



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MARCH 2017

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Fishing in Hampton Roads with *Don Lancaster*

Fishing Tips: Tautog Fishing with Capt Neal Taylor, *Oceans East Sport Fishing*

Fishing Reports:

- Deep Drop fishing the Norfolk Canyon
- Tautog fishing at the Tower Artificial Reef
- Northwest River Blue Catfish
- Speckled Trout in the Elizabeth River
- Northwest River Park stocked pond fishing

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped out at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show. The club had a great showing thanks to your efforts.

Well Done to all the Anglers who submitted their Saltwater and Freshwater Citations and Prize Fish Documentation for 2016. Thanks to Tom Hubert, our Awards Chairman, for sorting through all the paperwork to recognize our anglers at the Awards Banquet. Congratulations to our Saltwater Angler of the Year; Beth Synowiec and our Freshwater Angler of the Year; Dr "Ike" Eisenhower.

Here's a reminder that we still have Raffle Tickets (\$5) for the Cobia Charter Fishing trip with FINAO Sportfishing. This is a FULL Day, 4 Person Charter, including the Mate's Tip for the 2017 Cobia season. All the winner has to bring is what you want to eat/drink and a cooler for your Cobia afterwards. The winning ticket (Single Draw) will be drawn at our April meeting by Capt Austin Hayne with FINAO Sportfishing.

Will

MEETING

Guest Speaker:

Fishing in Hampton Roads with Don Lancaster

Life long Outdoorsman, Professional Bass Angler, Fishing Guide Service Operator, Outdoor Journalist, Teacher, Radio Show Host, Veteran, the list goes on. His lifetime passion for the outdoors and fishing is evident the first time you meet him.

Monday, March 13th is your opportunity to meet Don Lancaster and hear his angler experiences from around Hampton Roads.

Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, March 13th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

Publishers NOTES

Editor:

Wendy Bransom

wbranfildes@gmail.com

NAC OFFICERS

President:

Will Bransom

will.bransom@gmail.com

Vice President:

Henry Troutner

htroutner1@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ned Smith

neds9610@aol.com

Secretary:

Ike Eisenhower

jeisenhower2@cox.net

Events Coordinator:

Beth Synowiec

thesynowiecs@verizon.net

Assistant Events Coordinator:

Mike Hubert

albeman45@yahoo.com

Guard/Greeter:

Ben Capps

benlcapps60@gmail.com

Member at Large:

Alex Perez

Alex52101@aol.com

Webmaster:

Pat Hirsch

pfhirsch@yahoo.com

64TH MID-ATLANTIC SPORT & BOAT SHOW



We had a great time at the Boat Show; had an opportunity to meet and talk with great folks interested in fishing! We also rolled out the Norfolk Anglers Club Fishing Tips booklet, a collection of fishing tips from Hampton Roads finest Charter Captains and Anglers. 100% of the proceeds go towards taking the kids from the East Ocean View Recreation Center out for a day of Head Boat fishing and a cookout afterwards. We also featured our 2017 Cobia Charter Fishing Trip Raffle with FINAO Sportfishing. The Drawing will be at the April Meeting, so you still have a chance to get a raffle ticket!



Special thanks to our members who helped at our Booth: Will & Wendy Bransom, Henry & Mary Troutner, Ike & Kathy Eisnehower, Bert & Sandy Sainz, Tom Hubert & Pam Semones, Mike Hubert, Mike Delbridge, Kelly Hoggard, Alex Perez, Ronny Hillin, Marvin Chivers, Gary Waddell, Brian Tsai, Ben Capps, Beth Synowiec and Mike Griffith!

Annual Awards Banquet



Beth Synowiec: 2016 Overall Saltwater, Keep & Release Angler of the Year, Release: Sailfish, Striped Bass, Sheepshead, Golden Tilefish, Dolphin, Bluefish

Congratulations to our 2016 Freshwater & Saltwater Anglers of the Year, Dr Ike Eisenhower and Beth Synowiec, they both get a free NAC Membership! We held our Annual Awards Banquet at the Aberdeen Barn & Steakhouse on 18 FEB 2017. Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet and deserts. Check out below our members with their notable catches during the 2016 Fishing Season! Our Individual Raffles were great fun as usual; check out the items in this Wireline. Tom Hubert did a great job once again as the Announcer. Thanks to everyone who helped with setup and cleanup!



