

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MARCH 2018

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Capt Stan Gold, Deep Drop
Fishing with *Blind Date Charters*

Fishing Tips: Marlin Fishing with Capt Daniel LeGrande,
LeGrande Slam Sportfishing

Fishing Reports:

- Offshore Black Sea Bass Season
- Elizabeth River: Striped Bass
- Northwest River Blue Catfish
- Freshwater; Lake Smith Crappie

Angler Interests

- Virginia Safe Boating Courses available

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Thanks to all that helped out at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show last month. We had a great time sharing what our club is all about with all the boaters and anglers. Welcome to our newest members to the club; Mark Massey, Max Weiner, John Maloy, Capt Brandon Cook, Capt Stan Gold, Edwin Cabal, Richard Tarr, and Jack Jacovides.

Fishing is beginning to pick up after a miserable month of weather cancellations. Though, we still had a few members get out and catch some fish. Share your fishing reports with the club by sending them to the *Wireline* Editor.

We also have a Prize Fish tournament program for Salt and Fresh water species. It follows the VMRC Saltwater Tournament and DGIF Trophy Fish program rules for catching and documenting catches. We also have our own Prize Fish Program minimum size and weight requirements. See our Club website at www.norfolkanglersclub.com for the forms and additional information.

- Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Deep Drop Fishing with Captain Stan Gold, *Blind Date Charters*.

Capt Stan operates his 27-foot, fully-equipped center console catamaran, out of Little Creek Inlet for Chesapeake Bay, Inshore and Offshore fishing trips. He's got more than 40 years fishing experience in New England and Coastal Virginia and consistently puts his customers on the fish. Join us on



Monday, March 12th, when Capt Stan will share his extensive experience deep drop fishing off our coast.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, March 12th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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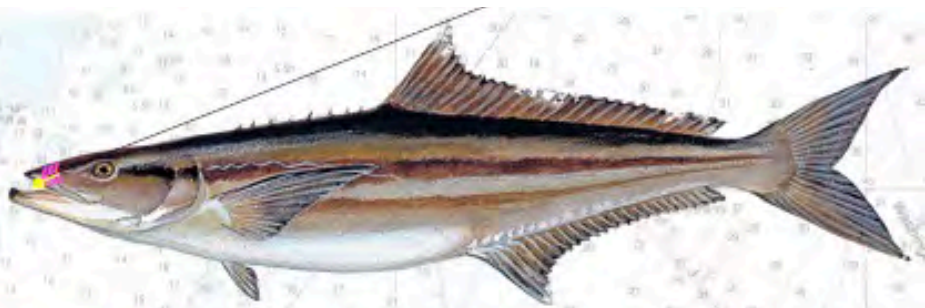
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NORFOLK ANGLERS

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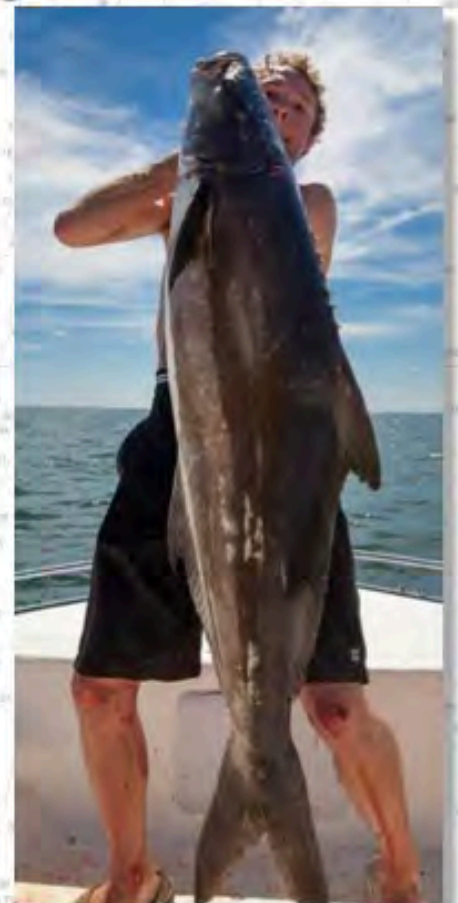


