



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MARCH 2023

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Drum Fishing with Al Bunnell

Fishing Tips: Sheepshead and Tautog fishing with Captain Craig Freeman,
Grading Scales Sportfishing

Fishing Reports;

- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- Freshwater/Lake Smith: Black Crappie, Chain Pickerel

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

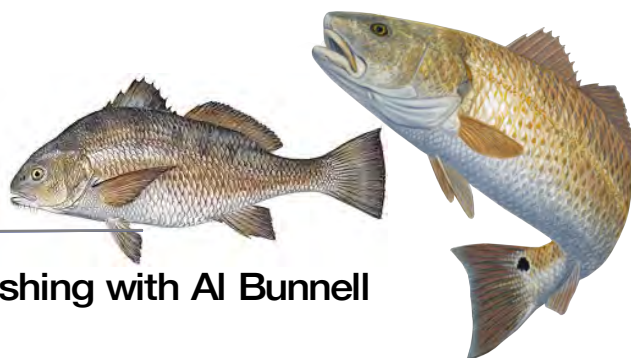
Welcome to our new Norfolk Anglers Club members; LeGrant Williams, Robert Jennings Vince Garrenton, Jeff Garrenton, Ryan Lowry, Vinny Lyons, Connor McClenny, Anna & Marty Schriehl, Nancy Little, and Terry & Wesley Waters. It was great to meet you at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show and we're pleased to have you with us. Many Thanks to our club's boat show volunteers. Mary & Henry Troutner, Jere Humphrey, Alex & AJ Perez, Mike Hubert, Mike Davis, Mike Burton, Ned Smith, BJ Karwatt, Richard Harris, Wendy & Will Bransom, and James Eisenhower.



Will



Meeting



Guest Speaker: Drum fishing with Al Bunnell

We're very fortunate to have Al Bunnell joining us at the next meeting to talk about drum fishing. Anyone who knows Al, knows his passion for drum fishing. This is a speaker you don't want to miss. Before you know it drum season will be here!

Important:

March 20, 2023

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Publishers NOTES

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NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

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NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

MARCH

Sat, Mar 11th: Fishing Flea Market, Chesapeake
Convention Center (8:00am-2:30pm)

Mon, Mar 20th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Sat, Mar 25th: Virginia Charter Boat Workshop, Virginia
Institute of Marine Science

Tues, Mar 28th: Virginia Marine Resources
Commission Meeting, Fort Monroe

JUNE

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

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 28 February 2023

Freshwater

<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)

Saltwater

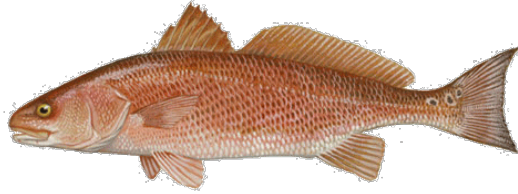
<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)

For the 2023 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be submitted to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, as well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish paperwork is acceptable.

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form must be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Club Members Tournament for 2023



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. *Entries received with decal and no measurement can only be judged by number of spots. Photo entries without a decal or measurement tape are not accepted.
- Red Drum/Redfish up to 26 inches in length only and caught in Virginia and North Carolina waters
- Awards determined by 1st: number of Spots (on one side), 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to; NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50.00 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler.



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- Awards determined by;
 - 1.Total Weight
 2. Date of catch
 3. Date of entry submission
- Additional Award for Best Oyster Toad Photo
- Entries submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com in the form of a Fishing Report; who was fishing, stating total weight, with photo of the fish on the scale
- Weighing need not be on a certified scale and may be done by the angler, just try an avoid weighing fish on a pitching boat
- No entry fee (we would never charge a fee for catching Toads)
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director

"AJ" Perez, the Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (OTTD)

Congratulations to Henry Trountr for his 2022 Winning 3.40# OysterToad!



Virginia Charter Boat Workshop

at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point
Saturday, March 25, 8:30 – 12:45

Featured speakers: United States Coast Guard

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

NOAA Greater Atlantic Region

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Space limited, register for free by

EMAIL: susanna@vims.edu

*Raffle
prizes!*

Virginia Charter Boat Workshop Scheduled for March 25th, 2023

The Virginia Charter Boat Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 25th at the Gloucester Point campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and online via Zoom.

Organized by the Marine Advisory Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in partnership with the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), the workshop will highlight fishery resource, regulatory, and US Coast Guard updates.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for members of the charter industry to speak first-hand with regional experts in fisheries and maritime safety. Participants can look forward to presentations from Robert Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in addition to the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Tips for getting started in the business will also be shared from experienced captains. “This is a fantastic chance to participate in a program committed to helping the charter boat operator address current topics and challenges in the for-hire industry” says Susanna Musick with VIMS. Advanced registration is required.

The workshop will be offered in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the Gloucester Point campus of VIMS and virtual participation via Zoom available. Registered participants will be given virtual or in-person options based on availability.

The workshop is free, but space is limited, so please register by March 17. To register, please email your contact information to: Susanna Musick, susanna@vims.edu, before March 17.

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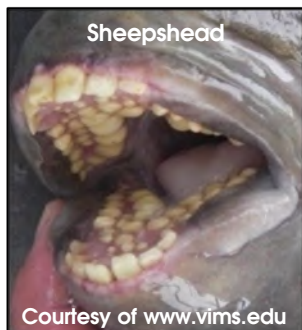
Fishing Tips...

