

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

JUNE 2023

## What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Trolling for Spanish Mackerel and King Mackerel with Captain Todd Beck & Captain Jake Beck with *Knot Wish'n Charters*

Fishing Tips: *Virginia Marine Resources Commission Biological Sampling Program and Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative with Ethan Simpson and Joshua McGilly*

### Fishing Reports;

- Inshore Wrecks: Tautog, Black Sea Bass, Sheepshead, Red Drum, Flounder
- Lafayette River: Croaker
- Little Creek Jetties: Speckled Trout
- Elizabeth River: Spot, Bluefish, Sheepshead, Puppy Drum
- Chuckatuck River/Brewers Creek: Blue Catfish, Puppy Drum
- Eastern Shore/Wachapreague: Flounder
- South Carolina/Cooper River: Speckled Trout, Ladyfish, Puppy Drum

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Welcome to our new Norfolk Anglers Club member: David Mapp. We're very happy to have you with us and look forward to fishing with you.

We have the Annual Hunt for the Hardheads Club Tournament in June and will be signing up anglers to participate. This a club challenge tournament among the southside Hampton Roads angler clubs. It's a great time for fishing and fellowship!

Our Annual Awards Banquet is on Saturday June 3rd at the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. This is a private event for Norfolk Angler Club members and their invited guests. Many THANKS to the businesses and individuals who've donated items for the evening. We have a lot of really nice fishing items, jewelry, wine & gift baskets, and don't forget about the SeaTow Gift basket including an annual membership!



*Will*

On The Cover: The National Park Service and the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge is kicking off their summer Children's Surf Fishing events beginning this month. Look for information in this Wireline Edition on how to volunteer and how to register children for the events.



## Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Todd Beck and Captain Jake Beck with Knot Wish'n Custom Charters

Inshore trolling for Spanish Mackerel and King Mackerel is this month's topic. Captains Todd & Captain Jake Beck specialize in light tackle fishing out of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach.



## Important:

### June 19, 2023

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

## Publishers NOTES

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NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

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Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

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## NORFOLK ANGLERS



[www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com](http://www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com)

## Club Calendar

### JUNE

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

Mon, Jun 19th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,  
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Thurs, Jun 22nd: National Fish & Wildlife Service  
Summer Kid's Surf Fishing Event, Back Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge

Sat, Jun 24th: Hunt for the Hardheads Club  
Tournament, Willoughby Harbor Marina

### July

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

Mon, Jul 17th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,  
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

## Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 31 May 2023

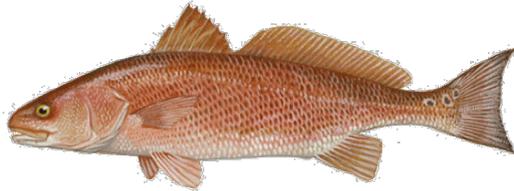
<u>Freshwater</u>		<u>Saltwater</u>	
<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)		
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

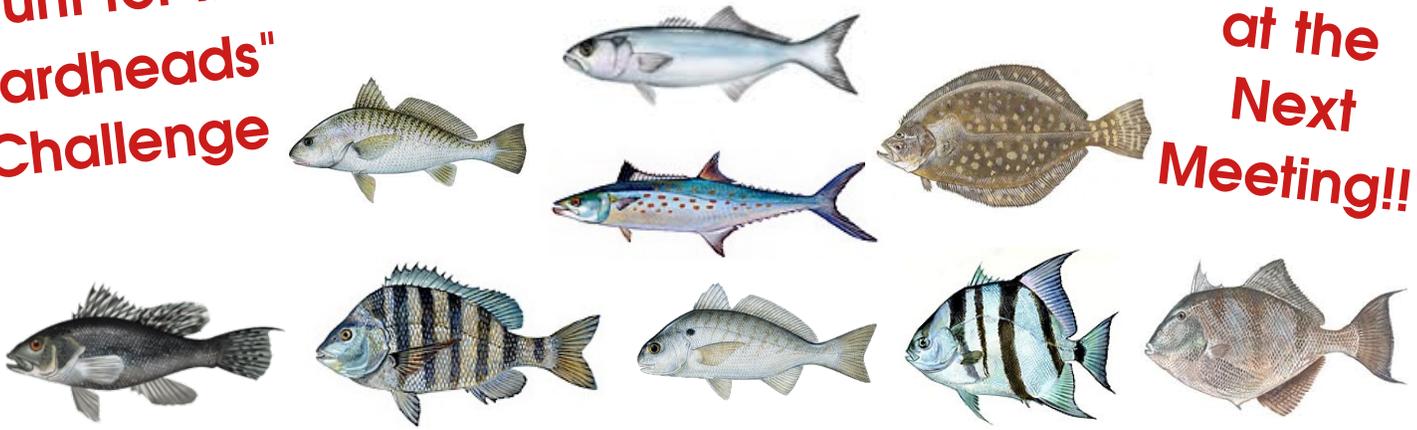
- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- Awards determined by;
  - 1.Total Weight
  2. Date of catch
  3. Date of entry submission
- Additional Award for Best Oyster Toad Photo
- Entries submitted by email to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com) 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)



**"Hunt for the  
Hardheads"  
Challenge**

**Sign Up  
at the  
Next  
Meeting!!**



**"Hunt for the Hardheads"  
Saturday June 24, 2023**

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

A Croaker, Bluefish, Flounder,  
Spanish Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Sheepshead,  
Spot, Spadefish, Triggerfish  
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

**Date:** Saturday June 24, 2023

**Location:** Willoughby Harbor Marina

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

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per Angler. (Includes Fishing,  
Picnic, and Charitable Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

**Rules:**

1. Clubs are limited to 20 angler entries. No restriction on number of boats or anglers on a boat. All anglers must be members of your club.
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port - No fishing boundaries.
3. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
4. 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!

