** I fished with Russell on Lake Prince in my Tracker and began around 10:00 am. We were targeting first Crappie so we rode all the way to the end of the lake and started working our way back. By 2:00 pm we had only caught small Shellcrackers so we switched tactics and started to target Shellcrackers in deeper water. The first place we tried Russell had a good one that weighed at Ocean's East at 1 lb, 2 oz for a state citation. So I targeted the same place and in no time I had a big shellcracker that weighed out as exactly 1 lb for a state citation. Then Russell hooked something even bigger that started tearing all over the place but finally got off on something on the bottom. It might have been a shellcracker or a catfish, because it was big and bent his ultra-light rod over double but I'd bet on shellcracker. I also hooked a big one that got off as well. But we just couldn't find another even though we put three more hours into it. All were caught on red wigglers under bobbers. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



3 May: My boat wasn't water ready at the start of striper season, so I set out on the banks of my home waters of the Appomattox River in hopes of some action. The plan was to catch and use live perch. Armed with crappie jigs on a tandem rig, I quickly caught a small white perch to entice a trophy. This was tossed out on a fish finder rig. While I waited for a taker, I continued to cast the crappie jigs for a steady supply of bait. Surprisingly, I wound up catching four undersized schoolies, ranging from 13 to 15 inches. Nothing hit the white perch, so I went home empty-handed but satisfied from the *fun, light-tackle action!* - Latryce Noel



On 22 May Henry and Mary Troutner invited Gregg Rogers and I to fish the triangles with them in their 31' Cabo. We met at the boat at about 6:30 am, loaded the boat and pushed off right at 7:00 am. All looked like the start of a good day on the water. That wasn't to be! As we approached the First Island both of the 3208 Caterpillar diesels sputtered once and died about 100 yards north west of the island. This was accompanied by an ear-piercing alarm. Henry did a quick damage assessment. Finding vessel and crew in no imminent danger we dropped the anchor. Henry conducting a short troubleshooting session and determined cause to be the fire suppression system had tripped and killed both engines. The system was reset and the engines came to life; we decided to continue to the offshore wrecks. Sadly, when the starboard engine was put in gear a banging sound came from below the water line. We limped back to Little Creek; Henry got his swim gear on but couldn't find any obstruction with the running gear. We went on a test run back to the Thimble Shoal Channel and all was well with the boat but it was too late to go fishing so we socialized for a while and went home. Thank you Henry and Mary for inviting us. It was still a nice day! – Mike Hubert



19 May: AJ and I fished the HRBT and caught a few small Croaker during the outgoing tide. Once the tide changed to a flood tide, the Croaker action picked up and we also caught two Flounder at 16 and 16.5 inches. The 16 inch Flounder was tagged and released healthy. All fish were caught on Gulp minnows with 3/8 ounce jig heads. – Alex Perez

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25 May: First time fishing with Grandgirls: Kathy and I had our twin 5 year old granddaughters Kenzie and Avery with us after they graduated from pre-school and besides going to our beach on Willoughby Spit every day they wanted to go fishing with their Popi (as they call me). So we went to Lake Smith for the first fishing trip.