Sheepshead and Tautog fishing with Captain Craig Freeman, Grading Scales Sportfishing



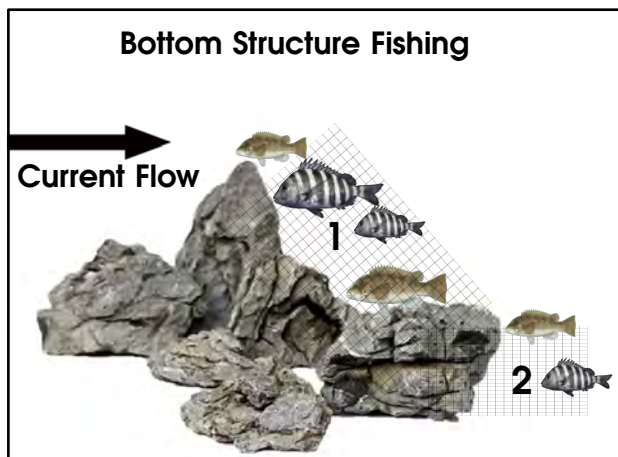
The incredible amount of structure from many bridge tunnel structures, artificial reefs, and wrecks draws anglers to two prized species in our area; Sheepshead and Tautog. Fishing for *Sheepies* and *Taug*s isn't for the faint of heart, not because of challenging fishing conditions but because of the fish! Both species are notorious bait stealers and often frustrate anglers with their soft bite. It's not unusual to find anglers starting off on these species to find their hook bare after a few minutes and left clueless and frustrated. It takes time and technique to become an accomplished angler who consistently catches these two without sacrificing their entire bait supply.

Capt Craig Freeman shared the techniques for both are nearly the same, they feed on the same bait (crustaceans), and can be found on the same types of structure. April through October is a good time of year to target sheepshead, with September being a prime month. Their primary diet are crustaceans like, blue crab, shrimp, barnacles, but also include fiddler crabs and mole crabs (sand fleas) for bait. Tautogs have pronounced lips, large teeth, and powerful jaws to crush and pick at their prey (photo right). In contrast to taugs, sheepshead have molar-like teeth with many rows resembling human teeth which crush their prey (photo left).



Look for sheepshead around the pilings of the bridge tunnels, on the wrecks and rock structure. One of the most challenging tasks fishing for sheepshead and taugs is getting yourself positioned over the structure. A vertical bait presentation is critical for this type of fishing. Craig shared using a trolling motor is ideal to hold position directly over your spot while allowing you to fish all sides of the boat. Anchoring on structure presents an additional challenge as any current present will push the boat to the down current side of the structure. In many instances, this requires an anglers to fish only off the bow. For fishing on a bottom structure an ideal fishing position is directly on top and making note of the current flow. Craig will initially fish the upper area (marked area "1") of the structure on the down current side. Fish seem to always congregate on the down current side of any structure and that's where you want to stick you bait. After trying the upper side of the structure he'll then work the rigs to the bottom (marked area "2") and begin working back up to the higher portion of the rocks or wreck.

Current plays an important part in this type of fishing. It directs you on which side of the structure to fish and it influences how much weight you use on your rigs. Craig will use between 1/2 ounce and 2 ounces for jigs. Ideally, the lighter the weight the better. Heavy weights can make the very soft bite of sheepshead impossible to detect.



Fishing on the bridge pilings is a similar process. Once an angler has the current figured out and how best to position their boat drop the rigs on the down current side of the piling. As the current flows around the piling it creates circular flow behind the structure. This calm area or eddy is where the fish will congregate. Craig will fish from the top down in about 5' increments all the way to the bottom.

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Fishing Tips...

Once on the bottom he'll let the bait sit before bringing it up a couple of reel cranks. He'll also employ a light rod movement, a sort of very light twitch, or slowly move the bottom bait to mimic a moving crab. The added motion attracts the sheepshead and tautog to strike. Once you feel the pressure of a fish on the bait the hook set needs to be firm with sheepshead. Their many rows of molar-like teeth can make a light hook set difficult. Keep constant pressure on the fish during the retrieve but don't horse them hard to the boat. Sheepshead will fight all the way and a large fish will surprise you with its power. An angler can easily break the line with a hard fighting fish, too tight drag, and a heavy handed retrieve

Jigs & Rigs

The classic jig for sheepshead is a weighted sinker with integrated hook with a piece of bait. There are many styles and color combinations on the market. With any jig pay careful attention to the hook. Hook size, strength, and style are very important. You'll want to match the hook



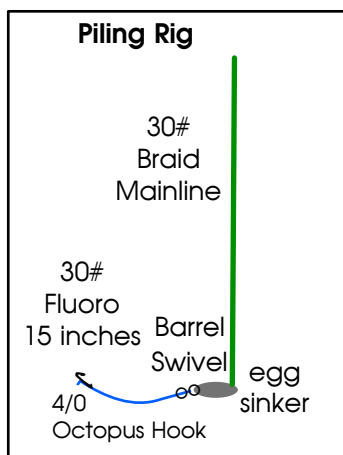
size to the targeted species. Craig makes his own jigs and uses a strong 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Hook style is another consideration. There's wide gap style hooks and standard J-hook styles (photo left). Color choice is an angler's preference however, Craig shared a few of his observations on jig colors. For a good all-around color he recommends the White w/Orange (photo left). In his experience it's worked well for both sheepshead and tautog. The Light Green w/Dark Green & White has worked best for taug fishing (photo right). The combination colors with orange, light green, and dark green work very well with sheepshead. Craig commented for some reason the sheepshead seem to hate this lure color and consistently hit on it.

With any jig an angler selects Craig recommends using the lightest possible weight and present your lure/bait in the calmer down current side of the structure.

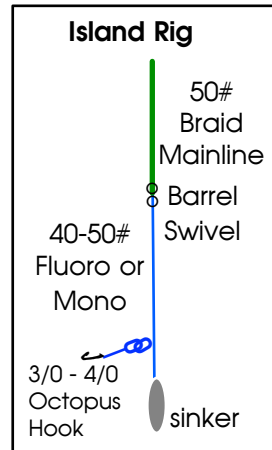
For tying his jigs he'll use 2.5 feet of 30# Fluorocarbon leader tied directly to his

braided mainline. He added, barrel swivels can be a source of failure in a rig as well as more drag in the water. He'll join the lines with a uni-uni knot.

