



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

NOVEMBER 2018

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: *Dominion Offshore Wind Project*, Mr Wolfgang Rain

Fishing Tips: *Red Drum*, Captain Al Bunnell

Fishing Reports:

- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Spanish Mackerel, Croaker, Tautog, Flounder, Bull Red Drum
- HRBT: Striped Bass, Speckled Trout, Bluefish
- Inshore Wrecks/Tiger: Bluefish, Flounder, Triggerfish, Black Sea Bass
- Inshore/Tower Reef: Triggerfish, Black Sea Bass, Tautog, Sheepshead, Bluefish
- Lynnhaven River: Spot, Croaker, Striped Bass
- Little Creek Inlet: Speckled Trout,
- Nansemond River/James River: Striped Bass
- Maryland: Striped Bass
- Mexico: Mutton Snapper
- North Carolina/Nags Head Surf Fishing: Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel
- North Carolina/ Hatteras: Dolphin, Wahoo, Flounder
- Florida/Daytona Beach: Redfish

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Congratulations to Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr. for his selection for the Peacemaker Award at Christ the King School. "AJ" was recognized by his classmates for his sharing, caring, generosity and quiet leadership style. Well Done "AJ, we're very proud of you!

The Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy drive is off to a good start! With only two meetings remaining for collections Sea Tow Hampton Roads will be collecting new and unwrapped toys. All toys collected benefit local children through the Marine Corps Toys-For-Tots Program.



Many of our club members were involved and contributed to the initial Dominion Offshore Wind Energy surveys asking for fishing areas and travel routes. The Dominion Offshore Wind Project has moved forward and is scheduled for its test project two years from now. Joining us at the November meeting is Mr. Wolfgang Rain to share their progress and expectations for the coming years. There's been much speculation about the project's scope and impact so this is a great opportunity to get first hand knowledge of the project.

- Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: *Dominion Offshore Wind Project*

Wolfgang Rain will be our guest speaker. Wolfgang is the fisheries liaison for the Dominion Offshore Wind Project. He will give us an update on the test project planned off the coast of Virginia in the summer of 2020. Referred to as the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project ("CVOW"), it will consist of 2 six-megawatt wind turbines located 27 miles off of Virginia Beach. His talk will include a general overview of the project, its current status, and other related topics of particular interest to the fisheries community.

Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 12 November at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

Publishers NOTES

Editor:

Wendy Bransom

wbranfildes@gmail.com

NAC OFFICERS

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Member at Large:

Alex Perez

Webmaster:

Pat Hirsch

pfhirsch@yahoo.com

Email us at;

NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

NORFOLK ANGLERS





Sea Tow Hampton Roads and The Local Angler Clubs will be collecting toys this year for the “Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive”. We will be collecting toys that are new and un-giftwrapped. Last year we were able to collect over 1,440 toys due to the Angler Clubs tremendous participation. The only thing we are asking of club members is to bring a toy to your monthly Angler’s Club meeting in the months of November and December. Sea Tow Hampton Roads will attend your meeting each month and collect the toys. If for some reason you don’t make the monthly meetings, you can visit www.facebook.com/SeaTowHamptonRoads for locations where drop off boxes are available.

In December everyone will be invited to our office for hot apple cider, donuts & pizza and we will stuff the Sea Tow Boat with toys that we collected. The Marines from Toys for Tots will come to the Sea Tow office and receive the toys. We would like to get a group shot of all clubs surrounding the Sea Tow boat stuffed with toys. This date will be determined when the time gets closer.

Every little bit helps and will make someone’s holiday a little brighter. Thank-you again for all of your support. **REMINDER:** For each toy you donate at your monthly meeting your name goes into a drawing for prizes. If you have any questions or know of anyone who would like a box to collect toys you may contact Karen or Ed Schrader at 757-496-1999.



NAC Fall Social 2018



The NAC Fall Social on 20 OCT 2018 was a fun event. Even though it rained earlier in the day, we were all dry! Thanks Will Bransom, Mike Hubert and Greg Roger for setup and takedown. Thanks to our cooks and everyone who brought side dishes and deserts! Of course everyone loved the food. Will's special bean recipe and Beth's soup were favorites. Our cooks worked especially hard, Greg Rogers, Will Bransom, Henry & Mary Troutner, Joe Miller and Ike, Thanks! Everyone had a great time visitiing each other, the day was an event to remember! Thanks for the pictures Wendy.





Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com



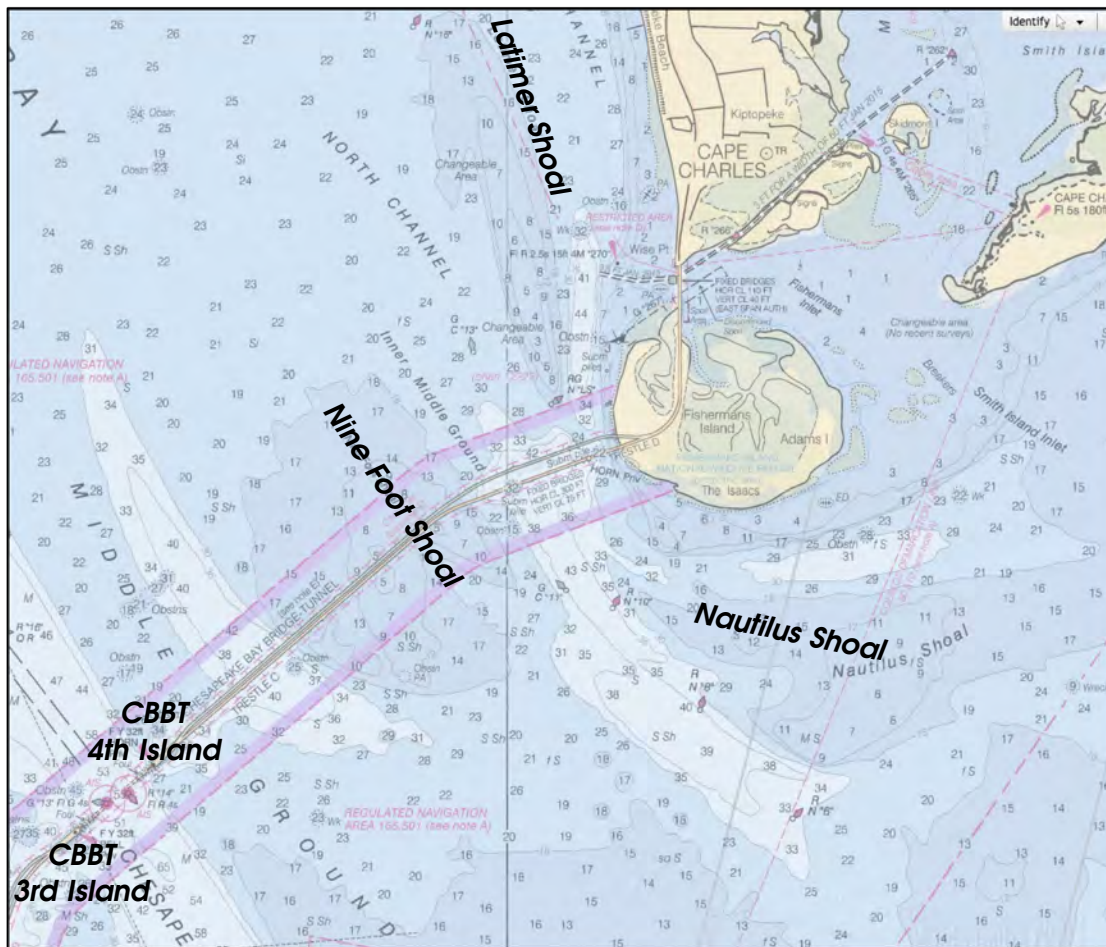
Fishing Tips...

Red Drum Fishing with Capt Al Bunnell

From mid-spring through early fall fishing in Hampton Roads offers anglers an opportunity to catch trophy size Red Drum. Also known as Channel Bass and Redfish, Red Drum larger than 46 inches are eligible for a release citation from the Virginia Saltwater Gamefish Tournament. Unlike earlier times when Herman Moore landed the Virginia State Record Red Drum, today there's only a release citation based on total length. Anglers may keep Red Drum, or Puppy Drum as the smaller Red Drum are known, in the 18-26 inch size class.

Captain Al Bunnell shared he'll target big Red Drum as early as April if there's a full moon late in the month, otherwise the month of May kicks off the drum fishing season in our area. It's more about lunar phase, a full or new moon, and time of the year (April/May) than water temperature. This is the early part of their migration into Hampton Roads and Al will fish the shallower waters in early season and often on the ebb tide.

Fish the "Meat Funnel" he advised, meaning an area where naturally flowing water and bottom contour brings food to the Red Drum. The drum will take advantage of the flowing water and ambush the small baitfish, crabs, and other crustaceans that get swept by. Popular Red Drum areas are the shoals off the southern Eastern Shore;



Nautilus Shoal, Nine Foot Shoal, and Latimer Shoal, as well as the islands around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

Anglers should look to position their boat to fish several water depths and deploy baits in multiple areas until you're dialed in to where the drum are feeding.

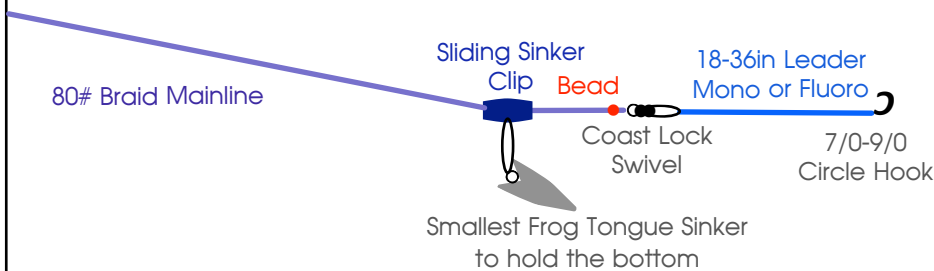
Capt Bunnell strongly advises to check out the area you're planning on fishing *before* you head out to anchor around the shoals. Knowing a safe route in and out of the shoals, as well as, being prepared when things don't go as planned can be the difference between a good day fishing and disaster.