# Norfolk Anglers Club

[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

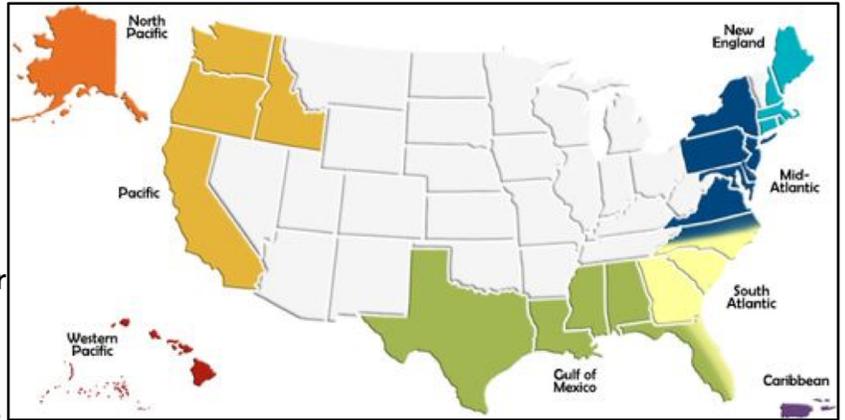
# Fishing Tips...

## Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Biological Sampling Program and Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative

*Ethan Simpson and Joshua McGilly*

### *Regulatory History and Management Authorities*

Understanding how fisheries management functions today requires a look at how it developed and how it's governed. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) was legislation passed in 1976 to manage fisheries within US federal waters. It established eight regional fishery management councils for federal waters from 3nm to 200nm offshore (pictured right). The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is the management authority directly off the Virginia coast and extending northward to include New York. While the eight regional management councils cover US interests along the coastline and includes areas in the Caribbean and Western Pacific there's another federal commission that has reach in federal and state waters. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) was established in the 1940's and ratified by Congress in 1942 for states along the Atlantic coast (Florida to Maine) to join forces to manage their shared migratory fishery resources. The ASMFC is very much a State and Federal partnership to sustain shared coastal fishery resources.



The primary tool for organizations to manage a fisheries is the Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Fishery Management Plans are the overarching guidance that dictates the harvest of recreational and commercially targeted species. They're updated periodically with Addendums and Amendments to reflect changes in the fishery. There are four principle components of a FMP; Goals, Biological/Technical Information, Economic Considerations, and Enforcement. Ethan shared that while each of these organizations have marine scientists and biologists on staff the Councils and Commission rely on each state providing fisheries information and data specific to their own area.

### *Biological Sampling*

Ethan shared that his group at VMRC supports fisheries management with their biological/technical information programs, specifically biological sampling and the analysis of the sampling program. Harvest information for a targeted species such as location, time of year, length, weight, and sex are what most people think about however, there's much more information than that. Determining the accurate age of the fish involves a greater analysis.



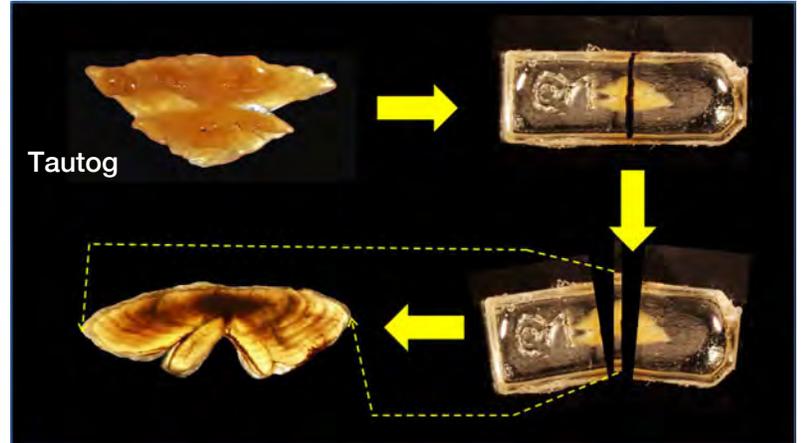
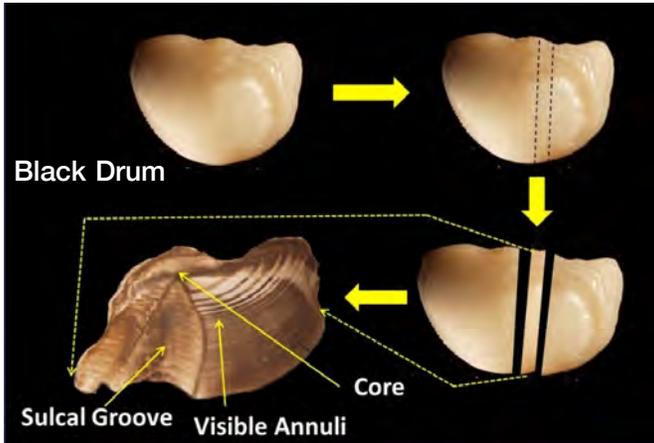
Located at the Marine Resources Commission at Ft Monroe is their Ageing Lab. Determining the age of a fish requires removing calcified structures from the fish such as, otoliths (ear bones), opercula (the hard bone structure covering the gills), and scales. These are removed from donated carcasses and after processing are examined under a microscope to determine the age of that fish. Each year a fish experiences a growth pattern which reveals in calcified structures a growth ring. Similarly to a growth ring in a tree, these growth patterns can be analyzed to give an accurate determination of age. Before otoliths can be analyzed they first must be cleaned and then baked. During the heat treatment process they turn from a light color to a darker amber color. The next process is carefully remove a small cross section of the ear bone. This sectional piece it then placed under a microscope and the rings can be counted for an age determination.

# Norfolk Anglers Club

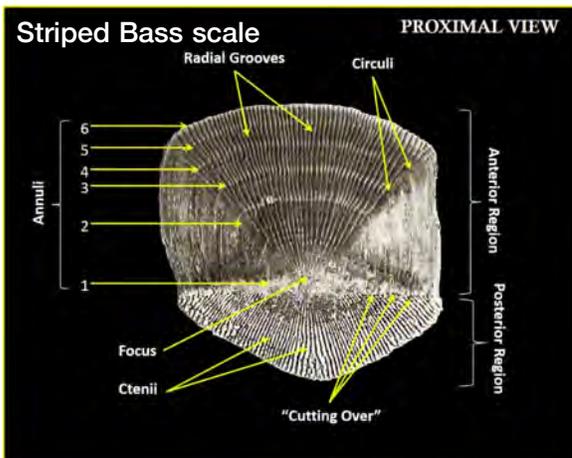
[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