As mentioned, Craig fishes jigs 1/2 ounce to no more than 2 ounce. When conditions don't allow that range of sinker weight, he'll switch over to more traditional dropper rigs. The first is the *Piling Rig*. It's tied with 30#



fluorocarbon line with a 15 inch leader to a 4/0 Gamakatsu Octopus Hook. The *Island Rig* is tied with heavier 40-50# line, fluorocarbon or monofilament, and has a small dropper loop knot tied above the sinker loop. Unlike most dropper rigs, Craig's *Island Rig* uses a short drop to the hook with a separate line. With a Gamakatsu 3/0 or 4/0 Octopus Hook snelled to the drop the other end is tied with a Perfection Loop Knot. The drop is about 6-8 inches in length (just longer than the sinker). The two loops are then intertwined together so they resemble a square knot. When joined correctly each loop should lay over the other equally (see photos next page). When fishing around the bridge tunnel islands and rocky areas snagging of the bottom is expected. This style of dropper rig allows for a non-knot tying change of rigs. To release the loops simply push the two loops together and unthread



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Fishing Tips...

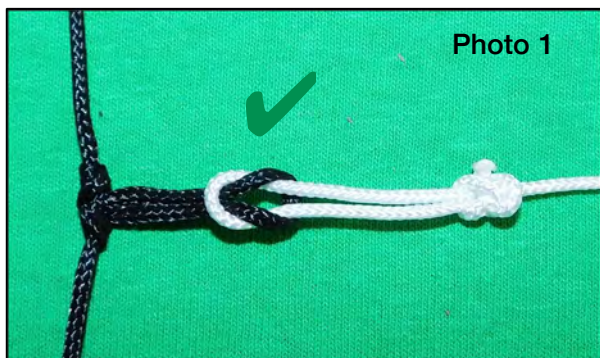


Photo 1

the short dropper length. Using this style of rig an angler can change out the dropper with pre-tied rigs with different dropper lengths, line class, or hook sizes, etc.

The interlocking loops provide a very strong union (photo 1). Avoid simply looping the dropper loop (white line) back through itself (photo 2). Incorrectly looping these loops would place too much stress on the union and could easily break the other loop (black line).

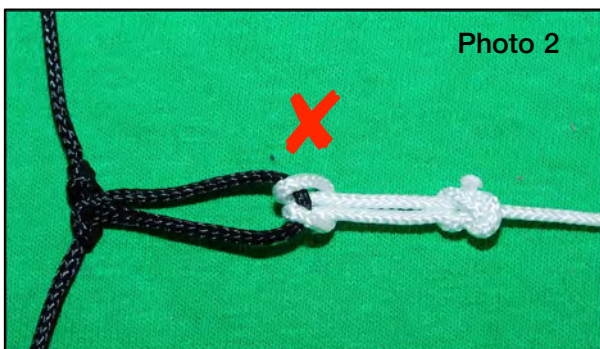
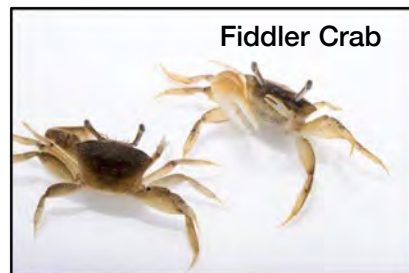


Photo 2

Bait

When it comes to sheepshead and tautog it's all about the crabs! Crabs are the #1 choice of bait for these species. Quartered blue crab, whole fiddler crabs, sand fleas (mole crabs) sheepshead and tautog will eat them all, along with a few other baits like barnacles, clams, and mussels. Craig likes to use whole live fiddler crabs for fishing both species. For sheepshead, he'll

insert the hook from underneath the fiddler crab, pushing through the carapace and the body of the crab and leaving just the tip of the hook exposed through the top shell. He also leaves the larger claw intact unless the current causes the fiddler crab to spin. If it spins, then the large claw would be removed. For rigging for tautog, the 3/0 or 4/0 Octopus hook gets inserted horizontally through one of the walking leg sockets and comes out back side of the crab with the hook exposed.



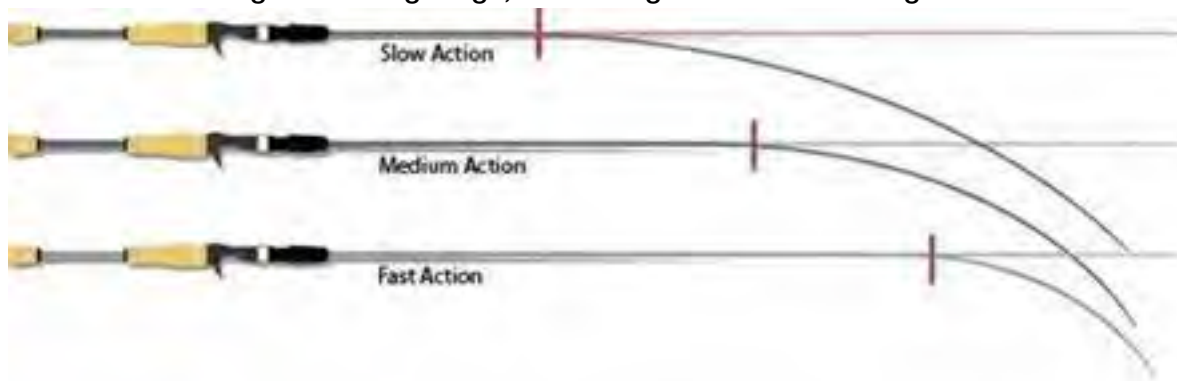
Fiddler Crab

Rods & Reels

Every angler has their preference with rod & reel combinations. There are rods designed for every fishing species and application imaginable. When looking for a rod & reel combination for sheepshead and tautog fishing Craig recommends rods in the 7 ft length. The next consideration is what type of action and power should the rod have. He explained that rod "action" relates to the movement of the rod tip. A *Fast Action* rod will bend more closer to the end of the rod. A *Slow Action* rod would bend less at the end and more consistently along its total length (see illustration below). He further explained *Fast Action* rods will provide more feel for the bite, an essential factor in sheepshead fishing. The power of a rod relates to what many define as the rod's backbone. A rated line class for a rod usually follows its power rating, e.g. Ultra Light Power equates to very light line ratings and a Extra Heavy Power equates to much heavier line weights. Craig recommends selecting a sheepshead and/or tautog rod around 7ft with Fast Action and Medium-Medium Heavy Power. This rod will give you good length to reach out to pilings an action that permits feeling the bite combined with a good casting range, and the right amount of strength to handle a fiercely fighting fish.

