

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MAY 2017



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Capt Robert Smith, *Four Reel Sportfishing Charters*,
Offshore fishing for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna

Fishing Tips: Offshore Tilefish and Black Sea Bass with Capt Craig Irwin, *Sea Change Sportfishing*

Fishing Reports:

- End of Tautog season reports
- Bluefish in Rudee Inlet
- Speckled Trout in Lynnhaven
- Puppy Drum fishing in Elizabeth River and Rudee Inlet
- Spring Rockfish in the upper Chesapeake Bay
- Flounder bite off the Eastern Shore
- Florida Keys fishing

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Congratulations to Dr. Jack Salvant for winning the Cobia fishing trip with FINAO Sportfishing! Jack's ticket (#001211) was drawn by Capt Austin Hayne at the meeting.



Be sure to check out the Boaters Warehouse event planned for May 13th. The folks at Boaters Warehouse have sales planned, more than 15 Vendors scheduled, and the USCG AUX Flotilla 59 from Smithfield will be available to conduct Vessel Safety Checks.

Will



Cover: Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab

The 2017 Winter Crab Dredge Survey results indicate that while the total number of female spawning age crab increased from previous years the both juvenile and total blue crab abundance declined in 2017.

Thanks to Tidewater Seafood for the Crab!

MEETING



Guest Speaker: Offshore Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishing with Captain Robert Smith, *Four Reel Sportfishing Charters*. Capt Smith fishes many inshore and offshore species with his 61' custom built Weaver Sportfisher yacht from the Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Join us on May 8th and hear Capt Smith share his expertise fishing Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna off our coast.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, May 8th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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**"Hunt for the
Hardheads"
Challenge**



**Sign Up
at the
May 8th
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"
Saturday May 20, 2017**

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

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

Tentative Date: Saturday May 20, 2017

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

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

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

Picnic Only \$5.00

Rules:

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

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Tilefish and Black Sea Bass fishing with Capt Craig Irwin, Sea Change Sportfishing

When and Where to fish Tilefish: Tilefish can be caught year-round off our coast but the best time to avoid catching Spiny Dogfish is late spring through the fall. Fishing for Tiles in December to April timeframe, Anglers will usually have to contend with lots of Dogfish. Which can be a real problem when you're retrieving from depths 300-800 feet all day. Capt Irwin prefers to target Tilefish in May though late fall.



Tilefish are a deep water bottom dwelling fish. You'll find Bluelines around the 50 fathom (300ft) line and Golden Tiles around 800ft and deeper. The Norfolk Canyon is a prime location to fish for tiles. Anglers should look to the north and south slopes, plateaus, ledges and walls for areas holding the fish. A good bottom machine is an important tool in locating fish. Know how to tune and use your bottom machine to distinguish the fish from the bottom to maximize your time catching. Blueline Tiles prefer a bottom with gravel, rocks, and broken shell while Golden Tiles prefer a muddy bottom to borrow in. Once you start catching Tiles start marking your position as Tilefish generally stay in the same area.

Tackle: Reels with line capacity to reach 800-1000 feet is an important consideration when fishing for Golden Tiles. For Sea Bass (120-170ft) and Blueline Tiles (300-500ft) most rod/reel combinations will work fine. Sea Change Sportfishing uses a 5000 Class Spinning Reel with 30-40# Braided Line for shallower species and reels such as Shimano's Torium 30 and Saltist 40 or 50, and the Penn Squal 40 with 65# Braid for the deeper fish. Braided line is almost a necessity when fishing the deeper water. Braid's thin diameter creates less drag than monofilament and allows an Angler to "feel" the bottom.



Baits & Lures: Everything eats cut squid! Using a 3-4 inch piece of cut squid on a bare hook or added to a Jig will produce. Other cut baits work too, like fillets of mackerel and cobia belly. Vertical Jigs and Bucktails will work on Tilefish and Black Sea Bass, especially with some bait attached. Capt Irwin remarked some of his largest Citation Sea Bass were caught on Jigs with bait strips.

Locating Wrecks for Sea Bass: Structure is where you're going to find Sea Bass. Off Virginia, that means wrecks or artificial reefing areas and the Triangle Reef is a great area to start. Capt Irwin recommends Anglers check out the Virginia Marine Resource Commission's Artificial Reef program at the VMRC website at <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/>. Use the Sonar Report feature to get side scan images of the wrecks and start collecting your own list of GPS positions. Sea Change Sportfishing advised when fishing the wrecks one side of the wreck is usually more productive than the other. So remember to fish all areas around a wreck before moving on.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