# Fishing Tips...

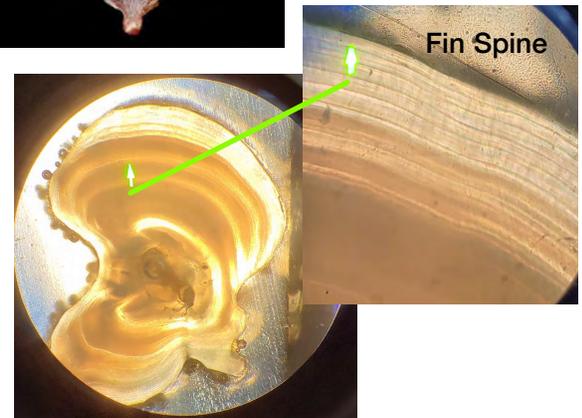
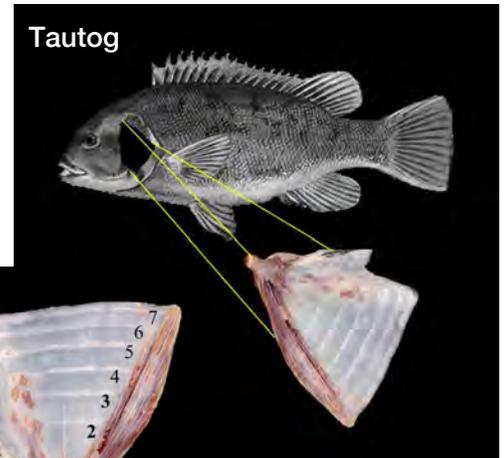
Some of the largest otoliths are found in the drum species, sometimes as large as a half-dollar coin. The smallest otoliths surprisingly come from the tautog and can be as small as a pencil lead. Each are processed and read in the same way (pictured below).



The growth rings on the gill plate (pictured right) and scales (pictured below) are also examined under a microscope for ageing but don't require the same heat processing used for otoliths. One advantage of using scales is that fish may be released after other data is collected.



Another new method that permits material be collected and the release of the fish is taking a fin spine. Fin spines have been used for the study of DNA for years. More recently by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for genetic studies on cobia.



The Marine Sportfish Collections Project has collected 13,321 fish carcasses for study since it began in 2007. These are donated from collection freezers located around Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The donation process is easy, once you fillet your catch, fill out the form, place the fish in the bag provided, and place it in the freezer. Just leave the head and tail intact for a length measurement. A free tee shirt will be mailed as thanks for your donation (one per month).



## Freezer Locations

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



# Norfolk Anglers Club

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# Fishing Tips...

## Acoustic Telemetry Project

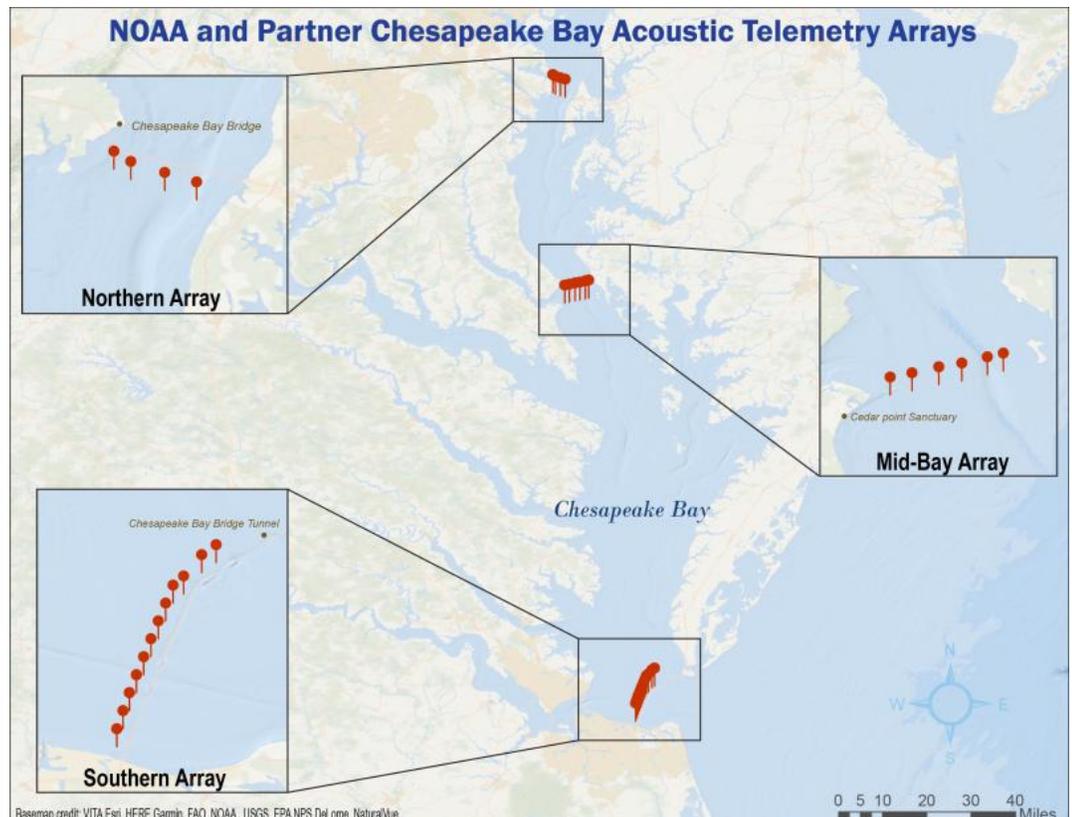
As Ethan explained, tracking with acoustic telemetry isn't "new science". It's a very effective method to track transmitters over time in a specified location and has been used by State and Federal Game & Fish agencies to track wild game, educational institutions to support research, and fishery managers to better understand movements of a particular species. A Stock Assessment is a study conducted by State and Federal agencies to assess a managed species every 5-7 years and is an essential part of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Feeding into these assessments are state fishery manager's regional information as to when a specific stock is present and for how long. Where acoustic telemetry applies is in accurately documenting when and where a species arrives, how long it remains in an area, and when they depart.

Fish are captured by electro-fishing in cooperation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) or caught using short set gill nets. Then carefully handled and surgically implanted with a small acoustic transmitter before being released. Transmitters vary in size depending on application and battery size. Each acoustic transmitter emits an unique coded signal which is detected and recorded by a receiver, capturing date/time as the transmitter passes within range.