Dr Ike Eisenhower: 2016 Overall Freshwater Angler of the Year, Shellcracker Sunfish, Blue Catfish



Alex Perez Jr: 2016 Junior Angler Award: Red Drum, 2016 Species Award for Spanish Mackerel



Kevin Synowiec: 2016 Species Award Tautog



Alex Perez Sr: 2016 Release: Red Drum



Steve Harding: 2016 Species Award for Crappie and Pompano



Ned Smith: 2016 Release Chain Pickerel, 2016 Species Award: Speckled Trout



Mike Delbridge: 2016 Species Award Black Sea Bass, Release: Amberjack





Donated Raffle Items



Above, Rob Choi Fish Artwork. Right, Rain Jackets and coversals donated by OBBCO Safety Supply (Ben Capps)



Above: Two \$100.00 Aberdeen Barn Gift Certificates



Fishing Rods donated by PA Distributing, Boaters Warehouse, and Henry Troutner



An Electric drill donated by Kevin Synowiec and a 12 Pack Cooler with IPOD/Radio!



A very nice Nautical Basket made by Karen Schrader



CUTCO Fisherman Solution Knife donated by the Norfolk Anlgers Club!



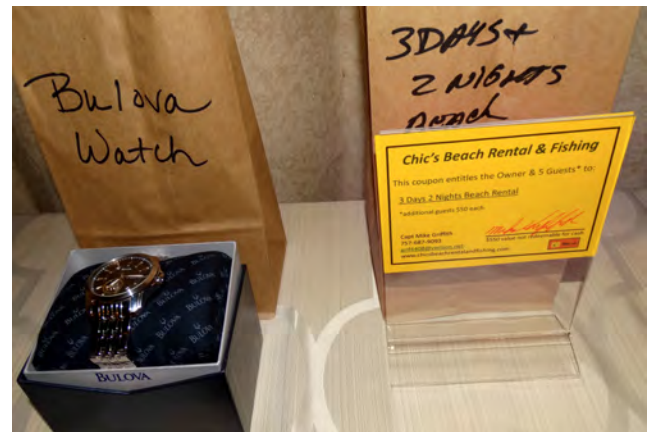
Sea Tow One Year Membership donated by Sea Tow Hampton Roads, Ed & Karen Schrader!



Left, Red Wine Basket made by Wendy Bransom who also made the White Wine Basket on the right.



Moble Mechanix (Ray Sexton & Mike Hubert donated a free annual service on any push mower and a very nice Bulova Watch.



Karen Schrader made this wonderfiul Movies Basket which included a \$20.00 Regal Cash Card and bunches of goodies !



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Janet Taylor & Will Bransom bought jewelry from Accessories Plus (Check out their store, they have some really nice accessories

Chic's Beach Rental & Fishing donated 2 Days & Nights Beach Rental, a Walk on Fishing Trip and an one Day Free Paddleboard & Kayak Rental (CAPT Mike Griffith)



Boating & Fishing Flea Market

Spring Event

With help from **Bull Island Anglers**

Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:00am – 1:00pm

Rain or Shine

(Vendor spots inside & outside)

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Admission \$3 age 13 & up

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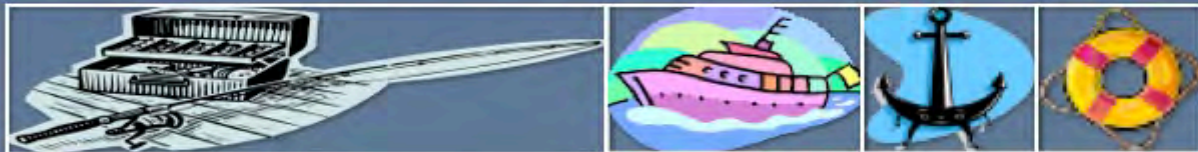
Nautical Arts & Crafts