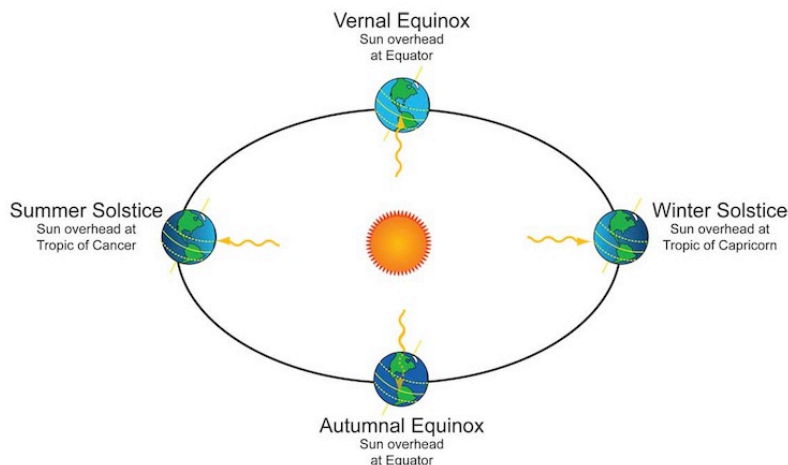


As we headed back into the Lake Lawson part of the lake we ran into Russell there who was fishing for bass. Even for the first time fishing, the girls did fine on the boat and really enjoyed splashing the water in my low profile Tracker as we motored to the fishing spot. Using red wigglers Avery had a fish on in no time and managed to crank it in for first fish, a small shellcracker. Next it was Kenzie's turn for a first fish and she managed to crank in a fat male bluegill. After that, they were done fishing even though I tried to catch a fish in several places I just couldn't find one. But both found the red wigglers fascinating and played with them the whole time we took coming back to the dock. *I was shocked, their mother never could stand touching worms when I taught her to fish!*

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



On the summer solstice, we enjoy the most daylight of the calendar year. The Sun reaches its most northern point in the sky at local noon. After this date, the days start getting "shorter," i.e., the length of daylight starts to decrease. This year, the *June solstice falls on Thursday, 21 June 2018 at 6:07 am EDT.*



May 29: Norfolk Anglers Club members, Mike Hubert, Ray Sexton, Levon Mott, Greg Rogers, Phil Mott, and myself headed out of Wanchese, NC on a deep drop charter with *Stolat Fishing Charters*. We departed early on a rainy day in their 42ft Custom Topaz for a day of fishing for Blueline Tilefish and Black Sea Bass.

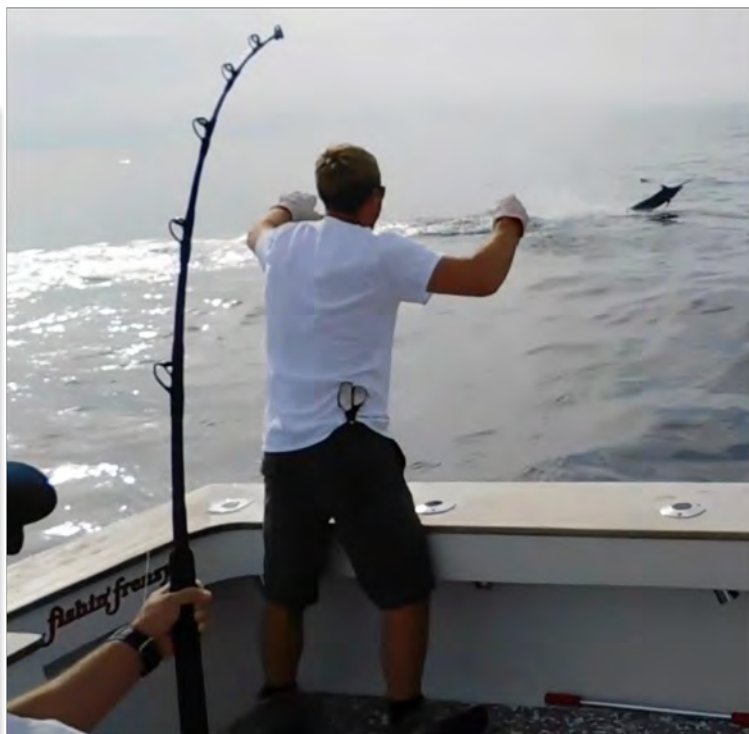
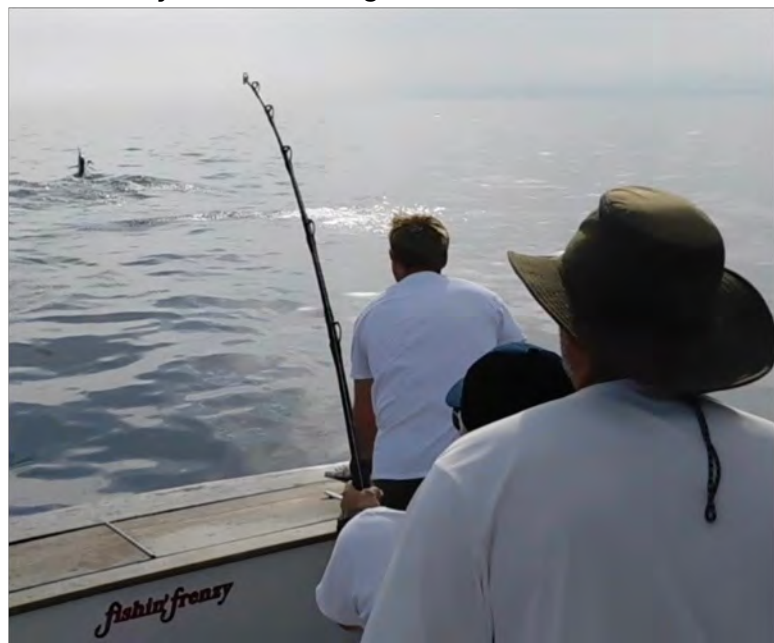
After two hours on the blue line tilefish grounds we limited out with a very nice class of tilefish up to 17 pounds! Mike landed 17 & 14 pound and Greg 14 & 12 pound blue line tiles for North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament Citations and Norfolk Angler Club Prize Fish entries. We then shifted over to a couple of wreck sites for a few black sea bass, including a few 5 pound citation class fish. - Will Bransom