VMRC's effort to put in place the Chesapeake Bay Southern Backbone array is in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office. The array is a series of stationary receivers along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to capture any transmitter signals from fish moving past the array. There are similar arrays positioned further up the bay (see below) to establish monitoring gateways. The Mid-Bay Array is maintained by the University of Maryland and the Northern Array by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

In its first year of operation, 15,000 "hits" of identifiable transmitters occurred from more than 500 different transmitters. Species like cobia, atlantic sturgeon, sheepshead, cownose rays, tarpon, and multiple shark species from 20 different research projects were registered.



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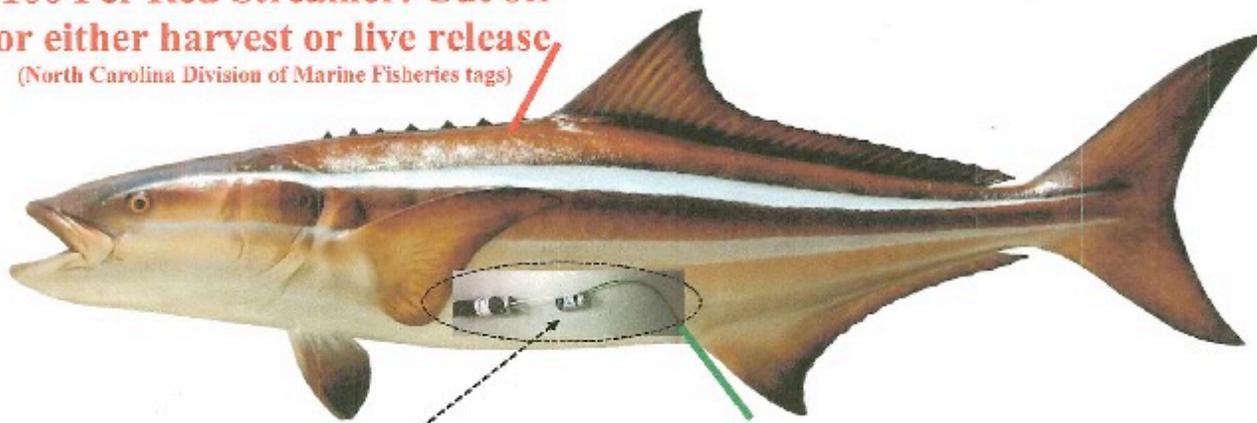
# Fishing Tips...

Ethan explained that to date, 35 acoustic transmitters have been deployed into trophy sized striped bass with plans to deploy another 25 acoustic transmitters in cobia and potentially red drum later this summer/fall. These transmitters have an estimated 5-year lifespan. Anglers should be alert for any fish caught with a transmitter. If anglers discover a fish with multiple tags or streamers attached, carefully examine the tags. There are many research projects with acoustically tagged fish and many acoustic receivers along the coast and rivers of the United States. When a receiver records a signal from an acoustic tag the data is shared among research organizations. Fish acoustically tagged could be caught anywhere! Many projects offer a reward for the recapture data and their transmitter. Contact the phone number on the tag or reach out to VMRC - Ethan Simpson (757.247.2272 or [Ethan.Simpson@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Ethan.Simpson@mrc.virginia.gov)).



## COBIA REWARD \$100-300 / FISH

**\$100 Per Red Streamer: Cut off  
for either harvest or live release**  
(North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries tags)



**\$100 Smaller Electronic Tag: Search guts, follow green streamer**  
(Virginia Institute of Marine Science electronic tag)

1. Call us!
2. Record: Total length, date, location of capture
3. Take photos

**Call : (804) 684 - 7819**

Researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and North Carolina State University are tagging cobia with surgically implanted electronic tags: acoustic transmitters and data loggers. The transmitters allow the fish to be detected by receivers that are located along the East Coast. The data logger (smaller tag) needs to be **returned** in order to download important data on fish habitat preferences. Please follow all applicable state and federal fishing regulations. Not all fish have all tags. Thank you for returning tags. Want to learn more? Please visit our websites via the QR codes or contact us:

Dan Crear  
Email: [dcrear@vims.edu](mailto:dcrear@vims.edu)  
Phone: (804) 684 - 7819



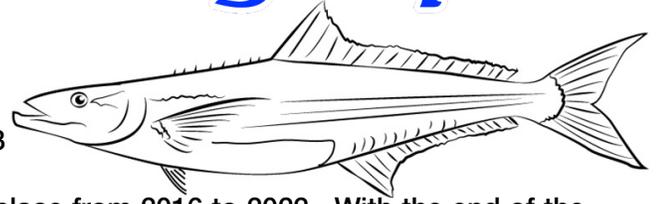
Riley Gallagher  
Email: [rgallag2@ncsu.edu](mailto:rgallag2@ncsu.edu)  
Phone: (800) 790 - 2780



# Norfolk Anglers Club

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# Fishing Tips...

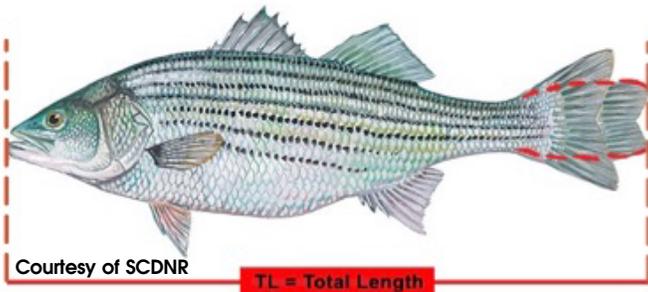


## Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission at their February 2023 meeting terminated the Recreational Cobia Permitting and required reporting. This was a program for recreational fishing for cobia in place from 2016 to 2022. With the end of the required permit and reporting program the Marine Resources Commission is asking recreational anglers to assist with gathering length data from released cobia and cobia ageing data through the Marine Collections Project. Participation in either project is voluntary and anglers may make length reports at any time, though timely reporting is appreciated.

The length information provided through this voluntary project is very helpful when the cobia stock assessment is being prepared. Accurate length on released cobia and age information through the VMRC Ageing Lab for donated cobia carcasses is highly desired. It provides some of the most accurate information on size and age of cobia found in our region.