For jigging he likes a quality spinning reel like the Shimano Stradic.

Conventional reels he prefers the Shimano Tranx (TRX400AHD) or the Tekota series reels.








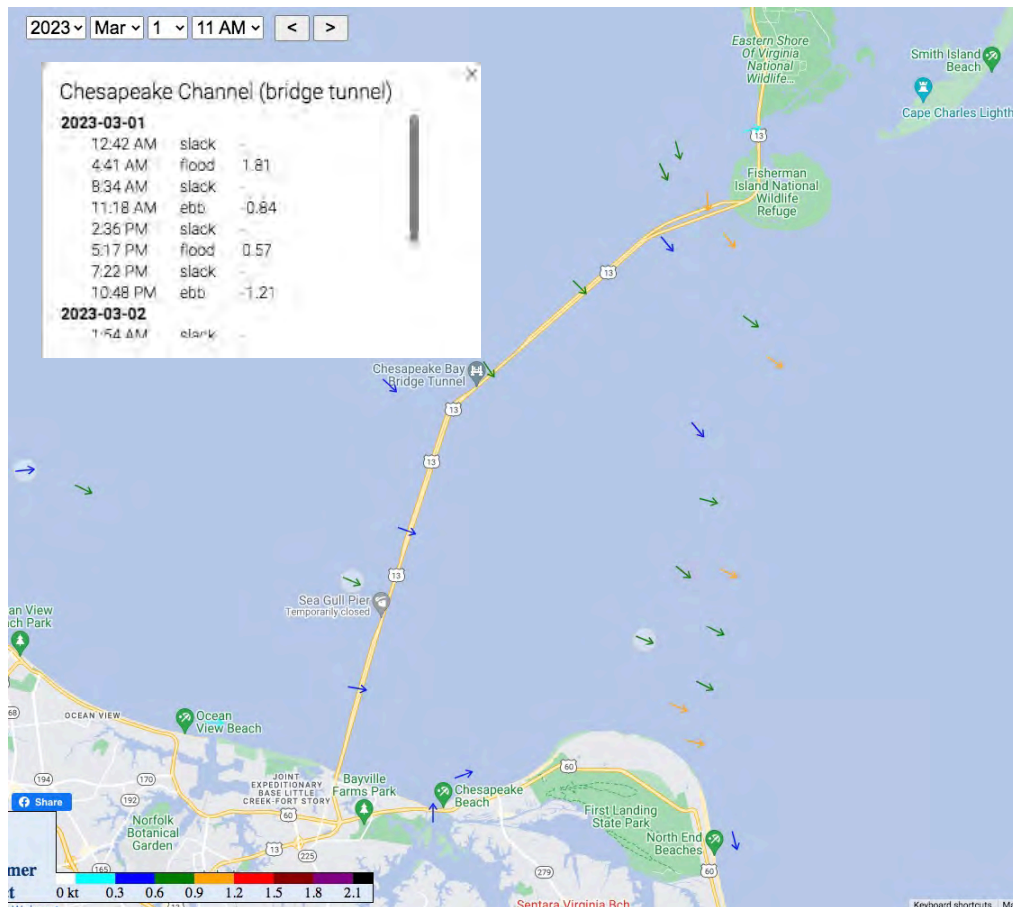
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Fishing Tips...

Sheepshead Tips

-  4/0 Octopus Hook - a Sheepshead standard
-  Jig the rod slightly, work the structure from top to bottom
-  Don't let your crab bait spin - clip the claw if needed
-  Hard Hook Set then maintain the pressure all the way to the boat
-  Review tide and current predictions for your area (FishCurrents)



[\(https://www.fishcurrents.com/\)](https://www.fishcurrents.com/)

FishCurrents provides hourly water current predictions for the coastal areas using NOAA provided tidal current data. Users have the option to adjust the map area, select a date and then scroll through a time period to review how the current direction and speed change. Or a user may select an individual position arrow and review an information table reflecting the flood, ebb, and slack times for the selected area.

Fishing Reports...



30 JAN: Russell and I went to Lake Smith/Lawson on a rainy but warm day (50 degrees) and found we were the only ones on the lake. The bite was okay and steady, with a mix of club minimums and throwbacks.

We began hunting for crappie in Lake Lawson as usual, but when the bite slowed, we ventured out into Lake Smith. Russell Willoughby got his biggest club minimum 14.5-inch release crappie there, and I also got my biggest at 12 inches.

In all, Russell caught 14.5", 13", and 12.5" club minimum releases, and I caught 12", 11.5", and 11" club minimum releases. All on shiners. The water temperature was 51 degrees. I kept five crappies for dinner.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



SUN, MAR 12, 2023 2:00 AM

Our Crappy "Crappie" Fishing Reports

8 FEB: With Russel Willoughby and Ike Eisenhower's positive Crappie fishing reports at Lake Smith, Mary, John Curry, and I thought we'd try it. I spoke with Russel, who gave me the inside scoop on bait, location, and rigging.