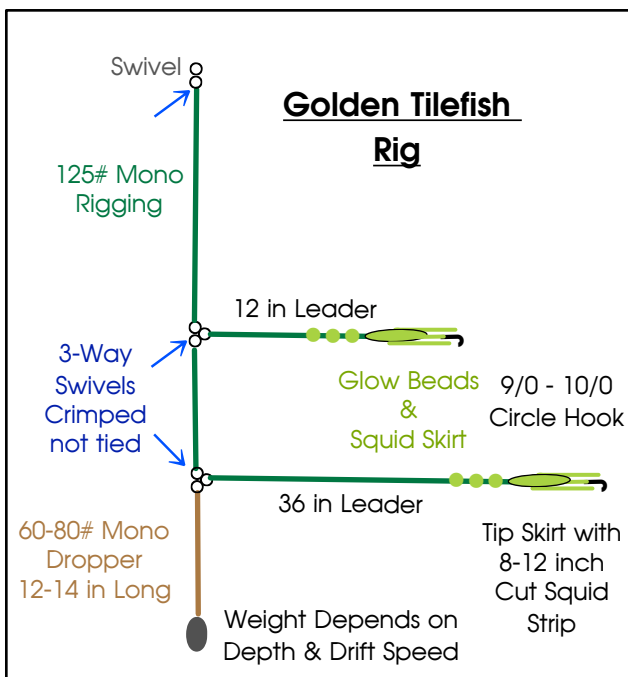
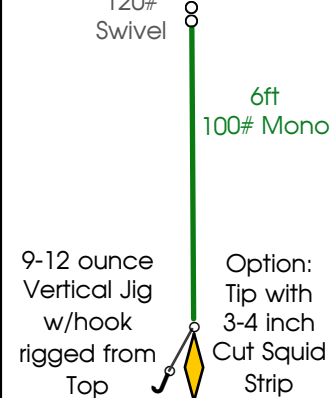


Black Sea Bass Rigging: Rigging for Black Sea Bass is a straight forward Double Dropper Rig tied with 40# monofilament line. Drops to the Circle Hooks are only about 4 inches in length and 10 inches apart on the rig.

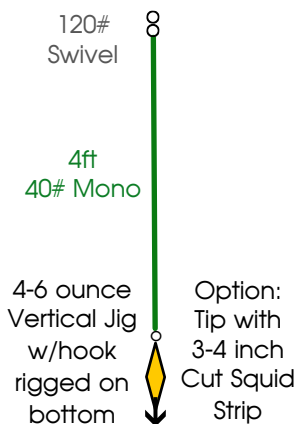
Vertical Jigging for Sea Bass has produced a large class of fish for Sea Change Sportfishing. Vertical Jigs are rigged with a

4-6 ounce Jig tied to a 4ft 40# mono line and secured to a 120# swivel. Hooks are attached to the bottom on the Jig and tipped with a 3-4 inch piece of cut bait.

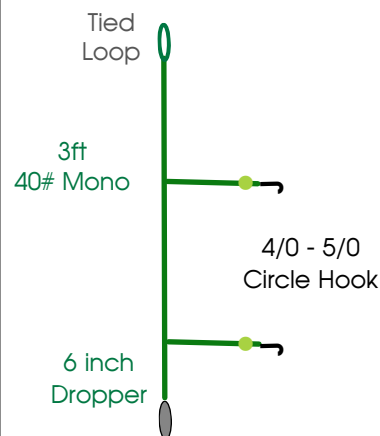
Tilefish Rigging: Blueline Tiles rigs are similar to your Black Sea Bass rigs. Double Dropper Rigs are common and Vertical Jigs and Bucktails can be used. Rigging the Vertical Jigs for Bluelines places the hook on the top attach point of the Jig.



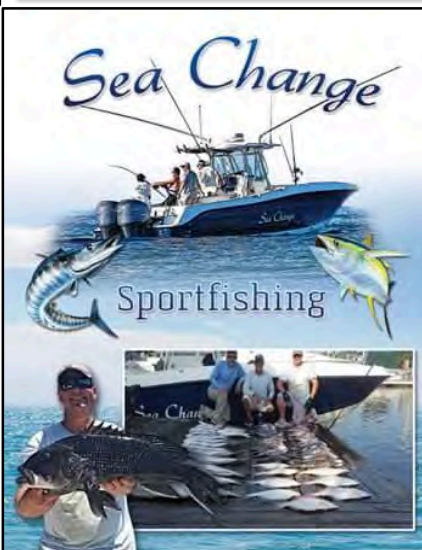
Black Sea Bass Vertical Jig



Black Sea Bass Rig



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Virginia Game Fish



On March 28th, twenty-one new taggers joined the esteemed ranks of the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program at the annual training workshop at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). The new members enjoyed introductory lectures from project partners Susanna Musick (VIMS Marine Advisory Services) and Lewis Gillingham (VA Saltwater Fishing Tournament, VMRC) in addition to "hands-on" stations where they learned how to use tagging equipment and record data.