Participation is as easy as no additional licenses, permits, or registration are required. Anglers should have their Virginia Saltwater Fishing License, or registered under the Fisherman Identification Program (FIP) if fishing under some else's fishing Saltwater Recreational Fishing license or being license exempt. The FIP requirement applies to all saltwater fishing, not just for the Voluntary Recreational Cobia Initiative.



### Measuring Total Length

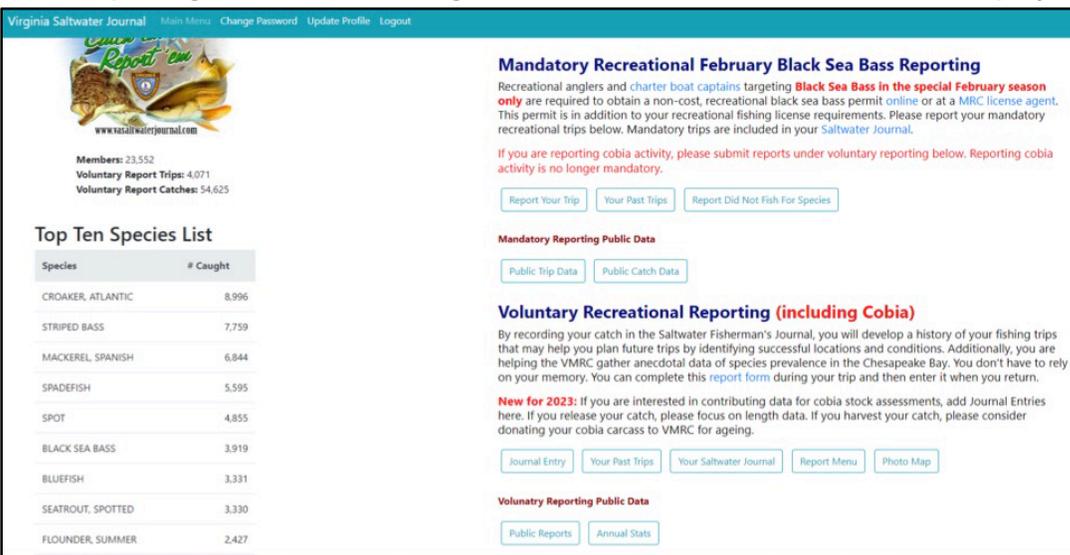
- Place Ruler under the center of fish
- Mouth Closed
- Pinch Tail and measure at the tail tip
- Record exact measurement (no rounding)
- Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) only report release lengths through VGFTP

## Voluntary Reporting

All release length data can be submitted to the Volunteer Recreational Reporting section of the VA Saltwater Journal. If you don't already have a Saltwater Journal account or FIP registration, you can get both at the VA SW Journal page ([www.vasaltwaterjournal.com](http://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com)). The only required entries to make a Journal entry are User Name, Date of Trip, Fished From (Private Boat, Pier, etc), Number of Anglers, and Hours Fished. Entering information on your catch reporting will also ask for a general area fished. Questions about the project contact: VMRC - Joshua McGilly

757247-2299

[Joshua.McGilly@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Joshua.McGilly@mrc.virginia.gov)



Virginia Saltwater Journal

Members: 23,552  
Voluntary Report Trips: 4,071  
Voluntary Report Catches: 54,625

Species	# Caught
CROAKER, ATLANTIC	8,996
STRIPED BASS	7,759
MACKEREL, SPANISH	6,844
SPADEFISH	5,595
SPOT	4,855
BLACK SEA BASS	3,919
BLUEFISH	3,331
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	3,330
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	2,427

**Mandatory Recreational February Black Sea Bass Reporting**  
Recreational anglers and charter boat captains targeting Black Sea Bass in the special February season only are required to obtain a non-cost, recreational black sea bass permit online or at a MRC license agent. This permit is in addition to your recreational fishing license requirements. Please report your mandatory recreational trips below. Mandatory trips are included in your Saltwater Journal.  
If you are reporting cobia activity, please submit reports under voluntary reporting below. Reporting cobia activity is no longer mandatory.

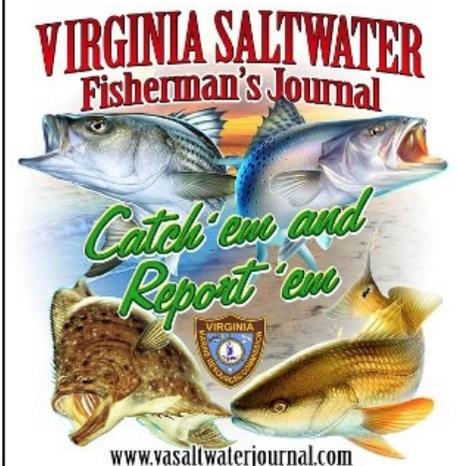
[Report Your Trip](#) [Your Past Trips](#) [Report Did Not Fish For Species](#)

**Mandatory Reporting Public Data**  
[Public Trip Data](#) [Public Catch Data](#)

**Voluntary Recreational Reporting (including Cobia)**  
By recording your catch in the Saltwater Fisherman's Journal, you will develop a history of your fishing trips that may help you plan future trips by identifying successful locations and conditions. Additionally, you are helping the VMRC gather anecdotal data of species prevalence in the Chesapeake Bay. You don't have to rely on your memory. You can complete this report form during your trip and then enter it when you return.  
**New for 2023:** If you are interested in contributing data for cobia stock assessments, add Journal Entries here. If you release your catch, please focus on length data. If you harvest your catch, please consider donating your cobia carcass to VMRC for ageing.