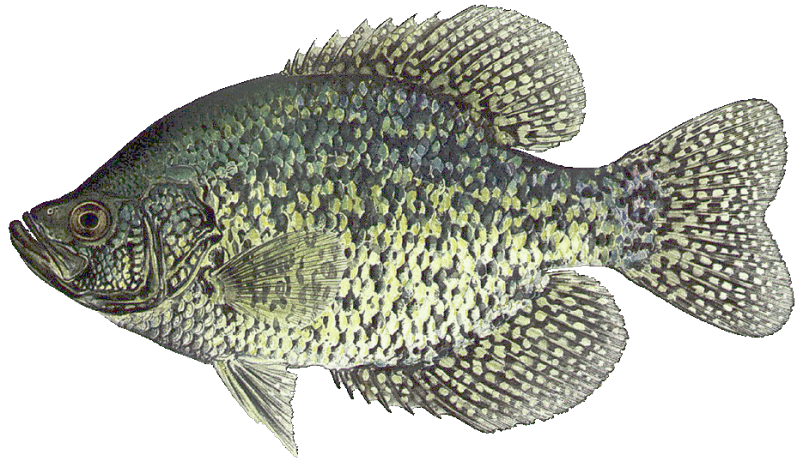
That Wednesday was a beautiful 70 degrees day on the water, and we ran into Russell and Ike at the ramp. Once underway, we trolled the mid-lake section with negative results, then started working the shoreline. We eventually met with Russel and Ike just as Russel landed a bass. We continued to fish parts of both lakes without a bite, but the weather was so perfect that we did not mind.

11 FEB: Not to be outsmarted by a fish with a brain the size of a pea, Mary and I headed out Crappie fishing on a Saturday. We were trying closer to home at Lake Prince.

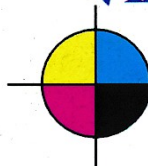
The weather had changed, and we were fishing at 42 degrees in a steady cold wind. After three hours without a bite, we called it quits. On both days, our rigs were 1/16 oz crappie jigs with Bobby Garland grub tails in various colors topped with a live minnow.

Guess we're just Crappy "Crappie" fishermen.

- Henry and Mary Troutner



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5 JAN: I called up Robert Smith, who presented to our club last month about his charter fishing the Elizabeth River (ER) to see if he could fish in nice weather on a Thursday. He had work scheduled but moved it to later so we could get out earlier. He had offered to take me out to the ER when I was freshly healing from my last hip replacement and couldn't go on the water, so I was lucky that he was available this time. He lives right off Highway 17, just beyond the Veteran's Bridge, so getting from his place to the Great Bridge locks for launching his Robalo 24 inshore boat is easy. It is a classy boat capable of 50 mph on calm water, fully suited for inshore fishing with spot-lock trolling capacity.

I fished the main channel to start fishing in 10 feet of water, casting towards the river edge, and began mainly catching 12-inch throwback speckled trout one after another until I finally hooked a keeper-sized trout that ended up measuring 20.75 inches, perfect for my first club minimum release of the year. After that, we still caught throwback-sized fish, so we moved further down the river trying the Skanska flat and other spots near the Veteran's Bridge, but we couldn't find the fish.

We even went to Deep Creek and tried several places but failed. So, we returned to our earlier site, and there Robert to a nice 19 inches that went into the live well for dinner. Still, plenty of throwback fish there too. Overall, it was a great day to fish weather-wise, and at least we caught fish. We mainly threw 27MR and 28MR Mirrolures of electric chicken and 808 colors. *Thanks again for the trip, Robert.*



6 JAN: The weather was still good for the next day, so Russell Willoughby and I took his Carolina Skiff out to try again for speckled trout.

The throwbacks were still there this time, but I at least caught one club-minimum release of a 22-inch speckled trout. Russell was using rubber baits that the trout didn't seem to like much, but they seemed to like my Mirrolures.

The water temperature was 49-50 degrees. We also tried trolling and anchoring, and casting several places along the river and Deep Creek.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

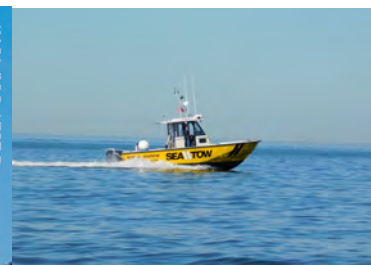
7 FEB: We had a warming trend with the weather, so Russell Willoughby and I went to Lake Smith and Lawson for black crappie as a target, but of course, the bass and chain pickerel were also biting.

I ended up with a 13-inch, 12.5-inch, and 13.5-inch club minimum released, Russell catching 3-12-inch keepers and 3-4 throwbacks. Pretty nice day for a February bite, so we just had to go back the next day.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



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SEA TOW.

8 FEB: We started later in the day at Lake Smith/Lawson since the morning bite was slow yesterday. It was still slow fishing, so we moved around until we found a bite that gave Russell Willoughby a 15-inch state citation size black crappie and a couple of 14 inches. I ended up with a 14.5-inch club minimum and five keepers in the 12-inch range. Not to mention the 15-inch bass Russell caught. Medium-sized shiners under bobbers near lily pad areas seemed to be the ticket for the best bite.



14 FEB: Although we wore out the bite the week before, we couldn't pass up a warm day at Lake Smith. Also, I bought a fish scale to weigh some fish this time. Again, as the day got warmer, the bite increased. I weighed a 13.5-inch club minimum release at one lb. 4 oz. and a 14-inch release at 1 lb. 3 oz. among at least five other crappies

Russell Willoughby also caught and released. He also caught an 18-inch club minimum release chain pickerel, but we didn't get a picture of it. Not bad fishing and catching for a February at Smith. The fish were all really dark black in pre-spawn mode.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

Ready to Order a NAC Shirt?

At NAC's March 20, 2023 Meeting, we will be taking orders for new shirts. Prices will vary due to the type of shirt and how many shirts are ordered. We will have shirts for everyone. See the back page for the graphic design on the back. On the front will be the NAC Logo on the left side. Fishing Shirts with pockets will be embroidered.