A huge round of thanks goes out to our volunteer tagging instructors Ed Shepherd, Sheldon Arey and Wes Blow in addition to Manisha Pant (VIMS), Wendy Lowery and Brian Watkins of the VIMS Fisheries Department for the fish specimens to practice with, Manisha Pant for helping with VIMS data entry, and all of the anglers who participated in the workshop! Lastly, a special Thank You to Ann Burnett at VMRC for all her support of the tagging program. - Susanna Musick, VIMS



Tagging Program



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20 For Tuna Expo

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May 12-14

Saturday May 13th US 106.1 FM will be broadcasting from
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US Coastguard Auxiliary boat inspections from 9-3

Tons of vendors on site: Bowed-Up Fishing Lures, Penn, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Siegler Reels & Daiwa

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Orange Stains on Your Boat & Clothes

Have you had mystery orange stains appear on your boat and clothing? Did you know the main cause is from a sunscreen ingredient Avobenzone. You may have noticed these stains appear on your boat when it has been in the ocean but not on the lake. The color develops when it is exposed to water containing iron. Few folks have been successful getting the stains removed from their boat. Some have found after a few weeks at sea, the sun bleaches away the stain. That could take awhile if you don't go fishing every day.



Avobenzone goes by different names, so check to make sure you're not using a sunscreen with any of these common active ingredients: Avobenzone
Butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane
Parsol 1789
Eusolex 9020
Escalol 517



Avobenzone and Iron don't mix. The reaction between that common chemical sunscreen and high-iron tap water creates rust. Which is precisely why you've got orange and brown stains. It oxidizes any iron in water, creating rust stains. This also can cause stains on clothing that appear only after washing in water with a high iron content.

Avobenzone is a primary agent in commercial sunscreens due to its effectiveness in absorbing a wide range of ultraviolet (UV) rays, specifically the type that is known to cause sunburn. It's been considered a relatively safe chemical, but recent research suggests otherwise. Avobenzone degrades in the sun, resulting in the release of free radicals that some think might increase the risk for cancer.

You know how the stains get on clothes. It gets on your boat where sunscreen had rubbed off the arms or legs of you or your passengers. You might want to wear long pants to fish, minimizing contact with your legs and the gelcoats. The more you wear sunscreen which has Avobenzone, you will notice more stains on your boat. You might want verify what your passengers are wearing for sunscreen (not avobenzone) before you let them on your boat. Some boaters swear that all bug and sunscreen sprays stain your boat too.

The good news is there are some sunscreens out there that do not have this nasty ingredient Here are a few:

- Blue Lizard Sensitive Sunscreen
- Sunology Natural Sunscreen
- Elta MD Facial Sunscreen
- Thinkbaby sunscreen SPF 50+

Of course you could always wear a UPF protected long sleeve shirt and pants with a big floppy hat and with-go any sunscreen at all, but you might want some on your face!

Fishing Reports...



5 April: I went fishing with Bob Robert Stuhlman out of Lynnhaven Marine Boatel and right as we hit the bridge, we had construction blocking the main Channel (Picture Left). We made our way around the construction very carefully in the



ripping current and the bay looked like a beautiful lake all the way to the CBBT. Outgoing current setup on the second Island in 13-16 ft. on the spine and in very little time Bob started pulling in throwback size Tautogs 13-15 inches. I wasn't even getting the nibble on my side of the boat so I just moved over to Bob's side of the boat despite protests and started catching them also. They loved our fiddler crabs. We ended up with 14 Tautog caught between 11:30am and 1pm with three of them going 17 and a half inches. As soon as the outgoing current died and started shifting, the east wind was picking up and the bite was off which meant the end of the day. What a great day of catching this was!
- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

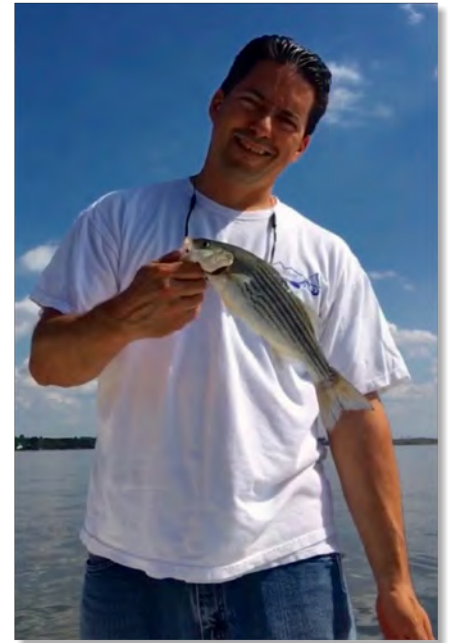


27 April: Fished the Lynnhaven on a windy day. I tagged two small Flounder which were 15 inches and 15 1/2 inches. "Commercial grade", made my mouth water. Looking forward to some keepers. - Jimmy Robinson

19 April: On a nice Sunday AJ and I ran to the tower reef and caught eight Tautog up to 15.5 inches. Oyster Toads and Dogfish paid us a visit as well. We tried for Flounder for a little while but only found more Dogfish. We were using blue crab and squid strips.