Often anglers will fish the shoal areas late afternoon or evenings, having a known track on your chartplotter will help guide you around the shoals. Always have a throwable preserver ready if someone ends up in the water. The swift moving water will quickly carry them away from the boat and the shoals will make it nearly impossible to maneuver to them directly. Have a plan if your anchor rode parts and have a VHF radio on the boat to contact others for assistance.

At Anchor

Rigging for fishing at anchor is a straight forward fish finder rig. Capt Bunnell uses 80# with a sinker slide, a bead, tied to a coast lock swivel. The coast lock or snap swivel is used to quickly replace the leader and hook without having to re-tie anything on the boat. The leader is 18-36 inches of mono or fluorocarbon leader snelled to a 7/0-9/0 circle hook with a surgeons loop to the snap swivel. Hook sizes varies depending on the size of the bait. A frog tongue sinker, as light as possible to hold the bottom, is attached to the sinker slider. The benefit of the frog tongue style sinkers is the cutout performs much like an anchor and hold firmly in the sand. When fishing the tidal flow or breakers, bank sinkers, bell sinkers, or teardrop style sinkers are likely to roll and tangle your rig.

Red Drum Anchored Rig



Drift Fishing

Fishing on the drift allows you to cover more ground and fish over top some of the rocky bottoms found around the bridge tunnel islands and pilings, where anchoring is not advised. There's primarily two rigs used for drifting for Red Drum; a 3-way swivel rig and an Egg sinker rig. As with the rig mentioned previously, use the least amount of sinker possible to hold the bottom, typically 1-3 ounces is all that's needed. Hook size is matched to the bait size but typically a 7/0 J-Hook works for all baits. Capt Bunnell prefers to fish the up current side of the CBBT islands so that the current draws the bait toward the islands. He cautions to be aware of how the current sweeps around the ends of the islands and the quick moving current will pull your bait where you don't want it.

Red Drum Drifting Rigs



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Fishing Tips...

The Bait

For early season fishing Blue Crab and Peeler Crabs are the bait of choice. When Spot come in later, they're another great choice for live baiting Red Drum. Dead bait includes large mullet cut into chunks and bluefish.

Crabs are prepared by first cutting off the sharp tips of their shell. When fishing in a fast current, Capt Bunnell will use a whole crab and place the hook up through one of the ends of the crab. Placing the hook this way will minimize the chance the crab will spin when on the bottom. For slower moving current he'll place the hook up through the apron and through the center top of the shell. As with any of the hook placements, be sure to leave plenty of the hook exposed. Another tip he shared was to crack the shell with light foot pressure to soften the crab and allow more of the crab scent into the water.

To fish cut pieces of crab, first remove the shell and claws, then insert the hook through a knuckle and out through the meaty portion of the crab. Be sure to leave plenty of the hook exposed. This works great for 1/2 or 1/4 crab pieces. To

eliminate the cut crab from spinning in the current, use a small rubber band to secure the legs against the hook shank.

Live Spot, Bluefish, and Cob Mullet are all great bait choices for Red Drum. Any size live Spot hooked up through the jaw and out a nostril or rigged through both nostrils will work well.

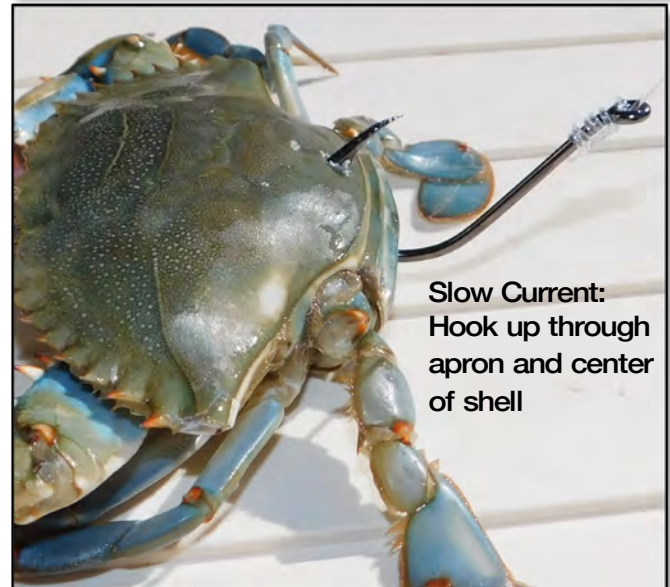
To prepare your Bluefish and Mullet cut perpendicular to the spine in about 1 1/2-2 inch wide pieces. What you're looking for is guts, blood, and slim on every bait. Place the hook securely with plenty of hook point exposed. Be sure to use the head and everything but the tail, which doesn't seem to work that well.



Clip off the sharp tips of the shell



Fast Current:
Hook up through edge of shell



Slow Current:
Hook up through apron and center of shell



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Fishing Tips...

Artificial Lures for Red Drum

It's surprising to many anglers to throw artificial lures to large Red Drum, but it works! When you're anchored and waiting for the bite, rigging a spinning reel with a LB Huntington 3 1/2 Double Bladed Spoon is an effective



way to cover more of the fishing area. The doubled bladed spoons are heavier and have enough casting weight to get some distance. Use a slow retrieve so that you can feel the spoon flutter as it comes in. Capt Bunnell advised that gold and yellow lures seem to always do the best on the Drum. He'll also throw Storm Lures but advises the hooks aren't that strong.