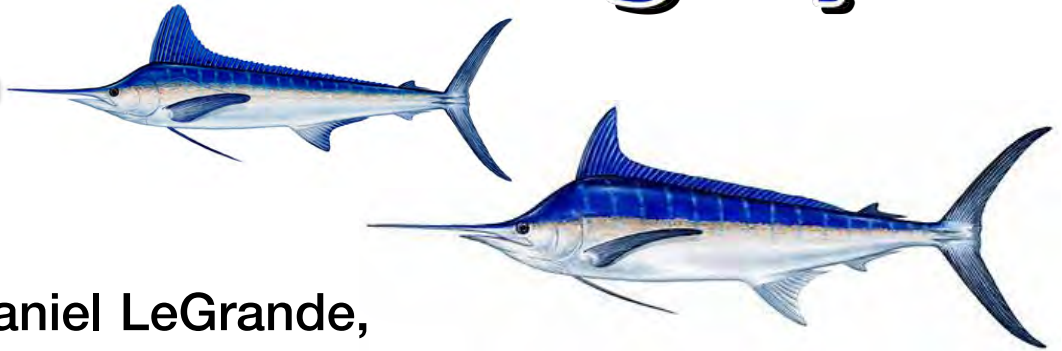
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Marlin Fishing with Captain Daniel LeGrande, *LeGrande Slam Sportfish Charters*

Many anglers feel a bit intimidated by the idea of Marlin fishing, the thought of big boats with large reels in the 80-130 class and electric dredge reels turns many anglers away from trying it. Captain Daniel LeGrande explained once an angler understands the mechanics of Marlin fishing an average angler with a boat capable of safely getting out to the 50 fathom line can fish for Marlin.

The Mechanics of Marlin Fishing

It's a surprise to many anglers to find a TLD25 Lever Drag reel spooled with 25-30# monofilament line, 40-80# leaders and rather simple tackle rigs using a circle hook is a basic setup for Marlin fishing. Tournament fishing requires the use of non-offset circle hooks. As Capt LeGrande explained, circle hooks have been a saving grace for the billfish fishery. Circle hooks are designed to hook the fish in the edge of the mouth and minimize the chance of a deep or "gut hook", since tournaments and Commercial Longline fishermen shifted to circle hooks, the Marlin fishery exploded. Some of the best White Marlin fishing in the world can be found in our waters in August and September.



A typical White Marlin setup with *LeGrande Charters* is a TLD25 spooled with 25-30 pound mono main line tied with a binimi twist knot to a 24 ft length of doubled 80# mono and finished with a 6 ft length of 40# fluorocarbon leader. Drag settings are only set to around 5-6 pounds. White Marlin is the smallest of the Marlin species and targeting them with lighter tackle is effective. Circle hook size will differ between the two marlin species; White Marlin rigging uses an Eagle Claw 8/0 Circle hook while Blue Marlin rigs use a 10/0-11/0 Mustad Circle Hook and increase the leader material to 300#. Male Blue Marlins rarely top 350 pounds however, the females can weigh-in up to and over 1,000 pounds.



White Marlin Rigging



Trolling Speed 4-6 Knots

Norfolk Anglers Club

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Fishing Tips...

Rigging lures for either species of marlin is the same. Attaching circle hooks on whole bait involves using one of three methods; swivel, rubber grommet, or rigging floss. All are meant to attach the circle hook fully exposed and flexible enough to provide a good hook set in the marlin's mouth. Wiring a swivel to the head of the ballyhoo or mackerel and running the hook through the end loop of the swivel makes for a very flexible rig. The drawback is that the hook barb is sometimes difficult to remove from the swivel. Replacing the swivel for a small rubber grommet allows the hook barb to be pulled free or quickly cut off the bait making a bait swap easier to accomplish on a moving boat. Capt LeGrande shared, rigging with the small grommet makes for the best bait presentation, it swims great, and gives the most natural look. Rigging floss can also be used by itself or to rig a rubber grommet or swivel onto the head of a bait.



Rigging floss is most often used when rigging larger baits such as tinker mackerel, where you tie the floss to close the gill plates and mouth.