May 30-31: The next two days we had Grant Mott, Dan Boyer, and John Nagel join us for an offshore Yellowfin Tuna fishing trip with *Fishin' Frenzy*, a 53-foot Custom Carolina Sportfish built by Captain Billy Holton. We dealt with a few light rain showers on the first day, and weathering it out in the comfort of *Fishin' Frenzy* is very nice!



With Captain Greg Mayer at the helm, and Capt Billon Hollingsworth working as our Mate for both days, we made our way to the fishing grounds in about an hour and a half. Tuna Fishing on the first day was tough but we had a few nice surprises! Not long after Billon had the bait spread set a blue marlin crashed the spread hitting the close-in flat line and it was GAME ON for the first angler in the chair. The marlin hit the bait hard and began taking line as Capt Mayer maneuvered the boat to get the advantage on the fish. Phil Mott worked the reel at every opportunity as the marlin made more than eight jumps as it greyhounded across the water. He soon had the fish where the Mate could get the leader, dehook the fish, and release him for another day and another fight.





Congratulations to Phil for his NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament Blue Marlin Release Citation.

Capt Mayer worked a grass line and came upon a piece of floating debris and soon we were pitching cut bait to the many mahi (dolphin) underneath it. Dan Boyer was the first to hook up and while he led the school of mahi to the boat the rest of us were working the school.



May 31: Our day greeted us with partly cloudy skies giving way to sunny conditions later in the day with calm seas throughout the day. For the second day on *Fishin' Frenzy* Capt Mayer decided to move further north and fish closer to the rest of the Oregon Inlet fleet though there'd been numerous reports of sharks hitting the hooked tuna. It's always a calculated risk and one that paid off for our crew. With nearly thirty other fishing vessels in the area that much noise, baits, and blood in the water would certainly draw the attention of the sharks. Capt Billon Hollingsworth quickly had our spread set the minute we arrived and we soon had tuna in the spread.