Another tactic to consider in mid-summer when there's a full moon is slow trolling along the barrier island of the Eastern Shore. Set up in about 12 feet of water (not in the breaking water) and troll a slow speed, like you would for Rockfish, with an in-line sinker and a spoon. Al's preferred lure is the Hopkins 550 Hand-Hammered Gold Spoon rigged to a 1-3 ounce in-line

Capt Bunnell recommended bending the tips of your in-line sinkers up to prevent them from spinning. You'll want the in-line barrel swivels to minimize twisting the line but bending the loop ends of the sinkers up will keep the weight from twisting too.

Another trolling lure to consider is the Rebel Jawbreaker Lure (ST3) in their Mackerel color combination (024). The ST3 is a well made trolling lures about 5 3/4 inches long. Rebel's original Jawbreaker lure set them apart from the competition by molding swivels into the underbody of the lure to attach to 3/0 treble hooks. The swivel kept the lure swimming true however, their new product line of lures are similar but lack the molded swivel. You can still find a few of the original Jawbreaker lures online and a few tackle shops, they're worth looking for.



Help to protect the fishery

Large Red Drum are a trophy catch fishery, all Red Drum outside the 18-26 inch slot size must be released. After a fight, especially in warmer water, the Red Drum are exhausted and need to be revived. Anglers can help protect this fishery by minimizing long fights by using heavier tackle and rods, proper handling of the fish from netting to release, and ensuring it's fully revived before you let it go.

With a large Red Drum alongside, de-hooking and reviving it before release without removing it from the water is best. If it's brought into the boat, support the fish with a net when lifting, never place your hands in the gills, and keep the fish upright and body supported. It can be surprising how long it takes to revive a large drum alongside the boat, sometimes 30 minutes or more! To revive the fish keep it facing into the current with steady water flushing over the gills until it's strong enough to swim away from you.



Peacemaker Award for AJ

Karen Schrader was looking at Facebook when she came across Alex "AJ" Perez being given the Peacemaker Award. She notified Wendy Bransom who contacted AJ's Father, Alex Perez Sr., asking for more information about this honorable award.

Alex Perez Sr. stated he was very proud of his son. This was something AJ's classmates voted him for and he had no knowledge of it until his name was called. We wanted to share this with the rest of the NAC Members since this is very special!



Christ the King School
3401 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23509

PEACEMAKER AWARD

NAME: Alex Perez GRADE: 8th

REASON FOR YOUR SELECTION:

The Peacemaker for 8th grade is Alex Perez.

If someone were to look in the American Heritage Dictionary for the definition of generosity, they would discover that it means "one who is liberal in giving and sharing." This does indeed describe Alex. He freely gives and shares his snacks, his school supplies, and his love of coin collecting with everyone around him. But there is a deeper level to Alex's generosity. He quietly shares his time and talent, his energy and laughter, and most especially his friendship and leadership. Alex is a quiet leader who provides guidance and direction, not so much by what he says, as by what he does. What a difference Alex is going to make in the world as he grows into the gifts God has given him. Congratulations Alex!

TEACHER: Mrs. Mislan

DATE: October 24, 2018

Christ the King School presented the
Peacemaker Award to Alex Perez Jr., Grade
8th

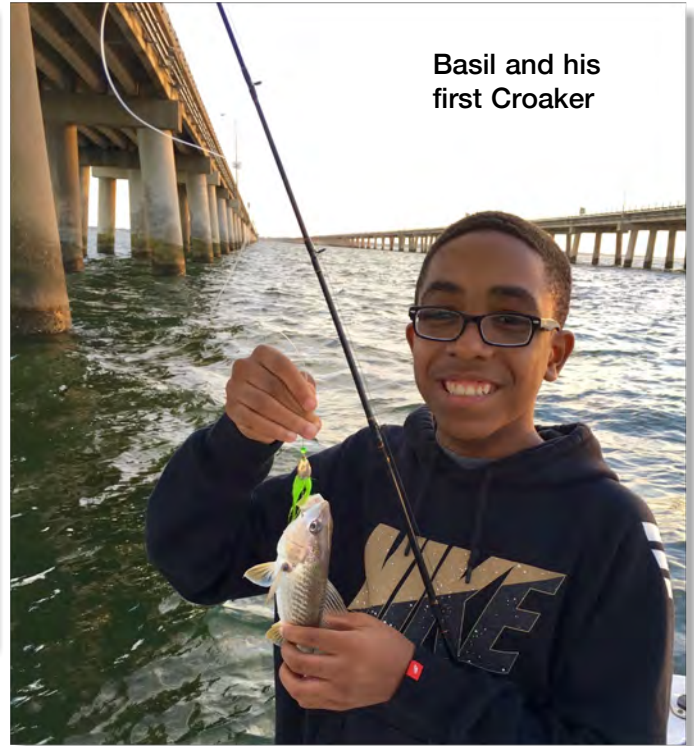
The Reason for Alex "AJ" being selected:

If someone were to look in the American Heritage Dictionary for the definition of generosity, they would discover that it means "one who is liberal in giving and sharing." This does indeed describe Alex. He freely gives and shares his snacks, his school supplies, and his love of coin collecting with everyone around him. But there is a deeper level to Alex's generosity. He quietly shares his time and talent, his energy and laughter, and most especially his friendship and leadership. Alex is a quiet leader who provides guidance and direction, not so much by what he says, as by what he does. What a difference Alex is going to make in the world as he grows into the gifts God has given him. *Congratulations Alex!*

TEACHER: Mrs. Mislan
Date: October 24, 2018



Fishing Reports...