20 April: Bill Hamilton and I fished the Elizabeth River finding very small Striper and short Puppy Drum in good numbers eating our curly tail grubs and Gulp. I also caught a 16.5 inch Puppy Drum that had two tags in it. The fish was released healthy and I reported both tags. *I'm anxious to hear the results!* - Alex Perez



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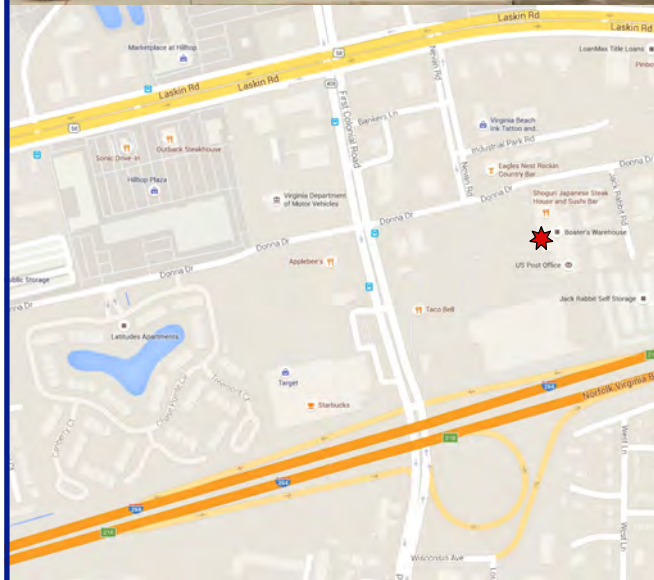
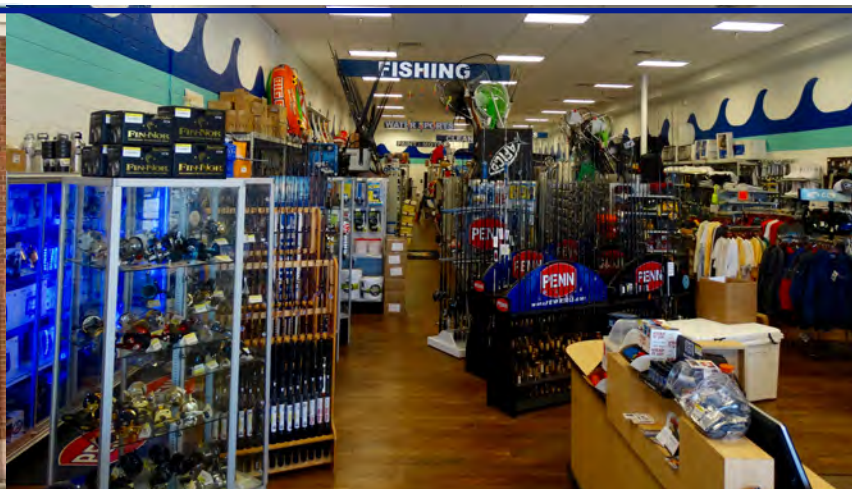
Capt. Mike Griffith
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757-687-9093

4 - 7 April: I went Shad fishing on the Nottoway and Blackwater Rivers. I did not plan on fishing the seventh but couldn't cross the CBBT because of wind restrictions. My friends for 60 years, Whitey Bryan and Ron Dawson, went with me. We caught all the Hickory Shad anyone could possibly want but unfortunately they were spawned out so no roe to take home. I did keep a one day limit for crab pot bait. Had a great time and caught hundreds of fish.

20 April: I went Flounder fishing out of Oyster. Tried Ship Shoal Inlet and Ramshorn Channel. Perfect day, light wind, clear water, no slur and water temperature was 65 degrees and didn't get a bite. Up until the last few years I always caught Flounder starting in mid-March, something has changed and not for the better. - Jim Clark



12 April: I was fishing in Rudee Inlet and caught 4 Puppy Drum, only one keeper. I was using cut mullet in 4 ft of water anchored on the bank in front of the Police Boat dock. Luckily I had the drag set on the rod as the Bluefish took off after being hooked. I played with it for awhile thinking it was a Skate or Ray. A Kayaker saw it and yelled "big Bluefish". The Kayaker came up alongside of my Jon Boat and watched until I tried to get it in the net I had. He helped me get it in the net. 32 in 9 lb 5 oz measured and weighted at Princess Anne Tackle. Anthony and Wayne said that a couple of others had been in the Shop in the last couple of days with big Bluefish, but mine was the biggest so far. Wayne had caught a couple himself, his biggest was 30 inches.
- Jerry Hughes



Mon - Sat: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Sun: 10:00am - 5:00pm



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THE SMITHS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS



Ned and I, along with my sister and brother in law, spent two weeks in the glorious Florida Keys....specifically Little Torch Key 25 miles from Key West. The first week was treacherous as winds blew 15-20 mph each day and rain poured down incessantly. Ned and my brother in law Larry went out flats fishing with Pat Brasher. For the first time in a long time, all Ned caught was a number of Bonefish but Larry got a grand slam....Bonefish, 110 lb. Tarpon, and a Permit. Last year they both got a grand slam so Larry was really rubbing it in every day.