Squidnation Slammer Chugger

the action of your bait, lures, and teasers draws marlin into your spread. The addition of small chugger heads, like the Squidnation Slammer Chugger, add lots of action to your small-medium ballyhoo and are very effective when White Marlin are interested in your spread. Capt LeGrande added, Blue Marlin aren't too picky when they crash the spread. The challenge is getting the billfish to the spread and that's where spreader bars, dredges, and daisy chains are effective. Spreader bars and daisy chains bring color and lots of splashing that mimics a school of baitfish busting on the surface as if they were escaping a predatory fish. That commotion draws them in. Bars and chains can be rigged with a trailing ballyhoo or remain hookless as teasers.



Dredge rigged with lures and bait fish

Dredges are larger and have multiple arms rigged with lures, dead bait, or combination of both. Always trailed below the surface they mimic a school of baitfish and are irresistible in drawing marlin in close. Another tip Capt LeGrande shared was to place a brightly colored squid head over an in-line weight ahead of the dredge. The bright color lets you easily locate the dredge.

Keeping an eye on the spread and alert for an approaching marlin is key.

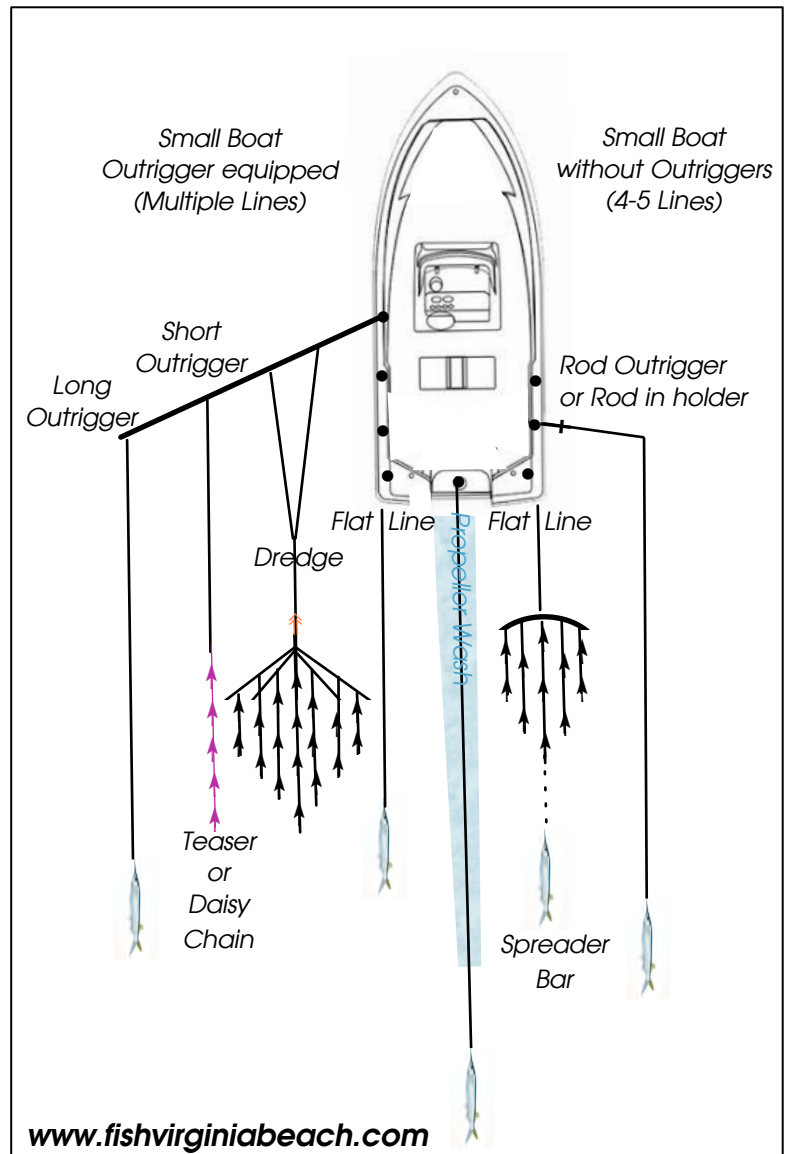


Marlin attacking a squid daisy chain

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Marlin may find its way into the spread by approaching from underneath or near the surface. Anglers must have a watchful eye and spot an approaching marlin *before* it crashes the spread. When a marlin is spotted crew coordination is important. While one person is bringing in the teasers another angler will be maneuvering a rigged bait toward the fish. Before the marlin strikes, Capt LegGrande advises the angler on the rod to set the reel in free-spool while holding the spool with their thumb, ensure the clicker's off, and bring the rod tip up. Raising the rod tip will bring the bait up and even skip it across the water. This also brings the marlin up to the surface where it's more visible while attacking the bait. When the marlin hits, the angler should drop the rod tip and release the reel in free spool (thumb off) even placing the rod tip at the surface. The intent is to not let the marlin feel any resistance while it eats the bait. Waiting about 8 seconds for the fish to eat before the angler begins to very slowly increase the drag while moving the rod tip to the side. This will bring the circle hook to the side of the marlin's mouth where it will make its own hookset.