5000 Gildan Heavy Cotton Short Sleeve Tee



The price for the short sleeve will range between \$12.00 - \$15.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/gildan/5000>

5400 / Gildan Heavy Cotton Long Sleeve Tee



The price for the long sleeve Gilden will range between \$16.00 - \$21.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

https://www.sanmar.com/p/1950_Black

Both Gildan shirts above do not have a pocket.

PC54P / Port & Company Core Cotton Pocket Tee, Short Sleeve



The price for the long sleeve will range between \$15.00 - \$20.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

https://www.sanmar.com/p/6459_JetBlack

PC61LSP / Port & Company Long Sleeve Pocket Tee



The price for the long sleeve will range between \$23.00 - \$19.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

https://www.sanmar.com/p/1714_Navy

3587 / LAT Ladies Premium V-Neck Tee Short Sleeve



The price for the short sleeve will range between \$19.00 - \$23.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/lat_sportswear/3587

Paragon - Women's Long Islander Performance Long Sleeve T-Shirt - 214



The price for the long sleeve will range between \$20.00 - \$24.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

UPF50+ sun protection

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/paragon/214>

Paragon - Long Islander Performance Long Sleeve T-Shirt - 210



The price for the long sleeve will range between \$20.00 - \$25.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

UPF50+ sun protection

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/paragon/210>

[LAT](#) - Women's Long Sleeve Premium Cotton Jersey Tee - 3588



The price for the long sleeve will range between \$21.00 - \$25.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.alphabroder.com/product/3588/lat-ladies-premium-jersey-long-sleeve-t-shirt.html?color=01>

Paragon - Women's Vera V-Neck T-Shirt - 203



The price for the short sleeve will range between \$17.00 - \$22.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

UPF50+ sun protection

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/paragon/203>

Paragon - Islander Performance T-Shirt - 200



The price for the short sleeve will range between \$20.00 - \$24.00 More for 2XL and 3XL.

UPF50+ sun protection

Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/paragon/200>

18500 Gildan® - Heavy Blend™ Hooded Sweatshirt



The price for the long sleeve Gildan Hoodie will range between \$22.00 - \$26.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:
https://www.sanmar.com/p/115_HtSptRoyal

18600 Gildan® - Heavy Blend™ Full-Zip Hooded



The price for the long sleeve Gildan Hoodie will range between \$28.00 - \$32.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:
https://www.sanmar.com/p/437_ForestGrn

LPC78ZH Port & Company® Ladies Core Fleece Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt



The price for the long sleeve Port & Company Hoodie will range between \$27.00 - \$31.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:
https://www.sanmar.com/p/7051_AthlHthr

LST254 Sport-Tek® Ladies Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt



The price for the long sleeve Sport Tech Hoodie will range between \$35.00 - \$38.00. More for 2XL and 3XL.

Go to this link for more information:
https://www.sanmar.com/p/5511_TrueNavy

Columbia - PFG Tamiami™ II Short Sleeve Shirt - 128705



The price for the short sleeve Columbia Fishing Shirt will cost \$61.68 *Add \$2 For 2X / \$3 For 3X
*Embroidered

Go to this link for more information:
<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/columbia/128705>

Columbia - PFG Bahama™ II Long Sleeve Shirt - 101162



The price for the long sleeve Columbia Fishing Shirt will cost \$75.14 *Add \$2 For 2X / \$3 For 3X
*Embroidered, Omni-Shade™ UPF 30 protection

Go to this link for more information:
<https://www.ssactivewear.com/p/columbia/101162>

Angler Interests

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Job Announcements



MRIP (Marine Recreational Information Program) Seasonal Data Field Technician

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will conduct the field portion of the MRIP. This program includes the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey/APAIS and requires face-to-face interviews with marine recreational anglers. Field staff will travel to assigned sites to interview anglers about their fishing experiences, collect a variety of information, and weigh, measure, and identify fish by species name that the anglers have caught. Assigned sites can include beaches, piers, docks/jetties, and access points for private charter and head boats, including marinas, boat ramps and other points of entry to marine waters. Field staff is responsible for entering this data on a Samsung tablet while speaking with anglers at these sites. Paper forms may be used in the event that the tablet becomes non-functioning. There will be a 2-day training in the actual MRIP procedures including a Fish ID test and a Procedures Test. After becoming qualified to conduct the APAIS there will be on-site training to get the applicant comfortable conducting the survey.

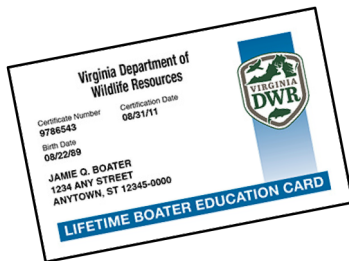
Qualifications: Must be 21 years old. Must have a valid Virginia driver's license and access to a personal vehicle; personal vehicle use is reimbursed at 62.5 cents per mile, be willing to travel a reasonable distance to reach assigned sites; be available on weekends and weekdays, with additional availability during some evenings and nights. Individuals should be comfortable approaching and speaking with strangers; handling, measuring, and weighing fish; and working outside for extended periods of time in variable weather conditions. Must demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and follow prescribed procedures. Must be computer savvy in Word and Excel, and be able to copy, scan and send data from home.

Knowledge of fish species with experience in the area of recreational angling and familiarity of marine waterways in their local area is required.