Basil and his first Croaker

1 OCT: I fished the afternoon with Ric Burnley at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) in hopes of catching and releasing small Striped Bass for a project he was working on. We fished the outgoing tide on the pilings and rocks around the island, managing to catch a couple of 15 - 17 inch Stripers using plastic swim baits and a Bomber Wind-Cheater. The fish were holding very close to the rocks making casting a little trickier than normal. We fished until sundown and all fish were released healthy.

2 OCT: AJ invited his friend Basil for an afternoon of fishing at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT). We left Lynnhaven Inlet and began trolling Clark spoons on our way to the bridge. Immediately, we had a Spanish Mackerel bite but it came off before coming into the boat. Once at the bridge, we bottom fished during a slack tide using Bloodworm Fishbites. AJ and Basil enjoyed catching a couple of Croaker before the sun went down, ending the trip.

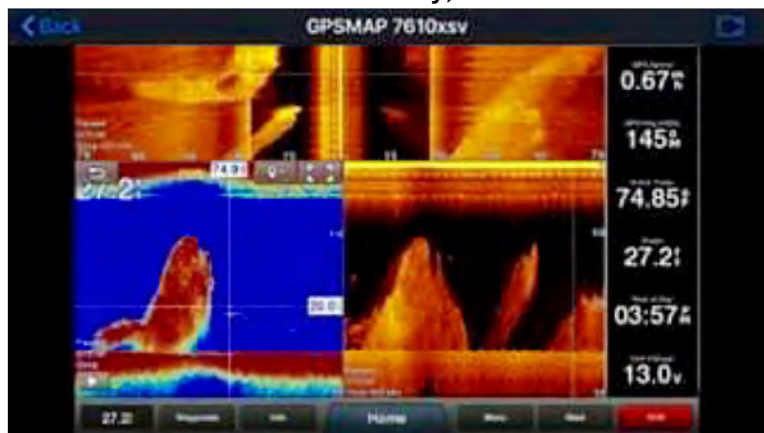
- Alex Perez



Basil and AJ
with a Croaker
double!

MD Striped Bass Report: I ended up in Maryland as part of my ship's crew in support of Maryland Fleet Week 2018. Despite the busy schedule of supporting public tours, I did get an afternoon off to go fishing with one my fishing friends. I have spent my years as a midshipman in Annapolis light tackle fishing for Striped Bass and always try to meet up with friends to fish.

We met up mid afternoon and headed out into the Eastern Bay of Maryland. As expected, we quickly found pods of baitfish. Some of these pods were menhaden, while others were bay anchovies. Most of them were not being attacked by predators. Birds are the easy visual giveaway of feeding fish. Small birds, such as terns, tend to feed on the bay anchovies and signal small stripers feeding. In VA, these could be Bluefish or Spanish Mackerel as well. However, this area tends to be the northward limit of where Spanish are found consistently. For the most part, we will stop and search for marks of larger Stripers. As expected, these "liar" birds were not helping us find the big fish. Larger birds, such as seagulls, gannets, and pelicans, signal bigger stripers feeding on menhaden. For run and gun light tackle fishing, we want to leave the small fish to find the big fish. We quickly got the skunk off the boat with a few dinks off the liar birds. Once we concluded that a school of fish was simply dink city, we moved. Later on, we came across a group of sea gulls feeding on menhaden. These were still small menhaden, but we were confident after seeing some decent size boils. Within 10 seconds of my first cast on this school, I was getting topwater hits on my 6 inch Tsunami Talkin Popper. Pretty soon, it was fish on! I landed 2 fish right around 20 inches on 2 back to back casts. My friend managed another one of similar size jigging a 1 oz jighead and a 6 inch BKD. Unfortunately, this school of fish scattered before we could catch larger fish.



Notice on these sonar images that the bigger humps under the cloud of bait are quality stripers.

stripers up to the 50 inch class on tackle this light. Frank lands his fish right before mine. Not the 30 inch+ big resident fish we always hope for, but it was a quality 25 inches. About 90 seconds later, I pulled my fish up to the surface and it measured 29 inches on the ruler! Most MD summer resident keeper fish average in the low 20 - mid 20 inch range. Any fish over 30 inches is considered big for summer standards. We are still in the



"summer" fish season. 40 inch+ citation migratory fish are relatively common during the spring trophy season and also make an appearance in late fall-winter. We released both fish since it was going to be a C&R trip.

Nevertheless, we would have limited out that evening. Later on, we went up a river and threw topwater lures right at sunset. We continued to pick off dinks. After sunset, we left the fish biting and called it a day.

- Brian Tsai

After making our way towards the mouth of the bay, we came across some more baitfish. After a few minutes of driving in a S search pattern, we started marking fish. After a quick drop, we both pulled up dinks. On the last drop of this stop, I got a big hit right under the boat. After the hit, it ripped about 3-4 yards of drag on the first run. After a second pause, it ripped some more drag. Meanwhile, my friend Frank was also hooked up. His fish took some drag as well. Both of us were using "freshwater bass" gear- fast action 6'6" graphite rods with high speed low profile baitcasters loaded with 10-15 braid. In open water and a drifting boat, a skilled angler can land





First Place Overall - Eastern Virginia Surf Casters.