My sister Nina and I went with the guys on Beau Wood's charter wreck-fishing trip. We caught 50 Yellowtail and Mangrove Snappers. Ned caught a 40lb Cobia which was the talk of the island for a couple of days. We'd go into tackle stores and mention the Cobia and folks would say..."Oh you're the guy!" They don't catch a lot of Cobia at this time of year in the Keys for some reason.

I'm writing this article while in the Keys and probably will fish some more before we leave, so will fill you all in when we get home. All in all, the trip has been grand and we'll show off our tans at the next meeting.

- Michel Smith





4 April:
There's
some big
Trout
lurking in
the
Lynnhaven.
Mirror lures
get them
snapping.
- Jimmy
Robinson



12 April: I fished the last hour of the incoming tide from a dock on the James River to see what might be biting around the lights. The weather was calm but the water was pretty murky. I caught 7 Striped Bass 12-14 inches on an 8 wt. fly rod fishing clouser minnows on a sinking line.



Looking at records from last year, I caught my first fish from the same place on April 12, 2016. That fish was a Shad on 6 wt fly rod with the same style of fly. All fish were released.
- Jack B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



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23 April: I keep catching these off my dock on Elizabeth river. They have a large spot on their tail and sometimes more on their upper back. They generally run 12 to 16 inches. What are they?

[They are Red Drum or Puppy Drum - same thing. They are also called RedFish down south. 18-26 inches are legal to keep 3 per person.]

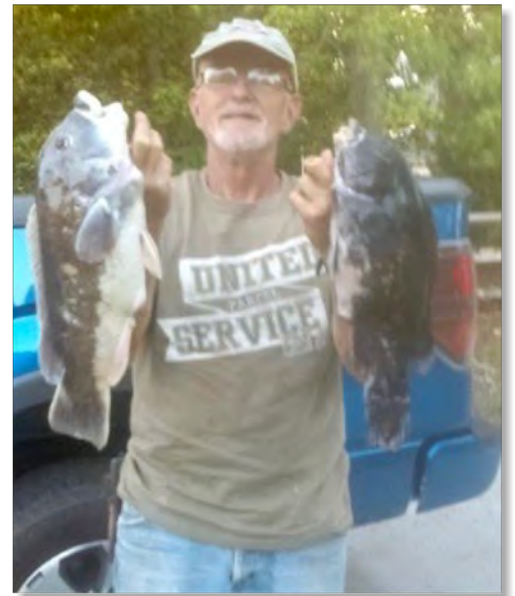
We catch them with baby 1-2" "mud minnows". I catch them in a minnow trap I hang off my dock with either no bait in it or a can of punctured cat food (but I seem to get the same rate of minnow catch with or without bait)! I put the minnows on a fishfinder rig with about a 2 foot leader and a 1/2 oz weight with a 5/0 octopus hook.

- Paul C. Mullan, MD, MPH



26 June: On windy Wednesday, Mary and I canceled a trip to the Triangles for a final shot at a citation Tautog.

The day before the wind had blown a gale and the weather was very iffy with "Breezy white cap conditions and 4 -6 ft. seas".



Around noon we were at the boat and it looked like the weather man had got it wrong again. I had caught a bunch of fiddlers the day before so we decided to run out to the CBBT for a couple hours.

The current was really ripping at the 4th so after 1.5 hours and only 2 toad fish we decided to get out of the current and try behind the 2nd island. Before I had the anchor line tied off Mary was calling me for the net. We then proceeded to catch 7 Tautog but only 2 were keepers.
- Henry Troutner



26 April: I fished off the bank in Rudee Inlet. I caught 2 Pups and a Trout in about 15 minutes, then it died!

- Jimmy Robinson

14 April: I went fishing with Russell on Lake Prince to see if we could find any Shellcrackers in the spring. We were skunked almost the whole day until a little after 3pm when Russell hooked up on his ultralight rod using red wiggler worms this 1lb. 11oz. shellcracker in about 10 feet of water. Tried as we might, we could not find another citation size in the area but only caught little shellcrackers. We moved to another spot and upon casting red wigglers near the shore and a Flathead Catfish took off with it. He got on my ultralight with only 6 lb. mono



on it and gave me a fit taking line and almost spooling me. But slowly I got him to the boat. He weighed 5 lb. 4 oz. on my digital scale and was released. Great fighting fish that usually hits on minnows and other live small fish as baits. We ending the day with only those two fish being of keeper size and weighed Russell's shellcracker at Ocean's East for a state and club citation.



We tried again for more shellcrackers at Lake Prince the next week but were skunked for them even though we fished from 3pm till dark which is supposed to be the best time for them. But we both caught Flathead Catfish to 4 lbs., both released. Summer is best for them so I think we will wait for later, maybe late May.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

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28 April: I fished with 3 friends on the seaside on the Eastern Shore for Flounder. We caught all of these!