Location and Hours: The seasonal data technicians may be required to work a minimum of three (3) 6 hour shifts a week although this is not a guarantee; must have flexible availability and be able to work any and all of the following shifts: 2am – 8am; 8am -2pm; 11am – 5pm; 2 pm-8 pm and 8pm – 2am; regular weekend work will be required and seasonal staff may be required to work up to 12 hours each weekend. The 2am-8am and 8pm-2 am are infrequent and always conducted with 2 Interviewers. Pay is computed at on-site time and administrative requirements such as timesheet and expense form submission. Starting Salary is \$16.50 p/h

Those interested may contact Jeff Allen at 757-325-8994 or email at; allenfoxhilllure@cox.net

Virginia Safe Boating Course Opportunity



Saturday, March 25th

9:00am-3:30pm,

Foundry United Methodist Church 2801 Virginia Beach Blvd, VB 23452

This is a free course taught by the US Coast Guard personnel. It's a required course to operate a boat or personal watercraft in Virginia waters. Upon completion each

individual will be issued a course completion certificate. A free lunch will be served at the event and there's plenty of parking.

If interested in taking this course, contact Butch Eason to register at (757)681-6019

Thanks to the USCG Auxiliary and the Virginia Beach Anglers Club for hosting this opportunity

Angler Interests

Frequent Questions—Offshore Wind and Whales



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Frequently asked questions about interactions between offshore wind energy projects and whales on the East Coast.

What is the current status of the humpback whale population in the North Atlantic?

There are different populations of humpback whales around the world, some of which are listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act. The population of humpback whales in the North Atlantic (also known as the West Indies Distinct Population Segment) is not listed as threatened or endangered. However, all humpback whales are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. More information about the status of humpback whale stocks in U.S. waters can be found in NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports.

What is the current status of the humpback whale population in the North Atlantic?

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Is U.S. offshore wind development linked to any whale deaths?

At NOAA Fisheries, we work with our partners to analyze and understand the causes of death when we are able, following the science and data. At this point, there is no evidence to support speculation that noise resulting from wind development-related site characterization surveys could potentially cause mortality of whales, and no specific links between recent large whale mortalities and currently ongoing surveys.

We will continue to gather data to help us determine the cause of death for these mortality events. We will also continue to explore how sound, vessel, and other human activities in the marine environment impact whales and other marine mammals.

Does NOAA Fisheries authorize the death of whales as it relates to offshore wind development?

No, NOAA Fisheries has not authorized—or proposed to authorize—mortality or serious injury of whales for any wind-related action. Offshore wind developers have not applied for, and NOAA Fisheries has not approved, authorization to kill any marine mammals incidental to any offshore wind activities.

What is the cause of recent whale deaths off New York and New Jersey? Is it related to offshore wind development?

At this point, there is no evidence that noise resulting from wind development-related site characterization surveys could potentially cause mortality of whales, and no specific links between recent large whale mortalities and currently ongoing surveys. These are geological and geophysical surveys conducted by wind energy developers. We will continue to gather data to help us determine the cause of death for these mortality events.

In 2017, NOAA Fisheries declared an Unusual Mortality Event for humpback whale strandings along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. The event is ongoing, and includes animals that stranded since 2016. As of February 8, 2023, there are 181 humpback whale mortalities included in the UME. Partial or full necropsy examinations were conducted on approximately half of the whales. Of the whales examined, about 40 percent had evidence of human interaction, either ship strike or entanglement. Vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear are the greatest human threats to large whales.

Angler Interests

Why is there currently a high number of large whales in the waters off New Jersey?

As the humpback whale population has grown, they are seen more often in the Mid-Atlantic. Along the New Jersey shore, these whales may be following their prey (small fish) which are reportedly close to shore this winter. These prey also attract fish that are of interest to recreational and commercial fishermen. This increases the number of boats in these areas. More whales in the water in areas traveled by boats of all sizes increases the risk of vessel strikes. As such, we advise boaters to go slowly (less than 10 knots) and keep a lookout for whales.

There is currently a voluntary slow zone in effect for the waters off New York and New Jersey due to recent detections of endangered North Atlantic right whales. There are also active Seasonal Management Areas (where all vessels 65 feet or longer must travel at 10 knots or less) off the ports of New York/New Jersey and Delaware Bay due to known seasonal distribution of endangered North Atlantic right whales.

Is climate change a factor in the number of whales we're seeing close to shore?

We know that our climate is changing, and one of those key changes is the warming of our oceans. In response to this, we are seeing populations of many marine species adapting by moving into new areas where conditions are more favorable.

Changing distributions of prey impact larger marine species that depend on them, and result in changing distribution of whales and other marine life. This can lead to increased interactions with humans as some whales move closer to near shore habitats. Work is ongoing to investigate the increase in humpback whale deaths beginning in 2016, and certainly this most recent string of devastating losses.

The impacts of changing species distributions reach far beyond the individual species experiencing the shift, to affect entire ecosystems, as well as fisheries interactions, and coastal economies.

What You Can Do

What should I do if I see a dead or injured whale from Maine to Virginia?

If you see a dead or injured marine mammal or sea turtle, please call the NOAA Greater Atlantic Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline at (866) 755-6622 to be directed to a trained responder. The best way to assist these animals, and keep them and yourself safe, is by calling trained responders and maintaining a distance of 150 feet.

Please remember that all marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which makes touching, feeding, or otherwise harming these animals illegal. It is also illegal to take any marine mammal part from live or dead animals including bones and teeth.

What else can I do to help protect whales?

If you are a boater, download the Whale Alert app for real time updates on management areas and whale sightings on digital nautical charts. When you are boating in these areas, slow down and keep a watchful eye on the water.

Angler Interests

Additional Information on Harassment Authorizations

What does “harassment” mean under the Marine Mammal and Protection Act?

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, harassment is statutorily defined as:

Level A Harassment, which has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (i.e. non-serious injury)

Level B Harassment, which has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (i.e. behavioral disturbance).

How do I find more information about marine mammal incidental harassment authorizations?

Our website lists all active and in-progress incidental take authorizations, including those related to offshore wind. There are 12 active IHAs authorizing the take, by Level B (i.e. behavioral) harassment only, of marine mammals incidental to offshore wind site characterization surveys in the Atlantic Ocean from southern New England to the Carolinas.