Most Points Men - Mike Griffith

4-5 OCT: We fished the 67th Annual Nags Head Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament and caught several Bluefish with some over 16" and Spanish Mackerel up to 17" using finger mullet fished on the bottom and by casting metal. The GBFA was also there with a fishing team and caught a few fish.

14 Oct: My buddy Kevin and I ran out to the Tiger Wreck and caught a mixture of Bluefish, Flounder, Triggerfish and Sea Bass while jigging for Flounder. While conducting a quick test of my outriggers I recently rebuilt on the way there, we also caught a large Houndfish.



19 Oct: We did a quick after work trip to the 3rd Island and hooked into 3 Red Drum and several Sharks while drifting live Croakers around the base of the rocks on the ocean side. - Mike Griffith



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Capt. Mike Griffith
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Oct 9: All fishing trips start off with "The Plan", which usually involves talk of just how many Flounder and Black Sea Bass you're going to get, how much ice to bring, who gets the lunch stuff, etc. Seldom does a plan begin with "what's going to break". After all, boats break right? It doesn't matter how meticulous you maintain the boat, sometimes it just breaks. But first the fishing report.

We departed Rudee Inlet boat ramp about 7:15 am and quickly realized the 3 foot swell with 9-10 period just wasn't what we were starting off with. We slugged our way out to the Triangle Reef to make good on "The Plan" arriving on the Submarine Cables in just under two hours. Along with me were fellow Norfolk Anglers, Greg Rogers, Mike Hubert, and Ray Sexton. We drifted for flounder on the Cables and Paddlewheeler reef sites and boated a few and some nice Black Sea Bass. As the Black Sea Bass got smaller we moved over to the Luckenback wreck and picked up a few more Black Sea Bass. We then moved back over to the original two reef sites before trying out the Morgan wreck. As far as "The Plan", we did get Flounder and Black Sea Bass so the plan worked.

Not in the plan was the boat stuff. So, let's back up to the part just past the Chesapeake Light Tower. Mike and I noticed the autopilot was not keeping a tight heading, as it usually does. Of course, the choppy head sea conditions can contribute to that and combined with some re-configuring I recently did on the system, we figured it just needed a few adjustments and we'd be fine. It slowly got worse and about 3nm from the Triangle reef I discovered the source of the problem. One of the hydraulic steering seals was failing and leaking the hydraulic fluid in a slowleak. So, most of the day while fishing the Triangle Reef, steering was an issue to say the least. By the time we were fishing the Morgan Mike and I made the decision to call it quits and head for Rudee Inlet. We topped off the system a number of times during the transit with spare hydraulic fluid I keep on the boat but the problem was keeping enough fluid in the system for reliable steering, especially when entering the inlet. We stopped just before entering port and refilled the system, gave a quick steering check, rigged the anchor for a quick deployment in case it was needed and made our way into Rudee Inlet.

So keep in mind that boats break. On my hydraulic steering system I use a SeaStar alternative hydraulic fluid, which is an aircraft hydraulic fluid and is dyed red. Unlike the clear steering fluid used in most systems, the red hydraulic fluid makes it easy to spot a leak (It's also about 1/2 the cost). What's also important is to keep onboard a fill system that screws into the helm station fill/vent fitting. I didn't have mine on the boat which made refilling the system a challenge but doable.



The most important take-away from this is to always assess your situation, the conditions, and your ability. Had this been a night transit or rough weather getting in to Rudee Inlet, I would've been calling SeaTow Hampton Roads for assistance. I was fortunate to have a very experienced crew, good sea conditions for entering the inlet in daylight, and able to verify the operation of the steering system before attempting the transit. Thanks Mike, Greg, and Ray for a day fishing offshore.....a trip we won't forget any time soon. - Will Bransom

2 OCT: Mary, Kaitlin and George from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, fished a wreck by the Tower Reef. When we first got anchored. we missed the wreck and didn't catch anything for about 15 minutes. We moved a little to get on top of it and the bite was on. We were into a real nice class of Triggers and were catching them on every drop. After about an hour, Mary reminded me that I had to clean what we were catching so we stopped keeping anymore fish. We fished for another hour catching Triggers, Sea Bass, Tautog, Sheepshead and Bluefish. The bait was squid and fiddlers. - Henry Troutner



23 OCT: John from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, my daughter Kate and I fished the Chuckatuck for a couple hours on a nice Tuesday. We caught 5 shorts Stripers, 16" - 18" and one Catfish. All were on stretch 20's, tiger and purple black color. - Henry Troutner



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22 OCT: Russell and I went fishing with Bob Stuhlman starting on the 3rd Island of the CBBT looking to catch a big Red Drum before they left the bay. Launching out of Lynnhaven Marina it was windy to start but it quickly settled down as we set the bunker on each rod. Russell was first up and within the first half of the hour he got a run that was clearly a red. A quick fight ended with the drum in the net and it measured 41 inch, a club citation size. It was easily released and swam away quickly. Next up was me and in no time I had a drum on my rod. But just as it got next to the boat he pulled off the hook. After that only small sharks took our baits over the next several hours but no more reds despite repositioning and constant re-baiting until we were out of bait. So we moved back to the Lynnhaven and started to fish for Speckled Trout. In the Broad Bay Canal we picked up a few shorts but again Russell had the fish that counted, two 14 inch fish released since we didn't want any to take home. We ended a beautiful day and okay catching for Russell but not for Bob or me. - James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