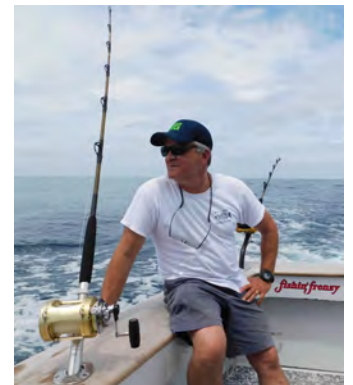


The first yellowfin hit on the short-outrigger and Grant was able to get it into gaff range quickly. The next two hit on the long-outrigger and made for more of a challenge as they took line off the reel until Capt Mayer could reposition the boat for the fight. Both of those made it to Billon's gaff without getting "sharked". We were beginning to think we'd



lucked out as we could hear on the VHF other boats starting to report the shark activity. They were fortunate to have consistent yellowfin tuna hook-ups one after another and were able to quickly get them into the boat before the sharks took their share. Our fourth hook-up was looking good until Capt Mayer alerted us that a shark was moving in when it was about 75 feet from the transom.

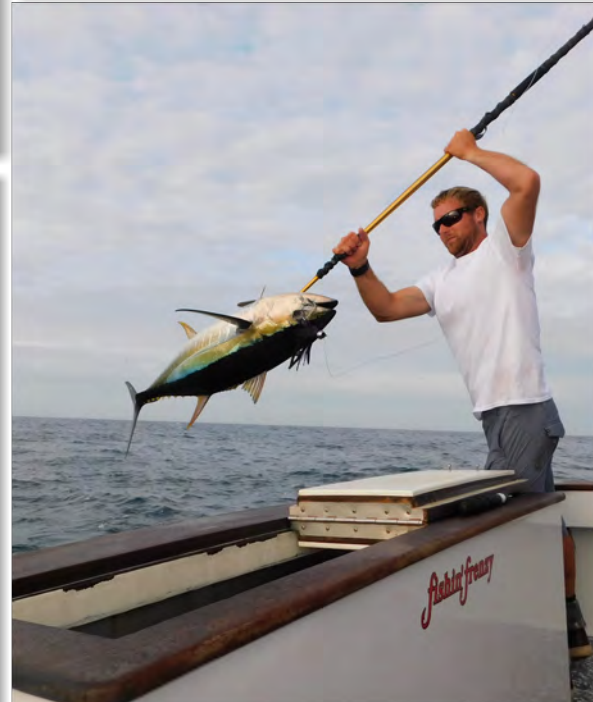
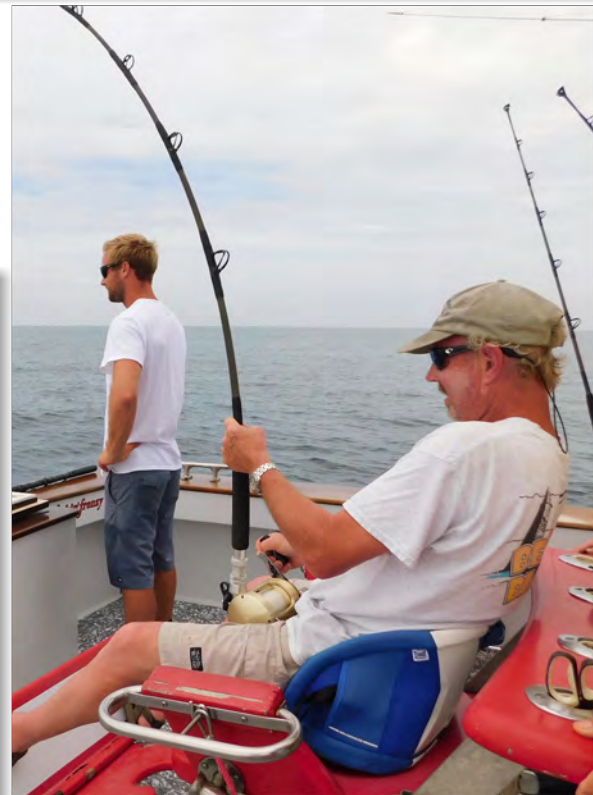
After that shark encounter, which took off some of the tail, we all worked a bit harder and faster to get the yellowfins in quicker.