Setting up the spread will vary on how the boat is designed, with or without outriggers, and the crew's preference. Fishing four to five rods on a smaller boat without outriggers can be very effective on marlin. Rod outriggers or simply placing the rod in the rod holder will work equally well. Teasers, Spreader bars, or Dredges can all be worked of the transom flat line position. Downriggers can also be used for deploying the dredge, if desired. Of course, outriggers allow for more positions to deploy teasers, dredges, spreader bars and baits. As Capt LeGrande cautioned, the more lures, teasers, and gear that's out in the spread is all that more that has to be managed *before* a marlin strikes.

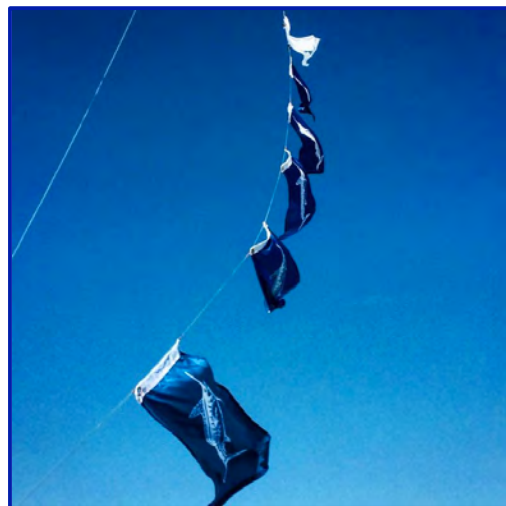


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Fishing Tips...

Another technique for targeting White Marlin is live baiting with Tinker Mackerel. If you're lucky enough to spot a school of Tinker Mackerel on the bottom or schooling mid-water column get lines in baited with squid. Keep them in the live well until you're ready to rig them. To rig them up, run a piece of rigging floss through the eye socket and secure the circle hook above their head. Deploy two lines out approximately 30 ft behind the boat in clear water and another two baits as you would with a long rigger (further back). Troll at or near idle speed so the mackerel can swim behind the boat. When the mackerel sense the marlin are close they begin to swim erratically while they're trying to get away causing the rod tip to bounce. When the marlin hits drop back the bait as described previously but let it eat for almost 30 seconds before slowly bringing up the drag.



Anglers can find marlin late in the summer when the water is warm, August and September are prime months off our coast. Look for bottom contours that naturally hold baitfish. Areas with drop offs, ledges, humps, and undersea pinnacles are perfect habitats for bait and marlin. Typical depths range 45-50 fathoms (270-300 feet) and the vicinity of the southeast corner of the Norfolk Canyon is a good place to start.

Fishing for billfish (marlin), tuna, swordfish, and sharks requires you to obtain a NOAA Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit which also requires reporting for all billfish landings. Billfish tournament anglers fishing with natural bait (or natural/artificial bait combination) must use non-offset circle hooks. J-hooks and offset circle hooks may only be used with artificial lures. An atlantic billfish that is caught but not kept must be released immediately without removing it from the water to improve its chances of survival.