Refreshments & Food



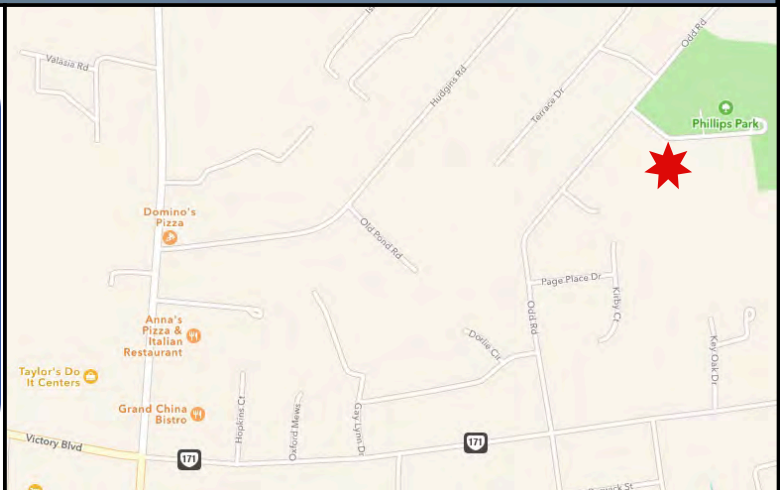
or email us at boat-fish-art@poquosonkiwanis.org

Download Vendor Agreement: [Boat and Flea Market Application.pdf](#)



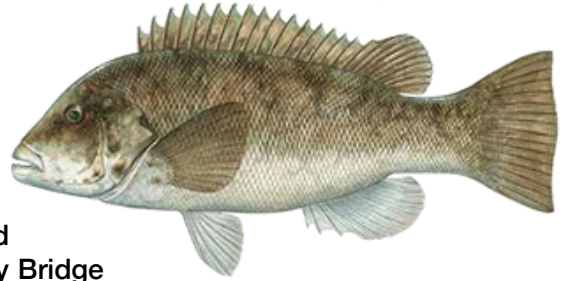
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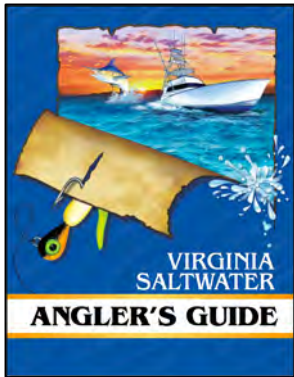
Tautog Fishing:

Capt Neal Taylor, Oceans East Sport Fishing



One of the best fish to target in Virginia from late September to late April is Tautog. In the northern states it's known as Blackfish and locally as "Taugs". Taugs like structure and with the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and numerous inshore/offshore wrecks, Virginia waters have one of the best Taug fisheries.

Where and How: Virginia has lots of wrecks and other structure inshore and offshore that support the Taug fishery. They're a structure oriented fish that feeds on mussels, clams, crabs (blue crabs, jonas crabs, fiddler crabs, green crabs), shrimp, and barnacles. Their rows of flat teeth make quick work of grinding and crushing the shells.



A great resource for locating wrecks anglers can start with the Virginia Marine Resource Commission's *Virginia Saltwater Angler's Guide*. It's available online from the VMRC webpage at http://www.mrc.state.va.us/images/ang_guide.jpg. Select the section titled *Virginia's Artificial Reef Program* and you'll find locations, descriptions, and coordinates for reefs in our area.

For Taug fishing you'll want to anchor up on structure so as to place the boat directly over the fishing spot. Most anglers prefer to use a wreck grapple hook with a 10-15ft length of chain for both chafe protection and to add weight to the anchor rig. Capt Taylor recommends securing the end of the chain to the head of the grapple and then creating a bit of slack in the chain before attaching it to the shank with zip ties. The temporary ties will allow the shank end to break loose and help pull the grapple free of the structure by the head.

At the offshore wrecks boats are mostly affected by the prevailing winds than current or tides. Aligning the boat with the wind driven set will allow an anglers to let out the anchor line and position the boat over the structure. Capt Taylor recommends turning the rudder or outboards to one side or the other to help position the boat over your spot. It's important to get directly over your fishing spot. The braided fishing line will provide a "feel" of the bottom and you'll quickly realize the feel of sand, metal, and shell.

After fishing for 20-30 minutes with nothing biting, let out some more line using the sinkers to "feel" the structure as you do.