We were able to hook-up on two more yellowfin, all off the long-outriggers. The second of those two was hit by a shark but Grant was able to keep it from taking any of the tuna away. He got the tuna to the boat with a few teeth marks and a broken but intact tale. A close call indeed! With more than 200 pounds of tuna in the boat, we headed back to the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center.

Many THANKS to Mike Hubert for organizing the fishing trip. Not only does Mike volunteer to serve as one of our Club Officers, he set up the charters, the cottage, organized all the food, and activities. It was a fantastic event and its success is all owed to Mike's planning and hard work.

Thanks also go to the crews of *Stolat* and *Fishin' Frenzy*. They worked hard everyday to put us on the fish and make for a memorable day on the water. Their professionalism and experience navigating one of the most treacherous inlets along the east coast hasn't gone unnoticed. Thanks for being the professional Mariners you are. - Will Bransom

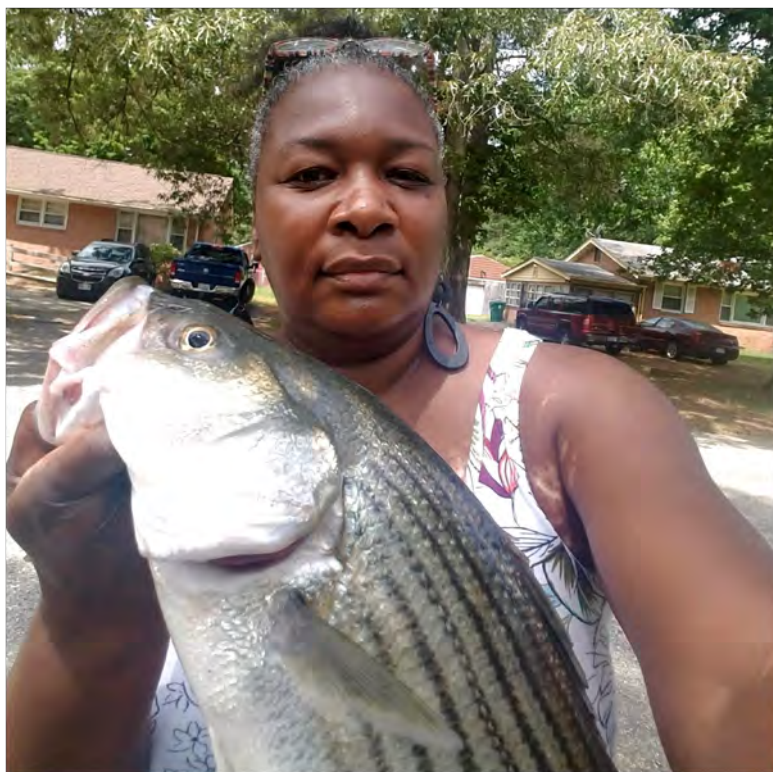


26 May: I hit my home waters again for some mid-morning striper action. Figuring the bay season was open, I would have a better chance of bringing home some fillets; I was right. The Appomattox River was running really hard from the recent rain storms, so the plan was to cast four-inch paddle tails in some slack water where they should have been hiding. The problem? The afore-mentioned slack water was was tight to the opposite shoreline about 50 yards or better across the river and below low hanging branches. My paddle tails weighed about 3/8 of an ounce, so in order for me to reach this area, I decided to use a reel spooled with 6lb. mono and I



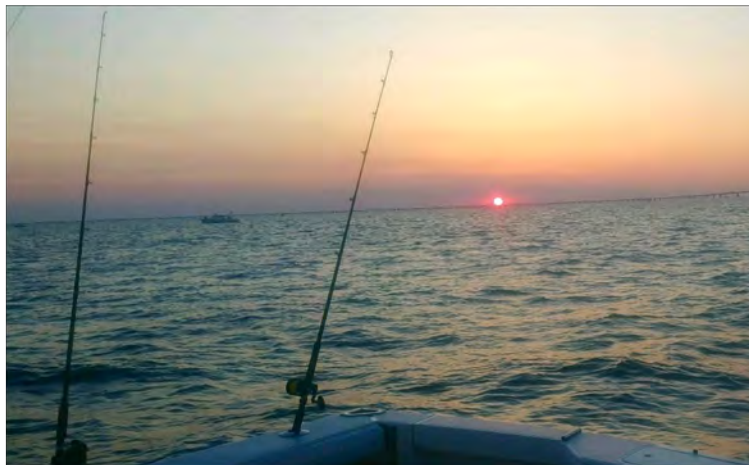
put it on a nine-foot medium rod. With the hard-running water and a spineless rod, I knew