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9:00am - Trophy Drum Fishing,
Wally Veal

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Capt Sonny Insley

11:00am - Flounder Fishing,
Capt Craig Freeman



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Poquoson Kiwanis Boating and Fishing Flea Market

65th Annual Mid-Atlantic Sport & Boat Show

The Boat Show was another great event. Our Club Members met so many great folks. We sold out of our Fishing Tips Booklets by 1pm on Saturday (everyone thought the it was for a great Charity). We also had SEVEN new Members join our Club, Wow!

We sold a good number of hats and shirts. The Cobia Raffle did okay but we need to sell many more before our April drawing.

Special Thanks to our members who helped out of the Norfolk Anglers Club Booth: Will & Wendy Bransom, Ike & Kathy Eisenhower, Mike Hubert, Henry & Mary Troutner, Gary Waddell, Mike Delbridge, Alex Sr. & AJ Perez. EJ & Maddie O'Brien, Jack Salvant, Bert & Sandy Sainz, Greg Rogers, Ned Smith, Benn Capps, and Richard Lewis.

Also thanks to Mike Hubert, Greg Rogers, Alex Sr. & AJ Perez for helping either set up or take down our NAC Booth.



Fishing Reports...

9 FEB: Reel Fish'N Charter Report - We tried some new grounds and lucked up. We headed out almost double our normal travel distance and got into the BIG dawgs! As soon as we pulled up to the spot there was a Boat anchored up. We started by trying a drift on the wrong side but as soon as we got the drift figured out it was LIVE ACTION! I mean it was nonstop big Black Sea Bass action just as soon as you could get it to the bottom.

We left the dock shortly after 7 am got to the wreck around 9:30 am and had our 3-man limit of quality 3-4 lbs. fish by 11:15 am. Then we headed a little closer to land (25+/- miles) to try to get a Tautog to bend the rod. We hit some of the tried and true spots hard and had one almost in the net, then he just pulled the hook. After a few drifts across the ol' girl and no hits, we headed to shore.



Offshore wrecks and reefs 60+ miles out are producing really nice 3-4 lbs. sea bass with a few 5+ lbs. mixed in. The Tautog bite has been slow at the closer wrecks 30 miles out but a few charters have gotten lucky and found a few big ones. The small sharks are all over the back side of the wrecks or just a few feet off the wrecks.
- Brandon Cook



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25 FEB: Louis Glaser and I went fishing with Bert Sainz in the Elizabeth River. We dropped the boat in at the Jordan Bridge Park at 8:30 am and went to our old stomping grounds for some Stripers.



The bite was slow but we managed to pick up a dozen small to medium Stripers (16 to 27 inches) on MR 52s. By 1:00 pm, we had 25 mph winds and dark clouds above so we headed back to the ramp. *This was my first day fishing in a month and it felt great to be out on the water with my fishing buddies!*

- Ned Smith



BLUE CATFISHING WITH JOSH ANDREWS



23 FEB: I booked a charter trip for catfishing on the Northwest River on Josh Andrews' boat with Bob Stuhlman. The weather stayed around 39 degrees but the wind was light and the rain held off for most of the trip. Josh gill netted Shad for bait and even caught three nice sized Crappie that I kept.



We finished the trip with me catching a 32 lbs / 42 inches citation, 27 lb / 37.5 inches both released and a 7 lbs "eater", 2 bowfin 26.5 inches & 25 inches released also. Bob caught a 23 lbs / 37 inches released and we caught 3 fish on jugs 21, 17 & 5 lbs that were kept for eating.

We didn't see any other boats on the river the whole day. Great fishing with nobody's wake to deal with. It was just cold and it started raining right before we left the fishing area. *Thanks Josh Andrews for another super trip!*

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



13 FEB: I went fishing today with Russell Willoughby on Lake Smith on a beautiful warm day, partly cloudy. We were fishing with small shiners under bobbers. We hadn't been fishing more than a half an hour at our first stop before I had one of my bobbers go down which produced a three quarter pound Crappie. After getting in the first one another bobber went down and I brought in a 1-pounder that managed to tie up all of our lines. Once we got the lines clear I put out my lines again and in no time I had a 1 pound, 13 ounce Crappie in the boat. It was 16 inches long so I released it to take a release citation. That's the one in the picture. Russell's bobber went down one time but the fish got around a stick or something that raked it off the hook by the time we got it back in to the boat. That was all she wrote for that stop.