[Journal Entry](#) [Your Past Trips](#) [Your Saltwater Journal](#) [Report Menu](#) [Photo Map](#)

**Voluntary Reporting Public Data**  
[Public Reports](#) [Annual Stats](#)



**VIRGINIA SALTWATER Fisherman's Journal**

Catch 'em and Report 'em

[www.vasaltwaterjournal.com](http://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com)



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



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

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

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

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



**Please visit these merchants to participate:**  
 Ocean’s East-Eastern Shore (Capeville)  
 Port Messick Marina (Poquoson)  
 JEB Little Creek (Virginia Beach)  
 Long Bay Pointe Marina (Virginia Beach)  
 Lynnhaven Municipal Marina (Virginia Beach)  
 Mill’s Marina (Seaford)



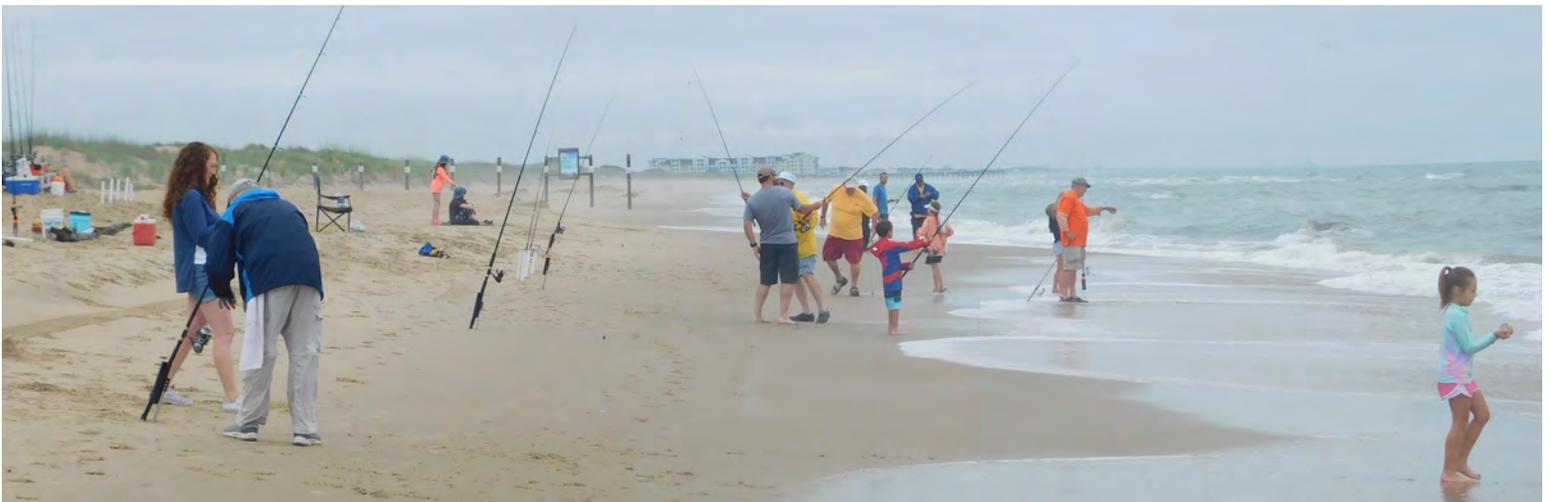


## Summer Kids Surf Fishing Event Volunteers Needed

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; June 22nd, 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...

5 MAY: Will Bransom and I fished the eastern shore on a Friday, initially targeting Black Drum. Loaded with Blue Crabs and Chowder Clams for bait, we tried fishing Nautilus Shoal, finding the action slow but the current fast. We decided to switch gears and make the short run to the Anglo-African Wreck. Using quartered crab Will immediately started catching a steady amount of Tautog. My first fish of the day was a 12.5-inch Black Sea Bass, followed by a Red Drum measuring 26.75 inches. Will took a break for a minute from Tautog to invite a Sheepshead onboard. Having bait left over, I returned to the wreck the following day to catch more Tautog up to 14.5 inches and a Sheepshead at 15.25 inches. One of my Tautog was a fish tagged and released the day before by Will. A promising sign that Will didn't scare the fish too severely before I caught it. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. - Alex Perez



One of Will's many Tautog



Over-slot Puppy Drum



Will's tagged and released Sheepshead



Another Sheepshead tagged and released

From the Editor: Let's learn about the SS *Anglo-African*; see below.

*Anglo-African* was a steam cargo ship built in 1900 by the Short Brothers of Sunderland for Lawther, Latta & Co. of London to operate on Australian routes. The vessel operated mainly on South America to North America route during her career and was wrecked on one of her regular voyages in January 1909.

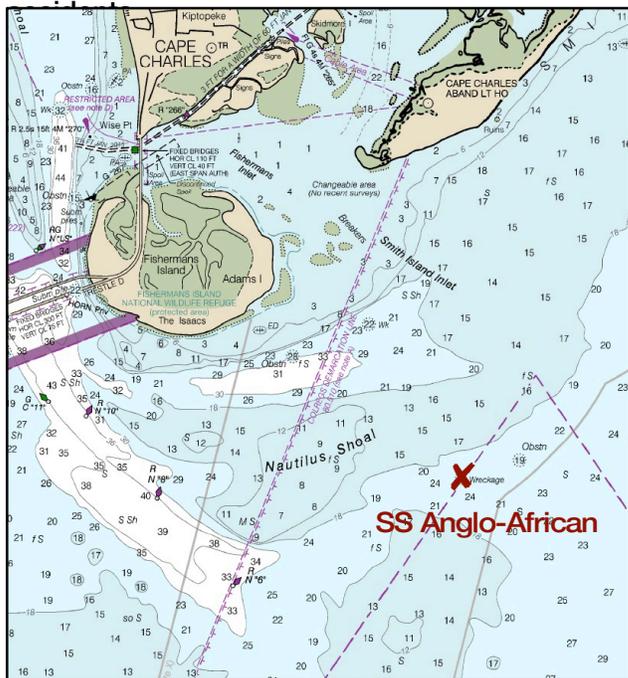
### Sinking

*Anglo-African* left Cardiff on her last voyage on 17 July 1908 for Valparaiso, fully laden with coal. The ship was under the command of Captain James Hedley Henderson and had a crew of 34. After discharging her cargo, she reached her destination on August 26 and loaded almost 7,000 tons of nitrate of soda at Caleta Buena, Junín, Iquique, and Tocopilla for delivery to North America. She left Tocopilla on 19 November 1908 and, after a largely uneventful journey, arrived at Saint Lucia for coaling on December 28 and sailed the next day for Baltimore. The weather was fine and clear until the afternoon of 5 January 1909, when it first became cloudy, and shortly after, it started to rain. The weather progressively worsened through the evening and the late afternoon, with heavy fog developing, but the ship continued at full speed. Soundings were taken regularly to ascertain the ship's position relative to the coast. Still, no visual observations were possible due to thick weather at the time, and no lights from either Cape Henry or Cape Charles lighthouses could be seen.