General information about the MMPA take authorization process

There are two active IHAs for offshore wind construction activities that authorize take of marine mammals by both Level A and Level B harassment. Level A harassment includes non-serious injury—in this case, in the form of auditory injury resulting from exposure to noise from pile driving. NOAA Fisheries carefully considers possible impacts to marine mammal species. These details and mitigations are included in the relevant documents for each active IHA.

Additional Information on Necropsies

What are NOAA Fisheries and its partners doing to determine the cause(s) of recent whale deaths?

The local stranding network partner is responsible for leading the examination, but large whale responses generally involve multiple agencies from across the network working together. These stranding network partners responded to each of the recent whales that came ashore to document and examine the carcasses. At a minimum, each carcass was documented with photos, measurements, and an external examination. Since the cause of death is not always clear at first examination, biologists took samples from these whales, and will work with laboratory partners to review them in the coming months. Decomposition can limit our ability to determine a definitive cause of death.

Why aren't all large whales necropsied?

Large whale necropsies are very complicated, requiring many people and typically heavy equipment (front loaders, etc.). Some whales are found dead floating offshore, and need to be towed to land for an examination. There can be limitations for access and using heavy equipment depending on the location where the whale stranded, including protected lands (parks or concerns for other endangered species) and accessibility (remote areas, tides that prevent access at times of day). Also, necropsies are the most informative when the animal died relatively recently. Some whales are not found until they are already decomposed, which limits the amount of information that can be obtained. Finally, funding is limited, and varies by location and stranding network partner.

Angler Interests

Who are NOAA Fisheries' marine mammal stranding network partners?

Our marine mammal stranding network partners in New England and the Mid Atlantic include:

Allied Whale (Maine)
Marine Mammals of Maine (Maine)
Seacoast Science Center (New Hampshire/North Shore Massachusetts)
Whale and Dolphin Conservation (South Shore, Massachusetts)
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Cape Cod, Massachusetts)
Center for Coastal Studies (Cape Cod, Massachusetts)
Marine Mammal Alliance Nantucket (Nantucket, Massachusetts)
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah (Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (Rhode Island)
Mystic Aquarium (Connecticut/Rhode Island)
New York Marine Rescue Center (New York)
Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (New York)
Marine Mammal Stranding Center (New Jersey)
MERR Institute (Delaware)
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Maryland)
National Aquarium (Maryland)
Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center (Virginia)

How can NOAA Fisheries determine if a whale death was related to or caused by offshore wind activity and the survey work that has been underway or other causes? Are there any signs or criteria?

NOAA Fisheries uses necropsies to determine the cause of a whale death. Necropsies can help determine if there is evidence from vessel strikes, entanglement, or acoustic trauma.

Vessel strikes are determined by cuts from propellers, and/or bruising and broken bones from the impact with a vessel hull. However, we are generally not able to definitively determine what specific kind of vessel (i.e., the size or type of vessel or what it was doing) caused the strike without a report from a mariner or other observer such as a protected species observer.

Entanglement injuries are often evident even in external examination even when rope or other fishing gear does not remain on a carcass. Acute injuries, such as areas where line or rope has rubbed through or broken the skin, can be very evident. In some cases tissue analysis is needed to confirm whether the injuries are old and healing or may have contributed to the whale's death.

Acoustic trauma, which could result from close exposure to loud human-produced sounds, is very challenging to assess in stranded cetaceans, particularly with any amount of decomposition. Scientists look for bruising or trauma to the ear and other organs, but linking it to a particular sound source is difficult, as certain parts of the ear decompose very quickly (within hours), even more so than some of the other parts of the animal. If the whale is already in moderate to advanced decomposition, then generally microscopic changes in the ears are no longer detectable.

NOAA Fisheries will be looking at samples collected from each necropsied animal to further understand other factors that may have contributed to the stranding, but we may not ever have a definitive answer for each of these cases.

Strandings and inconclusive necropsies have occurred long before offshore wind was a factor, so correlating the two now is not based in science.

Angler Interests

What is NOAA Fisheries doing to minimize the effects of offshore wind development on endangered North Atlantic right whales?

NOAA Fisheries is heavily invested in the conservation and recovery of endangered North Atlantic right whales. NOAA Fisheries recently proposed a rule to modify existing vessel speed restrictions that would apply to many offshore wind-related vessels. In our permits and authorizations, we also require mitigation measures to avoid and minimize impacts from offshore wind development.

Finally, NOAA Fisheries and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently released a joint draft strategy to protect and promote the recovery of North Atlantic right whales while responsibly developing offshore wind energy. This strategy is part of NOAA Fisheries' comprehensive Road to Recovery for North Atlantic right whales.

Annual Fishing Flea Market



Saturday, March 11th
8:00am-2:30pm

Chesapeake Conference Center
700 Conference Center Dr
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Admission \$5, free parking



A great opportunity for new & used rods, reels, lures, and equipment!

Virginia Black Sea Bass February Season Reporting



For anglers who received a VMRC Black Sea Bass Recreational Permit (right), whether you participated in the February Sea Bass season or not, are required to report your participation.

You may meet your reporting requirements by using the VA Saltwater Journal found at <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com>. The VA Saltwater Journal has a dedicated section for reporting mandatory species. You must also report your non-participation if you did not fish during the February sea bass season. Alternatively, paper forms may be found on the VMRC website at <http://mrc.virginia.gov/forms/index.shtm> which will allow you to mail in your reports.



Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Transaction Number: OL
Issue Date: 2023-02-08
Agent: WEB
VMRC ID: N
DOB: _____
Hair: _____
Eyes: _____
Height: _____
Weight: _____
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
License No. OL
Gear 476
Price \$0.00
BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT
Any change in your address or other personal information should be provided to the VMRC, within 10 days.
I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and accurate and I meet all the requirements for purchasing any of these licenses.
Applicant Signature
OL 02-08-2023, 8:00 pm
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Norfolk
Anglers
Club