- Jim Clark

YAKKING RUDEE INLET- LATE MARCH-APRIL

I quit stocked trout fishing because the real fishing season is in full swing!

This is my first spring season in the area and needless to say, I think I am fairly content. The Puppy Reds have been active since late March and become a reliable catch over the past 8 outings. I did skunk on my second outing- late March. My first outing kicked the saltwater season off with 3 Puppy Drum, 2 tiny Specks, and 3 Stripers.

Over the course of April, I fished 6 times and average about 7 Reds each trip (2-3 hours) with 1 in every 3 fish over 18 inches. I have limited out on Reds on 2 trips. During one trip, I threw back at least 2 keeper Reds after getting my 3. They are very plentiful and many anglers are getting them.

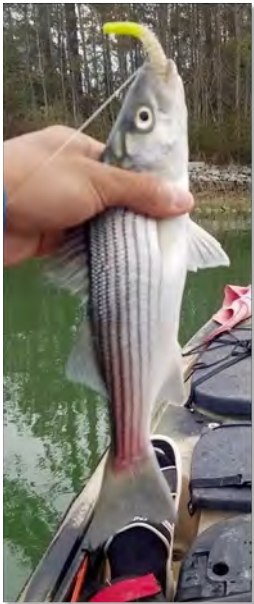
My set-ups:

Rod A- Zman Trout trick- 15# to 20# mono leader

Rod B- Popping cork with Gulp Shrimp- I have landed Reds deadsticking it. This enables you to cast with another rod. Also, the Flounder somehow came off of it!

Rod C- Mirrolure for trolling- 10# mono to 20# mono leader

Sometimes I will put on a 4 inch paddletail/jighead combo- Bass Assassin, Z-man Minnowz, or Matrix Shad- depending on which one I get to first



Here are some of the trends I noticed:

Striped Bass - They hang near the larger boats and hit just about any soft plastic.

Puppy Reds- They are constantly cruising around the grass beds in small schools. They seem to be very hungry and hit just about any lure. My go-to is the Zman Trout Trick on a 1/4 oz Trout Eye Jighead. This lure has a tail that twitches with the slightly jerk on the line and even work when deadsticked on the bottom. The small grass beds in Lake Wesley at high tide is almost a sure bet. Do not get too close to the shoreline before fan-casting the entire area! I spooked a school of over a dozen Reds in a kayak. I looked down and they simply scattered!

Speckled trout- I haven't really dialed it down, but I have landed some keepers



and seen fish up to 24 inches landed by other fisherman. I slow troll 52MR Mirrolures and 4 inch soft plastic paddle-tails inside Owl Creek. My first keeper wasn't caught on hook and line. It was a half-dead 20 inch floating on the surface and I dip netted it! It had no signs of injury and was a fat healthy fish! The bite seems better on the incoming tide.

Annapolis Stripers

I took 4 days of leave to return to my old stomping grounds - the mid bay area of the Chesapeake near Annapolis, MD. It was more of a long weekend to spend with friends on their boats versus a pure fishing trip. We trolled all 5 times. This is generally not my preferred method of fishing. It has been a tough spring for the region. A lot of recreational guys are skunking and charters are struggling. However, for those willing to put in the time, there are rewards to be reaped.

Day 1- We ran our 20 rod spread off a 27' Judge Chesapeake Sportfishing Cabin Boat with big planar boards. Unlike the small planar boards used to lower MD and this area of VA with live eels that act like large floats, these big boards take lines away from the boat and are used in conjunction with clips that pop off when a fish hits. We have 6 lines off each board- port and starboard- and 8 more boat lines. In the past 2 years, I have fished several tournaments and at least 3 dozen trips running this set-up. We got 2, 40 inches

Day 2- I went out on another friend's 18' Boston Whaler running 7 rods with 3 off each board plus 1 off the boat. By some random luck, we managed to land 2 keepers at 38 and 39 inches despite having to handline both fish in.



Most 20-24' center consoles are running about a dozen rods. Back at the ramp, we were the only boat to land keepers. I



got my Sponsor's daughter on her first big Striper, 39 inches. That afternoon, I hopped onto the bigger boat and we proceed to skunk. We needed to cruise out to Kent-Mor Marina for a nice dinner.

Day 3- Despite my need for rest, my friend woke me up with a text asking me to meet him at his dock. I never turn down fishing trips, off we go! We got our 20 rod spread out and had our first big hit while setting out lines. I cranked in another 38 inches This line was about 200' back, which gave me quite a workout cranking it in. We normally troll about 3.2 mph and do not slow it down to less than 2.4 even when hooked up. We ended the day with another keeper. These fish were donated to be served in the event covered below.