Tackle and Rigging: Capt Taylor likes fishing the offshore wrecks for Taugs using a 6'-6'6" Medium Heavy to Heavy conventional rod spooled up with 80 pound braid line. He prefers the heavier rod choice because of the sinker weights used. While bank sinkers and cannon ball sinkers work fine, he prefers using in-line trolling weights. Sinker weights vary with conditions but 8-12 ounce sinkers are the most common. Capt Taylor advises that if you're fishing the CBBT or inshore wrecks you'll need to adjust the sinker weights because current and tides play a much greater role than offshore. He shared that an offshore bite differs from the inshore bite. Offshore Taugs seem to hit the bait harder. Inshore Taugs tend to have a softer bite and will often steal your bait if you're not monitoring what's going on. Your bait selection also has a lot to do with how you feel the bite. Fiddler crabs will provide very light pressure when a Taug hits it. Blue crabs on the other hand require the Taug to work at getting into the bait.



Tautog rigs are pretty straight forward to make. Coming off your 80# braided mainline you've got a SPRO swivel connected to 40-50# Fluorocarbon Taug rig. Capt Taylor shared the Monofilament line works okay but he prefers to use Fluorocarbon for his rigs. He'll create a double dropper loops at the end, one for his inline sinker and the other for a Gamakatsu 6/0 Baitholder Hook. The baitholder hooks feature an upward barb on the hook shank which helps to keep bait positioned on the hook. The dropper loops are about equal size (4 inches).

Rigging the Bait: Green crabs and Jonas Crabs are the best bait to use. Depending on time of the year they can be challenging to find at your local Bait & Tackle shop. Whole or cut Blue Crab works fine and so do Fiddler Crabs.

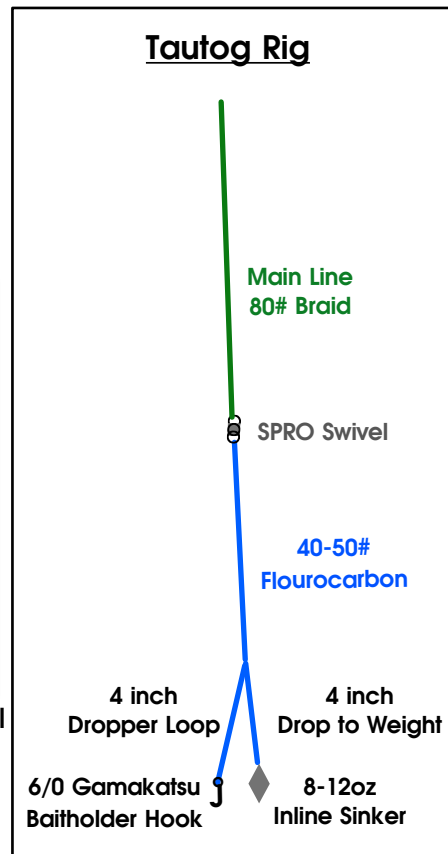
Green Crabs are easy to rig. Take your 6/0 Baitholder hook and pierce the top rear of the crab and bring the hook out through the apron.



Once the hook is through, the crab will dangle upright on the hook in a natural presentation for the Taugs. Using whole Green Crabs is a great bait when there's lots of hungry Black Sea Bass around. Generally the Sea Bass will beat the Taugs to the bait and take a leg or two before the Taugs have a chance at it. You'll usually feel the Taugs hit the bait a couple of times. After the second or third bump set

the hook hard and pull the Taug off the structure. If you find the Taug holding tight in the wreck ease the pressure and let them relax. Many times the Taug will swim free to move to another hide and then you can pull them away from the wreck. Capt Taylor uses a lever drag reel for Taug fishing and uses full drag to pull them out from the structure and backs off the drag once they're clear and on the retrieve.

To rig cut blue crab, first remove the top shell. Place the baitholder hook through one knuckle and out a second. you can also hook through a knuckle and out through the meat.



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Fishing Reports...