the potential consequences (hey, I welcomed the challenge and that's what the drag is for!). One hour, three tree branches, a few missed hookups, one lost fish and five fish later, I was the only one with the juice that morning among my fishing buddies. The largest was 25", smallest was 21". - Latryce Noel



24 May: I fished Cape Charles on a Thursday night. Mike, Greg & I made the trip. Mary and Kate got jammed up at the HRBT.

It was a beautiful evening but the bite was a little slow. Greg landed a fat 38" and Mike broke one off later in the night. Crabs for used for bait.
- Henry Troutner



25 May: On a Friday morning, AJ and I ran East to the Tower Reef to see if any Spadefish were interested in joining us. After not seeing or marking any, and hearing that none were spotted at the Chesapeake Light Tower, AJ and I ran back inshore to see if we could spot any Cobia. Searching the area between the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier and the Cape Henry Lighthouse, we cruised slowly in 25-30 foot of water, spotting a total of six smaller Cobia swimming

quickly towards the bay. The fish were acting very skittish but AJ did manage to get one 32.5 inch Cobia to eat his Ron-Z lure, which he tagged and released healthy.

- Alex Perez



A quick tag.....



31 May: Nick Wright and I went Flounder fishing in the Lynnhaven. We worked the last 3 hours of the incoming tide and the first 2 hours of the outgoing. The day was mostly overcast and light southern winds. The water was surprisingly clear and 72 degrees. Nick was using a double bottom rig and I was using a single 3/4 oz jighead. We used minnows, flounder belly and gulps. We caught 8 Flounder (4 were keepers), which was the best day we had in 3 trips. - Ned Smith



Back into the water.....

21 May: Full grown Pups on a nice morning . I forget how hard they fight. They almost over powered with my light tackle! - James Robinson



May 2018: This month was excellent for small Black Drum on the 9' Shoal from pretty much beginning to end. Most days we were able to get our limit by anchoring up in front of a piling and putting a couple of baits (whole clams) right on the piling and a couple of baits between the boat and the pilings. The whiting showed up on the 27th and almost cleaned us out so we'll probably start adding crab chunks to the mix to conserve bait until the bite turns on.



One interesting observation, most days our best bite came once the current started ripping yet a lot of boats leave when that happens. On the 27th, we were the only boat in site when the bite started and we left them biting after getting our limit. I've also notice some Tautog Sheepshead fishermen do the same thing. - Mike Griffith



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19 May: We made a run out to Norfolk Canyon last Friday and caught 1 Golden Tilefish and two nice black bellied Rosefish. It was an educational experience but I think our success will only continue to improve as our tactics develop.



First thing in the morning we tried trolling with no luck. Conditions were great in the morning with rough seas all the way home. All in all, the trip was very good. We saw some giant sunfish and several sharks. This trip made for an awesome day. - EJ O'Brien