We moved around to several other places but didn't really get much of a bite until we finally stopped at our old favorite place. While we were there, Russell hooked up a 1 lb 4 ounce and three quarter pound Crappie in the picture. Right before leaving, I hooked up a 1 lb 8 ounce, 15 inch Crappie and released it for another release citation. We had other hookups and misses but all in all, every fish we got to the boat were keepers no throwbacks.

Overall, it was great day on Lake Smith!

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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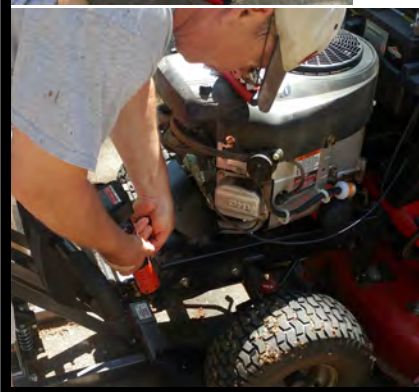
21 FEB: Bert Sainz and I decided to fish the Elizabeth River and find out what was biting. We ended up catching 15 Striped Bass on Mirror Lures. Unfortunately, there were no Reds or Speckled Trout. - Louis Glaser



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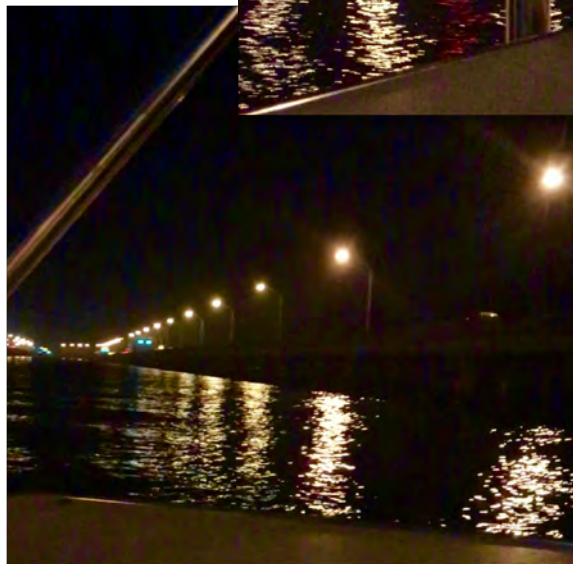
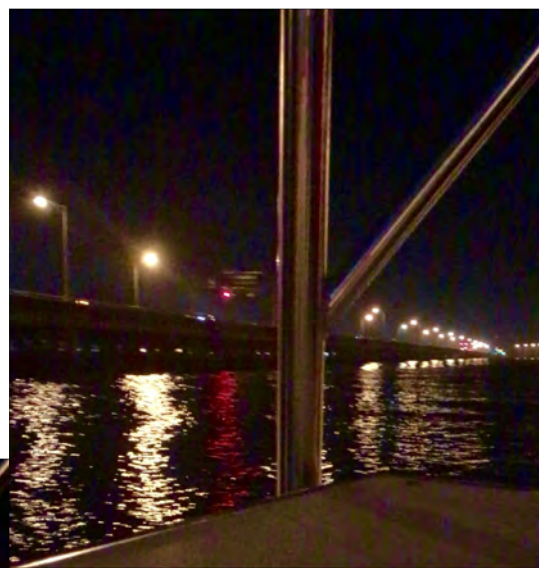
Ray Sexton 757.478.3474



24 FEB: AJ and I took advantage of the warm Saturday weather and took the boat out of its winter hibernation. We decided on a quick run to the HRBT looking for Striped Bass or anything that would pull back. We tried three inch Storm lures, Grubs, and Gulp on jigs.

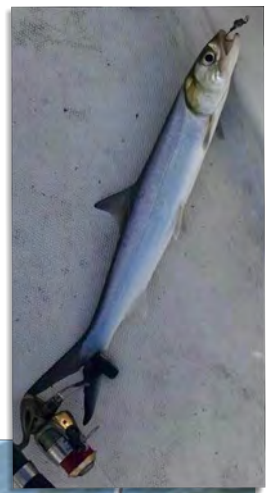
We fished the end of the incoming tide through the beginning of the outgoing tide and felt the air temperature start to drop.