Spiny Dogfish



AJ & a little BSB



19 February: We took advantage of the beautiful day and made a run to the tower reef on a great Sunday afternoon. We couldn't find any live crabs so we used Chowder Clams to catch a little over a dozen Black Sea Bass up to 16 inches and three Tautogs up to 18 inches. My machine read 48 degrees for water temperature. Glass calm, in light winter clothes, with a few fish caught. Not bad for mid February! - Alex Perez

Bill & a Tog he invited to dinner



Danny with a pretty BSB



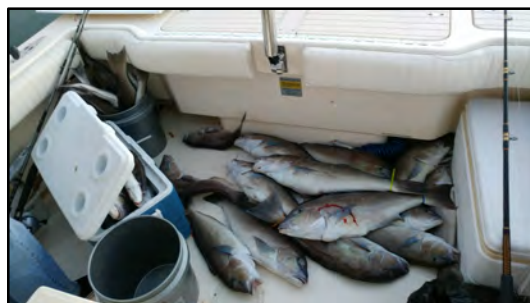
Me & my only Tog





19 February: With weather and sea conditions near perfect, we decided to head towards the Norfolk Canyon for a deep drop trip. Fellow Norfolk Anglers Club members, Beth, Mike D. and Mike H. plus one other headed out of Rudee Inlet and made a quick trip to the deep water. We targeted Blueline Tilefish and as expected sorted through quite a few Spiny Dogfish during the day. We each caught our 7 fish limit using mostly 6/0 circle hooks with cut fish, squid and crabs. Beth and Mike H. both landed citation Bluelines, my largest was just shy of the 10 pound citation requirement.

On the way back we stopped off at an offshore wreck for Tautog but only landed Black Sea Bass. Currently out of season each were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and released near the bottom using the SeaQualizer fish release system (seaqualizer.com). - Will Bransom



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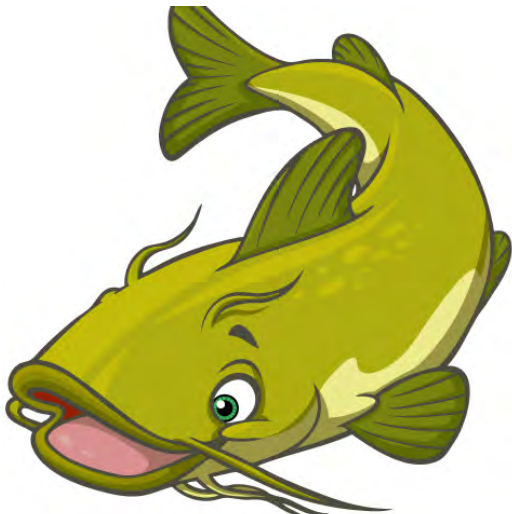
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SEA TOW

NORTHWEST RIVER CATFISHING

2 February: Finally got out fishing for first time this new year. Robert Stuhlman and I went out with Josh Andrews of Shoulder Hog Guide Service on the Northwest River looking to catch big Blue Catfish. The day was beautiful at sunrise despite being chilly as Josh gill netted fresh grizzard shad for bait. It warmed up as the day progressed but fishing was slow and the first fish caught on the boat was when I caught a Blue Catfish 27 lb, 36 inch as pictured. I caught him on a Penn Battle II combo with only 10 lb. line and he gave me a great fight since I could not just horse him in the boat. He made several runs as I kept the drag light. Later in the day Bob caught a 10 lb. Blue Catfish but didn't want to have his picture taken. We were harassed all day with bowfins (as pictured) trying to eat our baits but the baits were too big for their mouths. I did hook two both around 5-6 lbs. They are not very edible I understand, but give a good fight. It remained calm most of the day, we saw a bunch of gar rolling on the surface but they never took our bait. Fishing reports from others on the water claimed it was a slow day catching for all. And there were plenty of people on the NW River fishing for both catfish and crappie making good out of the mild weather. Well we just will have to try again for citation size fish (over 38 in or 30 lbs.) but at least Bob got one that is edible size. But overall it was a great day on the water with Josh. He's got a great system for fishing Catfish and he knows the NW River like the back of his hand.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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11 February: On a nice Saturday morning, my Son in law Norman Cunnanan and I launched from the Jordan Bridge and went up river after Speckled Trout. We managed 2 undersized trout and lost a big one close to the boat. The temperature was in the 70's and the water was in the high 40's. The wind picked up and we called it a day around lunch time. The few fish we did catch were caught on Gulp 6" white jerk bait and Mirrolures.