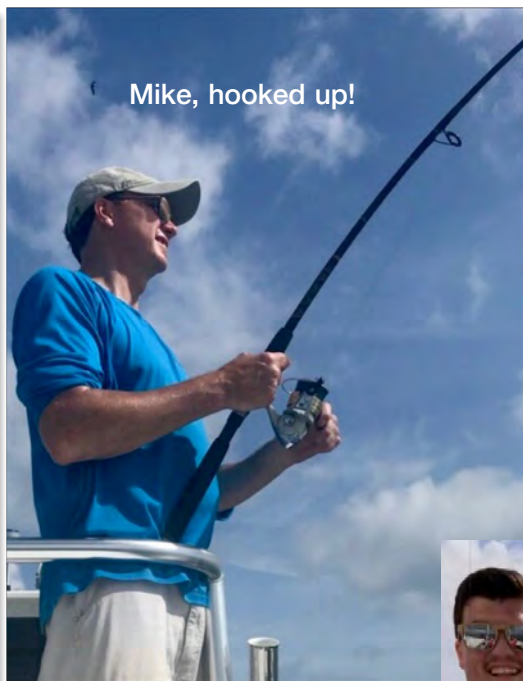


28 May: I had the pleasure of fishing with the Mason family on a Monday morning. We trolled Clark spoons around the Cape Henry area finding the first Spanish Mackerel of the year along with Tailor Bluefish. We continued catching Blues from 20-50 foot of water until the Sun was positioned right for sight casting to Cobia. Mike Mason made a bullseye cast with a pink Ron-Z lure to three 35-40 inch class fish convincing one to eat. After a brief tug of war, Mike's Cobia decided to give back the lure before we were ready. A few minutes later, Curtis Mason found himself in a similar battle with a different 35-40 inch Cobia. Unfortunately, that one was also lost at boat side with everyone getting a good look at the fish before it shook its head and spat the lure out. After enjoying a beautiful morning, we decided to head back to the dock before the afternoon rain rolled in.

- Alex Perez



Rachel and her Bluefish



Mike, hooked up!



Rachel and her Spanish



Curtis hooked up!



30 May: Maddy and Kaitlin catching some Bluefish on Yozuri Crystal Minnows near the third island of the CBBT.
- EJ O'Brien



11 May: I fished the Elizabeth River for Reds with Ned Smith and Bert Sainz. We saw no Reds or Trout just a few Rockfish. We will start going for Flounders.
- Louis Glaser



1 June: First Day of Cobia Season! Russell Willoughby and Jerry Hughes invited me to fish for Cobia on the first day of the Cobia Season in Jerry's boat. I hadn't caught a Cobia in years and Russell had not in two years so we were really anticipating catching one. Jerry however had caught several last year so he led the way to his favorite cobia spot with the last of an out going tide. It was really gray and cloudy in the morning and the wind was SW but enough to make it pretty choppy heading out to the first spot. Nothing at all was caught until the sun came out about 11:00 am and the wind died down and the tide shifted to incoming when Russell had the first Cobia on. The Cobia put up a good fight for Russell and several runs after getting it near the boat so we were able to see clearly it was over 40 inches. Nevertheless he was able to get it to the boat and Jerry gaffed it solidly and pulled it in with no problem and it measured 48".

We moved several times all around the 9 foot shoals as the tide changed again. Sharks and southern rays were frequent diversions until Jerry hooked up one shark that we really didn't know what it was until he fought it near the boat. It took a long run towards the bridge and Jerry had a huge fight on his hands but he kept



the pressure on and we could see it was clearly over 6 ft when he got it near the boat (using Russell's extended arms which he says is 6 feet, 1 inch) before we cut it at the leader. Release citation for sure what I think was a large Sandbar Shark from looking at my shark identification book. Then I got a hook up which grabbed the bait and went on a long run before I was able to turn him. Great fight and it came to the surface early in his battle to the boat so I clearly knew I was fighting a Cobia at least as large as Russell's fish.

Russell gaffed this one once he tired out and it measured 46" but looked a little fatter than Russell's fish. Unfortunately no Cobia graced Jerry's lines the whole day. We used menhaden cut up for bait and Super Bee chum. My Cobia weighed out at Ocean's East as 33 lbs and 6 oz and Russell's weighed out at 33 lbs. Solid fish but no citations.

Overall it was a long day but a great day chumming for cobia on the first day of the season. Thanks Jerry and Russell for inviting me along.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