Day 4- This was another major reason for my trip up to MD. I worked as a mate on my friend's boat for the Maryland Saltwater Sportfisherman's Association Rock On Warriors Charity fishing event last year and wanted to do it again. This event takes out active duty and wounded Veterans for a day of trophy Rockfishing and a wonderful lunch afterwards at Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis. Annapolis Yacht Basin donates boat slips for that day to allow volunteer captains to dock their boat for the event. Our two warriors each landed a fish with



one being a 39 inch keeper. We run the same 20 rod spread. My job is to get the lines out as fast as possible without tangling and letting them fight the fish. We had 23 boats and 55 warriors participating in this year's event. 14 keeper Stripers were caught and for many participants, it was a personal best fish.

- Brian Tsai



10 April: Invited to fish with fellow Norfolk Anglers Beth & Kevin Synowiec, and Matt Smith on the "ClassicRockfish" for a trip to the Triangle Reef for Tautog with an alternate plan for fishing the Norfolk Canyon.

Though the Taugs were biting, we didn't land many keeper sized fish. We tagged and release the undersized Taugs and all the Sea Bass and moved on to the alternate plan knowing that we'd likely deal with a few Spiny Dogfish Sharks. And, ... we did pull our share



of Dogfish to the boat.

We used circle hooks and double dropper rigs rigged with cut bait and crabs and pulled up a few Golden Tilefish, including this pair of nice Golden Tiles from 1,176 ft. That was a lot of cranking! Kevin also boated a nice sized Blackbelly Rosefish.

Thanks Beth & Kevin for having me along. It was the perfect day to be on the water with friends!

- Will Bransom



29 April: Mike Hubert took Rob Slaton. Scott Schelke, Dustin Rodgers, and Derick Rodgers (in town from Montana visiting his son) Tautog fishing on a Saturday on the Magic Carpet.

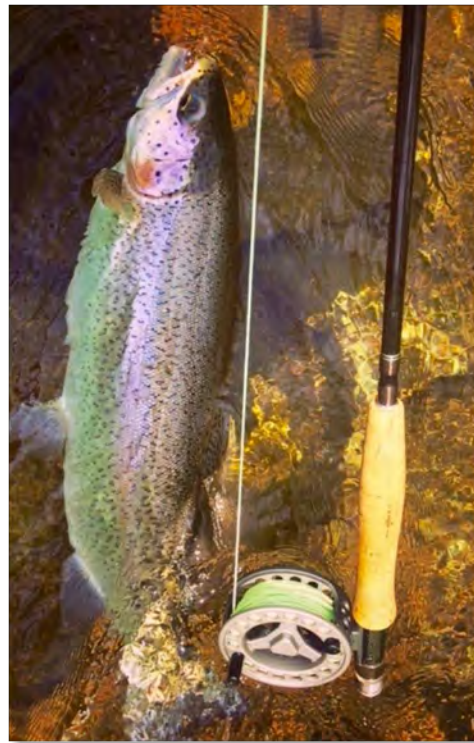
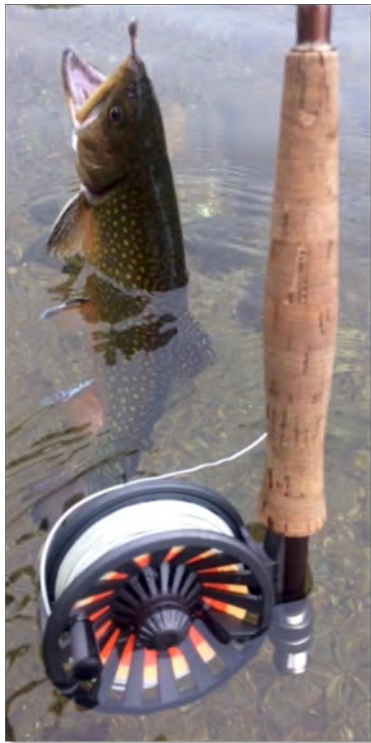
We left Little Creek at 7:15am after getting fiddler crabs (\$3.50 a doz) at C=Tackle in Norfolk. Conditions were rough and the current was ripping pretty hard so we trolled around the 3rd to try to catch a couple Bluefish or maybe a Drum.

We were using Old Salty #1 and #2 planers with about 25' of 30# mono leader to a 0 Drone spoon with gold flash and a #1 Clark silver spoon. We had 3 Bluefish in the boat in about 20 minutes and lost a couple others at the boat, then the bite turned off when the current slacked off.

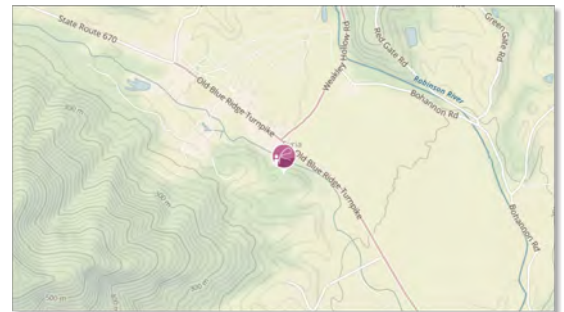
The 3rd had a lot of boats anchored on it so we went south looking for a place calm enough for a new saltwater fishermen to fish. The 1st island looked like that place to me so we anchored there very close to the rocks over the tube. I mistakenly thought the stiff south west wind would keep us off the rocks and I had to back off to keep from hitting them. As I was backing down, I backed the anchor and rode right off the boat. So that was the end to our Tautog day since I only had one wreck anchor on board.