17 - 20 February I took the weekend off and went north to Pennsylvania on my annual ice fishing trip with my friend Patrick Koren. But, the weather was warm and the ice was not safe to venture out on if there was any ice at all. So we turned our attention to the spillways on a few of the area flood control impoundments to fish for Walleye, Muskie, Striper, Bass and Northern Pike. But due to the snow the area received the week prior, all of the local dams were high and the draw down gates were open making spillway fishing impossible. As a last resort we tried our luck at trout fishing at a local lake and the fishing turned out to be pretty good. We managed to catch our limits of rainbow trout on Saturday and Sunday. The trout were caught on live fatheads on a float and salmon eggs on the bottom. Although we did not catch any monsters, the rainbows ranged from 14 to 17 inches. - Gary Waddell



22 February: I went fishing with a friend in Linkhorn Bay, we looked and looked for several hours. We used cut bait with mirror lures (MR17). When the end of the tide was approaching, all of a sudden on every cast we caught a fish. For 1.5 hours, we were red hot catching mostly Speckled Trout and one Drum. We ended up tagging all of the fish, they were too small to keep. We tagged 29 Speckled (14" biggest) and one Puppy Drum (16"). It was quite amazing how fast we were bringing in fish, would have been nice if they were larger! - Jimmy Robinson

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You are invited to visit or join the best fishing club in Tidewater. Each month the club has a speaker to present an informative program on various local fishing topics. Check us out at www.fishgbfa.com
Or Visit facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation

Benefits include:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Annual Awards Banquet
- Fishing Tournaments (Boat & Surf)
- Special Events such as Oyster Roasts & Picnics
- Philanthropic Events to Benefit Organizations such as Hope House, Wish-A-Fish, & Sentara Nursing Home

11 February: I continued to slam the stocked trout at NW River Park. The recent stocking was well advertised by the local newspaper and crowds flocked to the pond. As with any sort of fishing, the majority of the fish are caught by a selected few anglers. I have gone out there over a dozen times now and this is what I have learned from observing, asking, and doing. There are both brown trout and rainbow trout stocked in that pond with the Feb stocking being mostly rainbows. Brown trout are more aggressive and hit lures well. On the other hand, most rainbows are caught on powerbait but will sometimes hit lures as well.

Gear- light action spinning or even spincast outfit, I have seen too many people go in there with heavy gear and wonder why they can't catch a fish. I use 6# mono as mainline and 4# for leader on the powerbait rigs. With powerbait, use a small #10 hook. The leader off a slip sinker or split shot rig should be 18-24 inches away from the sinker. Use a rod light enough to cast a 1/4 oz egg sinker rig a fair distance.

Here is a quick how-to article. Fundamentally, there are 2 ways to target these stocked trout on a regular spinning outfit- powerbait and lures.

With powerbait, it is a wait and sit game. I would cast my rig near the aerators in the pond and forget about it. With bottom fishing, keep the line semi-slack. Once the trout takes the bait, reel in the slack and slam the hookset. One can use Berkley Powerbait suspended off the bottom on either a slip sinker rig or under a bobber. The idea is to have the Powerbait in the middle of the water column. Naturally, they float as long as enough dough is on the hook. Berkley Powerbait Eggs also work well and will sometimes outperform the dough by ridiculous margins (12-1 in an hour to be exact).



Lures pictured from top to bottom: Roostertail, Basspro XPS Slim Minnow, Daiwa Dr. Minnow, Basspro XPS Slim Minnow, Thomas Whirlfish Spoon-Gold, and Thomas Whirlfish Spoon- Silver. The minnow plugs are about 2.5 inches. I wouldn't go any smaller because smaller plugs are harder to cast and come with trebles that are too tiny to get a good hookset. These fish average right at 11.5 inches with some 13 inch+. They are much larger than wild brook trout in small mountain streams.

The Whirlfish spoons are very aerodynamic, but cause a lot of line twist. To fix the problem, I attach a split rig to a swivel onto the lure before tying the lure to my main line. I do not use a leader with lures and tie direct to 6# mono. I set my drag fairly light since trout are often hooked onto soft tissue outside of the mouth. With the Whirlfish spoon and spinner, simply cast and retrieve. Try to reel slowly without letting the lure run too deep- aim the rod tip parallel to the water or a slightly higher angle. Once you get a good hookset, keep the rod tip down to prevent the trout from jumping.