Without seeing any signs of life,



we decided to head in and write this trip off as a nice evening boat ride!
- Alex Perez





21 FEB: Smorgasbord!! I fished with my buddy Billy in St Lucy Inlet. We had lots of fun catching different species. - James Robinson

Editor Note (Google): The St. Lucie Inlet, Florida is located between Hutchinson Island and Jupiter Island in Martin County, Florida, at coordinates 27°09'58"N 80°09'24"W. The St. Lucie Inlet is one of six inlets into the Indian River Lagoon.



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ETA: PRONTO

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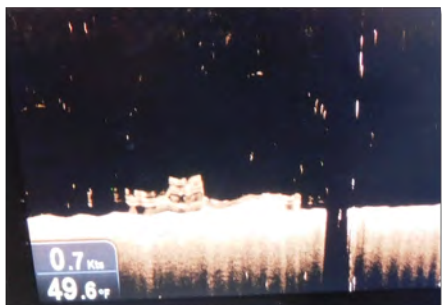
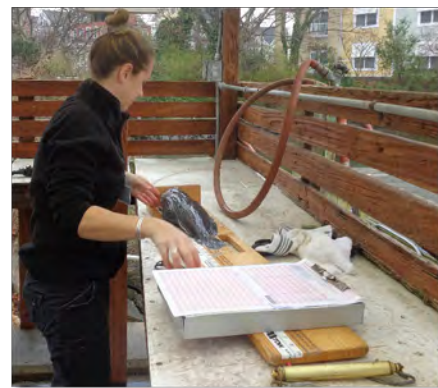
28 FEB: With a great weather forecast we headed to the offshore wrecks on the last day of the February Black Sea Bass season. Aboard were Norfolk Anglers; Dr. Ike, Mike Hubert, Ray Sexton, and Greg Rogers.

The Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) opened Black Sea Bass in February when the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the National Marine

Fisheries Service (NMFS) made that option available for the first time in a number of years. Opening the season came with a condition though. The recreational harvest had to be monitored with a special permitting process and a required voice report to the Marine Operations Station before returning unlike other times during the year. VMRC made the permitting process very easy with the online (FREE) Sea Bass permit and calling in the report was a piece of cake. We provided my VMRC ID number, boat description, our catch, and when we'd be at the ramp.

We were greeted at the Owls Creek Public Boat Ramp by a Virginia Marine Police Officer exactly on time and he checked out our catch. The entire process went quick and easy. We next provided our catch to the Marine Recreation Information Program (MRIP) for documentation. They measured & weighed the catch for fisheries management. Another easy process that benefits our fishery.

On to the report...we departed out of Owls Creek around 7:00 am and once cleared the Rudee Inlet jetties we made a quick run offshore. In January, we'd caught and released a really nice class of Sea Bass on some offshore wrecks and wanted to fish them again. The weather was fantastic and we were on the wrecks in only two hours. Using our sidescan units we were able to pick out different areas of the wrecks that had concentrated areas of fish.