At about 21:30 on January 5, *Anglo-African* ran aground on the sandbar just south of Smith Island, off, in an approximate position of  $37^{\circ}3'25.1''N$   $75^{\circ}53'57.5''W$ . The captain immediately ordered the engines to be reversed, and they kept working through the night to dislodge the vessel, but the efforts failed, and the ship could not be moved.

Two tugs, *Defiance*, and *Anna W.*, came to help the next morning and were able to move the ship seaward a few hundred feet. Still, the weather soon deteriorated with the wind picking up, making the salvage work very difficult – the salvage vessel *I. J. Merritt* also arrived on January 6 and offered help, but Captain Henderson declined. At about 13:00 on January 7, the crew started discharging the cargo from the No. 2 hold, trying to lighten the vessel up before another attempt to refloat the steamer could be made. About 50 to 55 tons of freight was jettisoned overboard.

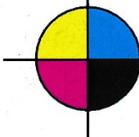
During the night of 7 January, a strong nor'easter passed through the area, severely damaging the ship. By 11:00 on 8 January, all crew had abandoned the ship as *Anglo-African* had water in all her cargo holds and developed a heavy list to port. Following further investigation, the ship was abandoned on 11 January, as she was mostly under water in high tide, and there were large holes in her bottom, making the salvage operation impossible. As the wreck presented a grave danger to navigation, it was blown up by dynamite and sank in about 24 feet (7.3 m) of water by the destroyer *Seneca* on 25 August. The wreck was marked with buoys on 22–23 September 1909 to avoid potential



Following the inquiry into the stranding, Captain Henderson was found at fault for the loss of the vessel and had his certificate suspended for three months. He died soon after the inquiry.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS\\_Anglo-African](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Anglo-African)

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5-6 MAY: Mary, Kait, Kevin, and I fished the Annual Wachapreague Flounder Tournament. We arrived Friday and launched at 9 AM. We stopped at the #3 marker to rig. On our first drift, using a 1/2-ounce jig and green Gulp mullet, I got a 17-inch. We thought, "Game On," but that wasn't the case. I fished all the hot spots with plenty of boats but not a bite and didn't see a fish landed. At about 2 PM, we returned to #3, and right before heading in, I got a 19-inch and saw another land. We were drifting, and most of the boats were trolling. Saturday Morning launch at 8 AM with a new plan to troll; first stop #3. Within a few minutes, Kait caught an 18 1/2 inch trolling.

We were sure we had figured it out - NOT SO. Some time passed trolling, and Kevin got a 12 1/2" (first tagged flounder). We fished till 11 AM and headed in for a trip home. Nice weather and I always enjoy an overnight trip to Wachapreague.

Fished minnows, squid strips, and Gulp on Jigs, feathered hooks, and flounder spinners; all fish caught in about 6 feet of water, although we fished 3 feet to 30 feet.

- Mary and Henry Troutner



22 MAY: Went out to Rudee's inlet, arrived at high tide, and fished for four hours. I caught one Flounder in the first 30 minutes near tall grass by the ramp using a Z-man paddle tail and 3/8-ounce jig head.

I caught one red drum 28 1/2 inches in the last 30 minutes using the same setup in the back on the inlet near the aquarium.

The wind was mild in the morning when I caught the Flounder; the wind picked up as the day went on.

I talked to other anglers on the water, and they were catching flounder.

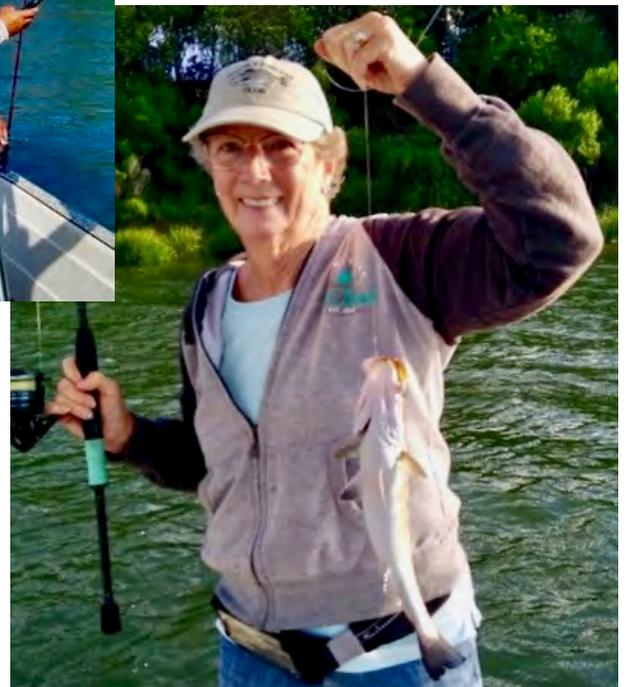
- Jonathan Kreher

11 MAY: Louis and I have been fishing Little Creek several times in May, but mostly it's been too windy. But once, we heard some trout were caught at the jetties, so we tried it when it wasn't as windy. NE winds still, but only about 10-15 mph. After fishing for about 20 minutes, I hooked up the trout in the picture below. It was 19 inches and felt like a Puppy Drum as it fought my MirrOlure MR27 electric chicken lure. But that was the only hit of the day. We haven't been out since with the high winds except one time we fished near the Pretty Lake bridge catching small spot for Louis' crab pots.- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

17 May: Mary and I went to Charleston, South Carolina, for the week celebrating our 41st Anniversary. I couldn't spend a week without fishing, so I booked a 4-hour inshore trip for Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum with Jeremy Espiritu of Shallow Thoughts Charters. We were at the dock early, and so was Jeremy, with a plan to fish live shrimp under popping corks. Jeremy's 22-foot Shearwater made it a short run up the Cooper River, where Mary connected with a Speck on her 1st cast.

The catching was steady for over an hour for mid-size Speckled Trout and a Ladyfish. We then changed location to fish for Drum in The Intracoastal Waterway behind Sullivan's Island. Once again, 1st cast Mary connected with a nice Puppy Drum. We continued the morning on the ICW, catching Puppies up to 22 inches. We had a beautiful day on the water and caught plenty of fish, all released. Although there were no pictures of I, Mary let me catch a few fish.