With the minnow plugs, the technique is jerk twitching. A steady retrieve just does not seem to get strikes. I vary the twitches from short sharp jerks and slower, longer jerks and see what works for the day. The fish hit on the pause and you need to set the hook. It is common for fish to hit and miss. I even had a trout jump on my lure 5' from the shoreline.

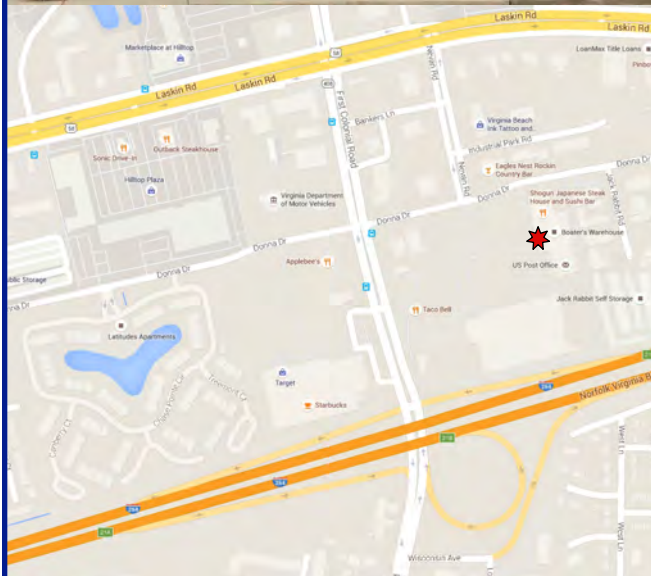
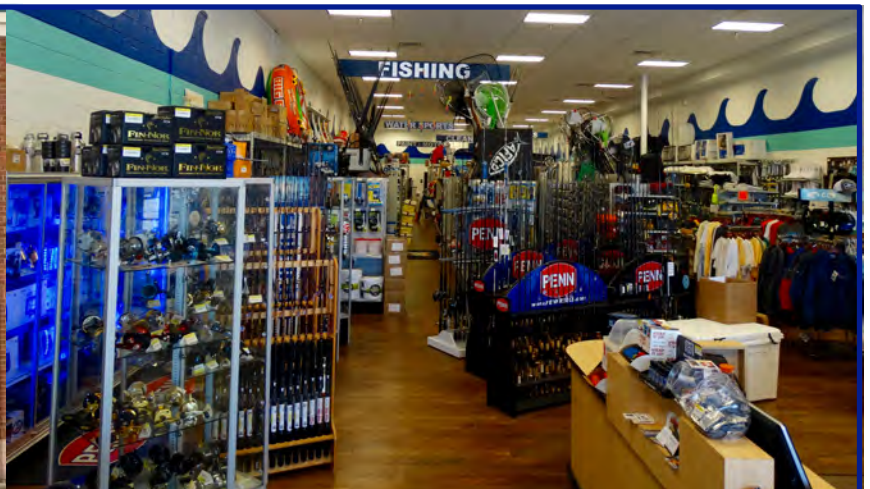
I have yet to catch a fish sight casting, but you can usually see surface action when the trout get active near sunset. I prefer going out there late in the afternoon and fish the sunset bite.



Results of a good afternoon- largest one was about 14 inches. There were some breeder trout thrown in; hence, there are a few 4 pound/ 20 inch+ trout

You will need a trout license on top of the FW license. However, this is a good way to keep the freezer stocked without feeling guilty about taking limits all the time. Once the water temperature hits 70, these stocked trout will die. It is purely a put

and take fishery. This fishery is also great for the family and kids. The longer the fish have been in there since being stocked, the harder it gets. - Brian Tsai



Mon – Sat: 9:00am – 7:00pm
Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm



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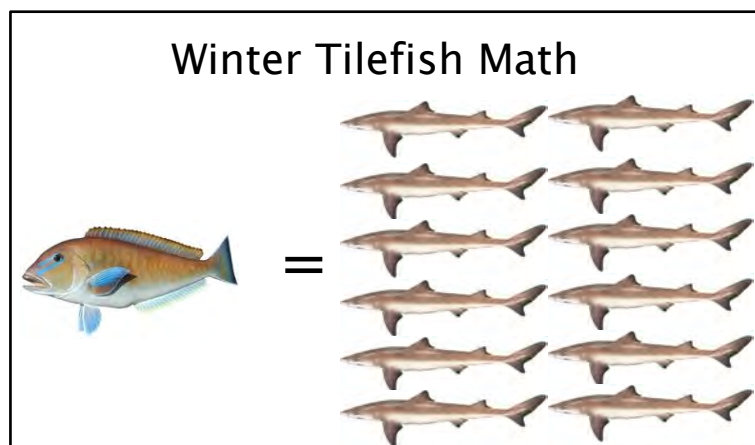
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Offshore Deep Dropping with Norfolk Anglers

27 February: Another weather window presented itself on Monday and though knowing we'd have to deal with Spiny Dogfish it would be worth it to take a few new Norfolk Angler Club members out fishing. New to fishing on my boat were Greg and Ray and after the usual "this is where things are" and a safety brief we got underway. Heading out of Rudee Inlet (Owls Creek) at sunrise we made the run out to the Norfolk Canyon in about 2 hours. The ride was comfortable but not the smooth flat seas we had only a week prior.

We set up on the Blueline Tilefish areas fishing with cut squid and mackerel. After landing a couple of nice 28 inch fish in the first few drops I was thinking this is going to be great! Then the Spiny Dogfish found the bait. With Ray using the electric reel because of recent hand surgery, we cranked up Dogfish, then more Dogfish, then more. Occasionally we'd be rewarded with a Blueline Tile in the mix. We moved to another area and it was great for Bluelines...for a while, then came the Dogfish. We moved and mixed Dogfish with Blueline Tiles, then more Dogfish showed up. We headed to deeper waters for Golden Tilefish and caught some World Class Spiny Dogfish. For a while they just kept getting bigger, averaging 3 feet in length. We headed back to another Blueline Tilefish spot and caught more of the mix of Tiles and Dogfish. I think we average about 12-14 Dogfish for every Blueline Tile we boated (may be an underestimation). That's a lot of reel cranking! Still it was great fun to be out there with fellow Norfolk Anglers. The ride home was nice and smooth getting into Owls Creek just before sunset. - Will Bransom



Angler Interests

Norfolk Anglers Club Canned Food Drive.....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.



Sunday, March 12th - Spring Ahead for Daylights Savings Time

Virginia Marine Resource Commission Meeting summary: Summer Flounder



VMRC monthly Commission meeting was held on Tuesday Feb 28th. The 2017 recreational harvest limit for Summer Flounder is 3.77 million pounds; this requires a 41% coastwide reduction from 2016 harvest. Owing to the stock decline, 30% of the reduction is tied strictly to the overall coastwide reduction in the allowable harvest limit (RHL). The remainder of the 41% reduction is to offset the overharvest of the RHL in 2016. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board (the Board) initiated Addendum XXVIII to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan in October of 2016. The Addendum outlined five potential management options to reduce harvest.

In February of 2016, the Board selected a management option that requires most regions to implement a one-inch increase in size limit from 2016 measures (exception of North Carolina) and constrain their possession limit to 4 fish (or fewer). Under this option, season lengths may change. In Virginia, that increases our minimum size to 17 inches (from 16 inches) and we would keep our 4 fish possession limit with no closed season. This option is predicted to reduce coastwide harvest by up to 32%, and will not reach the needed reduction of 41%. NOAA Fisheries will determine if there is sound reasons to accept this reduction option. If NOAA rejects this option, the ASMFC will hold an emergency meeting to select a different option (1 through 4) that will hypothetically meet the required 41% reduction in harvest for 2017.

NORFOLK ANGLERS

CLUB



2017 Season Cobia Charter Raffle

\$5

**Four Person – Full Day Charter with
FINAO Sportfishing
(includes Mate's Tip)**

**Single winner drawn at April 2017
Norfolk Anglers Club meeting.
Don't have to be present to win.**