We tried drifting for Flounder but had no luck with that. While drifting one of my bilge pumps failed so that really was the the end of the day for us. *Rob, Dustin, Derick and Scott are great guys and are welcome on my boat anytime.* - Mike Hubert

19 April: Fished for about 40 minutes on a Wednesday night with a strong outgoing tide on the James River. I caught 9 Stripers on the fly rod. Larger ones were 12-13 inches.



27 - 28 April: I fished Rose River Farm near Syria, Virginia. This is a stocked private stretch of the river, all fly fishing and all catch and release. Here are a couple representative photos.
- Jack Salvant Jr., M.D.



29 April: I caught a Bluefish in the surf at Frisco, NC in the 4x4 Tournament that ended at 8am on the 30th. It might be 1st place. I caught it using cut mullet on a BlueFish rig, 8 3/4 lb 34 3/8. - Jerry Hughes



Mike Delbridge caught this Barracuda in the Florida Keys (Dry Tortugas) on light tackle using a crank bait.

I GOT THE RUDEE BLUES

Although I think the NC chopper blue bite is still better, it has been going strong for 3+ weeks now, I finally got into my share of the action in VA Beach. On Thursday night, the 27th. I was trolling a 5 inch Yo-Zuri Crystal minnow by a lightline and was hooked onto what was my PB fish from a kayak. I didn't get the exact measure since my speck ruler maxes out at 25 inches, but I can reasonably predict that it was about 29 inches fork length and well over 30 total length.

The hit felt like snagging a rock, but there was a slight headshake. On the initial run, it took off at least 15 yards of line. I was also in 30' of water, where it could charge down deep. It towed me around for about 3 minutes before it started doing circles. Sometime 4 minutes later, I landed the beast. It was my kayak PB.



I kept this one because it couldn't seem to be revived. The following day I decided to use a plastic lip gripper and troll the fish around before letting it go, it swam off in a strong manner.

The next day I got off work relatively early, around 3:30pm and got on the water by 5:30pm. I started trolling and hooked on a new PB Bluefish within 15 minutes. As expected, this fish tolled me around. However, I eventually got it under control and landed the beast.



Later on the day I decided to try to fish for Puppy Red. After hitting the third grass bed with no hits, I decided to go back to blue-fishing. After all, I have all of spring, summer, and fall for Reds, but these Blues may be gone in another week. I might as well enjoy it while it lasts. I did get 2 more smaller Blues around 19 inches that I kept and had 2 other hits that didn't stay on. I was able to release both 30 inch+ Blues the second day successfully. I trolled a 5 inch Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow and a Bomber Windcheater. They seem to have a preference for the Yo-Zuri.
- Brain Tsai



29 April: I was at Fisherman's Island with Kevin on a spontaneous Red Drum trip. We had very little time invested that night and we succeeded to have 3 nice runs and one knockdown. I fought and boated two Reds & Kevin fought a super feisty one that got the last word. It unfortunately wrapped itself in the prop. We were both hoping there was some more fun headed our way that night! :)

- Beth Synowiec



RED DRUM RODEO FISHING TOURNAMENT

MAY 17-21, 2017

A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT TO BENEFIT TIS YOUNG LIFE
BY COASTAL VIRGINIA FISHING TOURNAMENTS



PRIZES

1st Prize: \$5,000

2nd Prize: \$1,000

Plus other prizes to be awarded

REGISTRATION

Individual: \$75.00

Junior (18 & under): \$45

Boat (up to 6 anglers): \$250
(before May 1st / \$300 after)

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Red Drum Rodeo, presented by Coastal Virginia Fishing Tournaments

Family Friendly Charity Red Drum Tournament in Virginia Beach

When: Tournament runs May 17th through 21st, with the Captain's Meeting the evening of May 16th and an Awards Ceremony May 21st

Where: Boats can leave from anywhere, however our Tournament Director is based at Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA

How Much: \$250 to enter a boat (Captain plus 5 Anglers) before May 1st, \$300 After May 1st. Individual Anglers are \$75, with Junior Anglers (<18 years old) only \$45

How to Sign Up: Register online at <https://coastalvafishing.com/sign-up-here/>

Important Details: Top prize of \$5,000 to the Largest Red Drum by Length, \$1,000 second place prize! Additional prizes will be awarded to the top Junior and Female Anglers, along with other unique prizes and giveaways throughout the tournament. Tournament will be catch and release, using photo entries to judge the length of the fish (IGFA approved measuring devices will be issued at Captain's Meeting). All proceeds go to support Tidewater Independent School's Young Life, a unique ministry targeted to meet the needs of teenagers and young adults in the Hampton Roads area.