- Mary and Henry Troutner

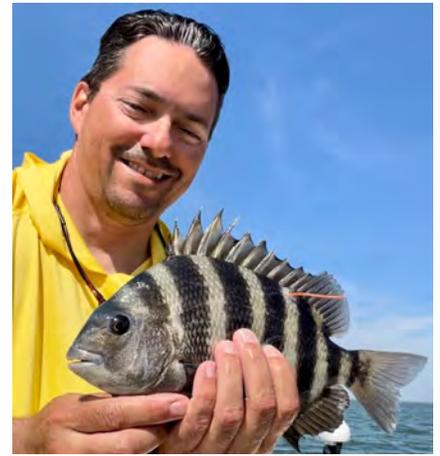


8 MAY: I fished the Elizabeth River at the mouth of the Lafayette River after work.

Using the last of the weekend's Chowder clams, I sat anchored in eight feet of water, casting towards a rocky shoreline targeting puppy drum. I immediately started catching small Spot, Bluefish up to six inches, and Sheepshead up to 12.5 inches.

As the current changed from incoming to slack, I caught a 17-inch puppy drum which signaled the end of the action for the day.

- Alex Perez



Sheepshead tagged and released



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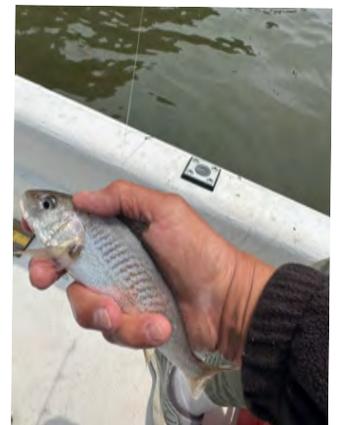
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18 MAY: I put the skiff in a Haven Creek Boat Ramp and decided to fish the Elizabeth River at the mouth of the Lafayette River. Conditions were fine at the onset however, after an hour the winds shifted and increased. I headed inside the Lafayette River to more protected waters and landed on a bunch of bait sized croakers. I keep telling myself... It's still fishing!

- Will Bransom



15 MAY: I fished just off the Norfolk International Terminals, in the Elizabeth River, using live clams and Gulp three-inch shrimp on 1/4 ounce Jig heads.

Fishing the incoming tide, I alternated between the clams and Gulp, with clams getting better action than smaller fish.

Kept busy with small Spots, Pigfish, Bluefish, and Puppy Drum from 14-16 inches. The largest Drum of the day, measuring 28.5 inches, ate a Gulp Shrimp.

One of the 16-inch Puppy Drums I caught was previously tagged on September 27, 2022, before I caught it again.

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program data showed that the fish had grown one inch since receiving the tag. I gently cleaned off the tag's heavy growth before recording the tag number and releasing the fish.

- Alex Perez



Previously tagged puppy Drum



Growth on the tag before being cleaned off.



Puppy Drum and I parting ways



7 MAY: Called Troy to fish for Puppy Drum. Tried the mouth of Brewer's Creek, and Troy caught one catfish. I decided to go to the oyster beds near the Chuckatuck Bridge. Troy caught this 18-inch puppy drum on crab fished on a high-low rig, outgoing tide casting to the shore and dragging it back across the oyster beds.

- John Curry

# Angler Interests

## Merchant Marine Credential (MMC) Printing Delays and Charter Applications



May 08, 2023: NOTICE – Due to Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) printing delays with the United States Coast Guard (USCG), VMRC will accept charter applications missing MMCs with the following additional proof. If getting an Original or Raise of Grade, please submit one of the following:

- 1) MMC Application Status with an Approved to Print, Printed, or Issued status.
- 2) MMC Credential Verification displaying MMC Issued and Expiration dates (if applicable) OR email verification from NMC.
- 3) MMC Credential Verification displaying Credential Details with appropriate endorsements OR email verification from NMC.
- 4) Previous MMC (if not original issuance).

If you applied for a Renewal MMC through the USCG, please submit the expired MMC with one of the following:

- 1) MMC Application Status with an Approved to Print, Printed, or Issued status.
- 2) Previous MMC (if not original issuance).

Please contact Somers Smott 757-247-2004 if you have any questions when applying for charter licenses. For more information, please read the USCG announcement here:

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2023/MSIB\\_06\\_23\\_Merchant\\_Mariner\\_Credentialing\\_Delays.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2023/MSIB_06_23_Merchant_Mariner_Credentialing_Delays.pdf)

## Hurricane Season June 1st through November 30th



While early season hurricanes are unusual, **NOW** is the time to prepare for what may come later this summer and fall.

Planning involves making sure you have a plan for YOU and your family if needed to evacuate, a plan for your home, and a plan for your vessel. Check your insurance coverage on home and boat policies. Gather needed nonperishable supplies to weather out a storm at home, a "go bag" if need to leave, and materials to secure your home and boat for destructive weather.

The very best thing you can do is plan for the worse early, secure your home & boat, and leave the area before everyone else realizes they haven't planned either. Waiting until the last few days before a hurricane turns in your direction is simply too late. Likely all the suitable tie downs, tarps, fenders, and mooring lines are gone from the shelves.

Hurricanes don't "sneak" up on you! Tropical weather systems form off Africa and are tracked all the way across the Atlantic. They slowly trek toward North America and strengthen until they get to your zip code. The only thing that sneaks up on you about a hurricane is poor or no planning.

### Marine Advisories and Warnings

	<b>Small Craft Advisory</b>	Sustained winds of 20 knots or greater; seas of 7 feet or greater
	<b>Gale Warning</b>	Sustained winds of 34–47 knots; not associated with a tropical cyclone
	<b>Tropical Storm Warning</b>	Sustained winds of 34–63 knots; associated with a tropical storm
	<b>Hurricane Warning</b>	Sustained winds of 64 knots or greater; associated with a hurricane





# Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Last Revised  
April 2023



### 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



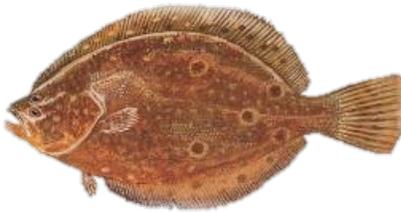
### King Mackerel

- 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: 20-28 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

#### Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 20-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

#### Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-36 inches
- 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](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)**



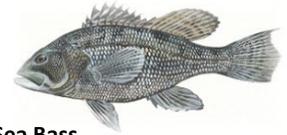
### Spadefish

- 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