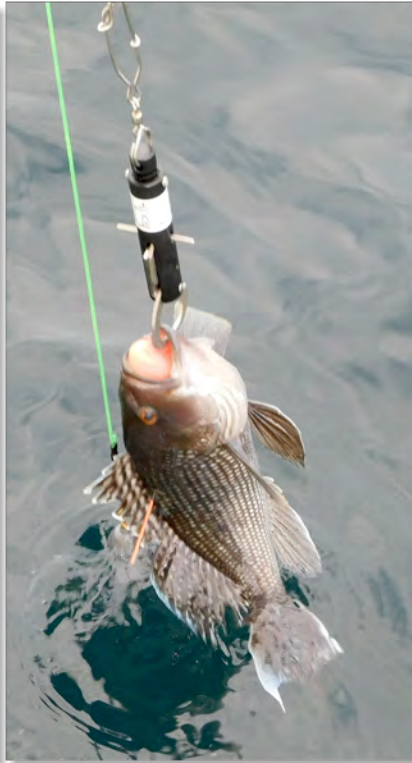
Ray was the first to land a Sea Bass weighing in at 4 lbs 13 ounces on the boat. We had to deal with the spiny dogfish sharks during the day no matter where we went. It's just the way it is this time of year. After an hour or two we moved on to the second wreck and boated more fish. We spotted a large school of Atlantic Dolphin coming toward the boat and like a light switch the bite turned off. So, on to another wreck about 15 miles away and more sea bass. We fished with squid, mackerel, bluefish, green crabs, and used vertical jigs; everything caught was sea bass. At one point Ray hooked into a really nice sea bass. We could see it was a really large knot-head and needed a net. Unfortunately, everyone was hooked up & reeling and before we could net it, it turned, it twisted, and unhooked itself right at the gunnel; it was the largest fish of the day.

Sea Bass under 13 inches were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) and released near the bottom. The VGFTP is another great program sponsored by VMRC and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Anglers interested in the program should check out VMRC and VIMS websites and apply in the fall.



With the sun getting low we started back to Rudee. We had a great crew on board and many thanks to Ray for bringing the most incredible sandwiches for everyone. We certainly ate well on this trip. The ride toward home was a comfortable 38 knots and after making our way past the inshore anchorage and the 2-way deep water channel we made our Sea Bass phone report. *Thanks to Ike, Greg, Mike, and Ray for another great day offshore fishing!*

- Will Bransom



22 FEB: I went fishing with Russell Willoughby on Lake Smith. We started fishing around noon trying out new places and it only took us about a half an hour to find a motherload of fish. We started catching one Crappie after another with Russell catching the first one that weighed out at 1 lb 2 ounce and then I promptly got hooked up with a fish near the same size.

Then I got onto a big fish that just started traveling all over the area and pushed my little ultralight rod to its max and almost got wrapped in a tree and my anchor line. We knew it was going to be a Bass and a big one that weighed out 3 lb 14 ounce, 18 inches long that I released. My biggest to date. I also caught two other Bass that were smaller and so did Russell.

We caught steady for about an hour and a half and then it all settled down when the sun came out. We tried one other new place that produced one keeper Crappie and several Bluegill. We ended up catching about 16 fish and keeping 6 Crappie each a pound or slightly under. Great day finding two new good spots on the Smith.

- Dr. James W.
"Ike" Eisenhower





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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.

Virginia Safe Boating Courses: www.dgif.virginia.org



Who Needs Boater Education?

In 2007, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to establish a boating safety education compliance requirement. This requirement has been phased in over the past several years; and since July 1, 2016, all operators (regardless of age) of PWCs (personal watercraft such as jet skis, Sea Doos, and Wave Runners) and operators (regardless of age) of motorboats with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater are required to have a boating safety education course completion card on board when operating a PWC or motorboat.

Finding a Safe Boating Course is easy through the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Website (www.dgif.virginia.gov). Follow the link to *Boating* and *Boating Safety & Education* to find a DGIF sponsored course in our area. Most courses are FREE or include a small charge to cover the cost of materials. Here's a list of some of the available courses in our area with availability.

As of February 26th:

Virginia Beach Rescue Station 8: Saturday, March 10th 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (1 Day) 14 of 20 Seats OPEN

Virginia Beach Fleet Reserve Assoc.: Monday March 12th 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm (2 Evenings) 23 of 25 Seats OPEN
***Cost for Materials \$35

Virginia Beach Rescue Station 14: Wednesday, March 21st (2 Evenings) 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm 20 of 20 Seats OPEN

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, March 24th 9:45 am - 6:30 pm (1 Day) 16 of 25 Seats OPEN

Chesapeake Towne Bank Conference Rm: Saturday March 24th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (1 Day) 25 of 25 Seats OPEN ***Course taught by USCG AUX Cost for Materials \$35

Virginia Beach Tidewater Community College: Saturday, March 31st (2 Saturdays) 8:30 am - 1:00 pm 15 of 15 Seats OPEN ***Course taught by US Power Squadron cost is \$35 for materials



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