6 OCT: I took my buddy Jimmy Overton on our annual Spot trip. He won the pot for the outstanding catch of the day. We caught over 40, mostly nice sized ones. I kept 8 for our dinner. I think it made Fran happy.
- James Robinson



Game Fish Tagging Program
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Tag Number: 398403

Tagger: JIM ROBINSON

Hometown: VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Date Tagged: 2018-09-12
Species: 3450 - Speckled Trout
Location: 1270 - Lynnhaven River
Fork Length: 0.00
Total Length: 9.50
Release Weight: 0.00
Bait Type: Artificial
Bait Other:
Fish Condition: good
Hook: Removed
Double Tag No.:
Remark:

They Travel Fast

Date	Release Location	Length	Fate	Condition
1. JUSTIN MAY - WANCHESSE NC	2018-09-25 Pamlico Sound, Swan Qtr. Area	TL 10.00 in.	RELEASED W/OUT TAG	good

Remark: Fish caught in Juniper Bay
Species: Speckled Trout
Days Out: 398403/13

Thank You for Participating in Virginia's Game Fish Tagging Program
Report Tagged Fish at www.virginiagov.com then click the link "Report Tagged Fish."

26 OCT: When these guys (Speckled Trout) decide to travel they don't mess around.



THE DUCK FAMILY FISHING ADVENTURE



June: We caught Dolphin out of Teaches Lair, Hatteras NC, we were south to the rock pile. The bait used was small and medium Ballyhoo trolling using chartreuse Pink, Blue, and white lures.



We took a trip to Mexico and had a lot of fun. We caught these Mutton Snappers off the coast of Riviera Maya, Mexico using cut bait.



These latter pictures of Dolphin and Wahoo were take in August and September. We left out of Teaches Lair, Hatteras NC. We went about 10 miles from the rock pile and trolled back in for the Wahoo and then ran for grass line around noon to troll for Dolphin. Bait used was small ballyhoo for the dolphin on chartreuse pink, blue and yellow dolphin weenies.

When finding a school of baler dolphin we used squid, and cut up old ballyhoo bait. For the wahoo we used planners and islanders off the shot gun. We used wired leaders with red and black, and purple and black lures with medium ballyhoo.



The Flounders were caught in the sound between Frisco and Hatteras Village, NC. We giggered for the Flounders using one barbed gigs and flounder light in ankle to knee deep sanding bottom areas. This was our first season Flounder giggering and now we are hooked. The first trip was the last week in August, and the other trips were in September and Early October. We have been told by the locals that the best time to Flounder gig is November as the Flounders move out of the sound to the ocean, we will let you know.

- Rebecca & Lenard Duck



2 OCT: I fished with Doug Wilburn in Little Creek on a nice morning and caught 2 Speckled Trout. We had lots of throwbacks!
- Louis Glaser



15 OCT: I am awfully proud of my nephew Austin who took the boat out on a afternoon and caught a 19" Speckled Trout on a Mr 27 Mirror Lure in Little Creek. We had lots of small ones.
- Louis Glaser



19 OCT: I had a mixed bag when I went Spot fishing. Sonny had two keepers (barely) Trout. Jimmy was happy, as you can see with the Spot. Also a few decent size Crocker. - Jimmy Robinson



23 OCT: After landing over 200 dink Speckled Trout from shore on base in a weeklong span, I finally managed this decent 17.5 inch Speckled Trout. It is nowhere near citation size, but an encouraging sign that the fishery will recover after last winter's freeze. If anyone wants to join me for some Speckled Trout fishing after work, let know. When the current is running, they are biting! It is not uncommon to get fish on back to back casts.

- Brian Tsai



10 OCT: I fished with Bert Whitt and Judge Raven from Michigan in Little Creek. We caught lots of throwbacks and 2 keepers. Judge Raven caught the 23" Speckled Trout on a 6" grub.

- Louis Glaser

23 OCT: I fished for Puppy Drum in the Creek and got this nice Striper. I lost a good size Flounder at the boat, it was 18-19". No takers on the Drum.

- Jimmy Robinson



Tagged Tog



14 OCT: On a Sunday I fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) looking for Sheepshead and Flounder. I brought with me two dozen Fiddler Crabs and a few Bluefish strips for bait. Using a Carolina rig and a 3/0 hook I "piling hopped" hoping to find one that was holding Sheepshead. I didn't find any but was able to catch six Tautog from 13 to 16 inches. All were tagged and released healthy. As the incoming tide increased in speed, I switched to a Bluefish strip on a pink squid skirt bounced off the bottom. I quickly caught a 20 inch Flounder, which I tagged and released for karma. I never caught another fish other than Toadfish. I did have what I believe was a Red Drum grab a strip and wrap me around the pilings only to break off.

- Alex Perez

7 OCT: I heard reports of a thick weed line loaded with dauphin so we made a run out. Just prior to the triple buoys we ran into the weed line. We picked up one gaffer trolling and spent a little time casting with nothing to show. We continued to the Triple buoys where we trolled up a gaffer and a couple chickens, a false albacore, and a few small jacks. We continued to the Norfolk where there were at least a dozen boats trolling. We fished amongst them for a while but didn't see anyone else catch anything. We picked up to head to a wreck for Sea Bass and on the way we passed another good size weed line. Between trolling and casting we picked up another gaffer then started casting. We caught another small Dolphin but the real surprise was the huge schools of trigger fish that were just under the weed line. While attempting to bail dolphin hundreds of triggers would follow our jigs right up to the boat. Unfortunately their mouths were too small to get hooked on the jigs. On the way in we stopped at a wreck and caught 50 - 60 of nice Black Sea Bass. We didn't get in until after 8:00 pm so I was too tired to bother with photos of dead fish. - Henry Troutner



2 OCT: I finally got a decent mess of good size Spot. It was a slow pick all through Long Creek but it was worth the effort. *The little Croaker is still a pest!*

- James Robinson





16 OCT: The day started windy with rain and an incoming tide. Coast Guard Auxiliary buddy calls and says he's going Striper fishing. He didn't expect to catch anything with the conditions but did I want to tag along. Sure, when you're not expecting to catch anything it will be a great day. It turned out good. We caught 3 keepers up to 27+, lost one at the boat and had one short, which went back. The fish were stuffed with peanut bunker. Oh, all the fish were caught on Stretch 20's. Blue or red/white. - Henry Troutner

22 OCT: I made a late morning trip to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) on an outgoing tide using Gotcha brand curly tail grubs in a pearl white color and a white with a hot pink tail. The jig head of choice was a 3/8 ounce, red in color. Drifting between the two bridges, I caught Speckled Trout up to 13.5 inches which were tagged and released. On the back side of the West bound bridge, I found a 21 inch Striper which was released healthy. The Trout bite continued for half an hour after the outgoing tide started flowing at full speed. There were many small Bluefish chewing up the plastic lures. - Alex Perez



Speckled Trout, tagged and released



Rockfish (Striper) released for another day.

Daytona Beach

Michel and I visited our friends, Bob and Jerri Krebs at their Daytona Beach condo during the 2nd and 3rd week in October. When we arrived Hurricane Michael was coming on shore on the west side of Florida. We had minor effects from the hurricane for the 1st 2 days then the weather settled down to sunny and warm. While there, Bob and I chartered 2 half-day fishing trips during the 1st week with Captain Ron Hatcher. We targeted mainly Redfish (Red Drum) and to a lesser degree Snook and Speckled Trout. Bob and I caught several Redfish in the 35 to 40 inch class fishing the Ponce Inlet. Live small croakers was the bait of choice on a 4/0 circle hook and 2-3 oz inline barrel sinker.



Ned and I had planned on staying only 1 week but the weather was so glorious and staying in a 7th floor condo overlooking Daytona Beach was fabulous. Norfolk weather was in the 50's and Daytona was 85 degrees....staying longer was a no-brainer. We stayed on the portion of Daytona Beach that people couldn't drive on. That was mostly because there were many turtle nests on our stretch of beach. Everyone in the building had to make certain their drapes were drawn at night so as not to disturb the turtles. Really Cool!!! Ned suggested we charter a half-day trip during the 2nd week with the same Captain. We had great success catching several Redfish over 40 inches; *I, as usual, out-fished Ned by catching the biggest Redfish....43 inches.*

We came back to Norfolk with a tan and wearing shorts. Brrrrrrrr!! *We can't wait to go back again!*

- Michel & Ned Smith



4th Week of October Little Creek Trout Summary

I have fished almost every single day after work in Little Creek. The numbers of trout are impressive, but the size remains lacking. Keepers are out there, but it is about a 1:12 ratio. However, I have noticed the increased numbers of keepers after every cold front. Also, the dinks are getting fatter. I always start with a 1/4 oz jighead and a soft plastic paddletail. Once the fish were biting, I would change to other lures.

So far the following lures work:

paddletail - just about any brand and any color in 3-4 inch sizes

Gulps - mullet, shrimp, sand eel

Mirrolure 52MR

Mirroline

Rapala X Rap

Yo-Zuri 3D Minnow

Strike King Suspending Shiner

Bass Kandy Delight

Rapala Sub Walk

Rapala Husky Jerk

Storm Shad

Tsunami Shad

25 OCT HRBT

I thought I had everything planned out when I decided to do a week night HRBT kayak trip. Sea gulls were all over the lights. However, it was just bluefish feeding on baitfish. I did not see any stripers in the lightlines and could not keep the bluefish off the hook. I will try again next week.

27 OCT Rudee

I fished from an hour before sunset to 2 hours after sunset. The fish were holding in Lake Wesley before dark. After dark, I could not get a bite in the open. On my way back in, I worked several of the lighted docks with some luck. On my third stop, I had a big hit on the DOA Shrimp. After a minute long fight, I landed a 19 inch Striper. I would land 4 more dink specks doing this.

28 OCT Rudee and Little Creek

After a failure launch attempt at Sandbridge, I had to give up drum fishing and go to Rudee. During my surf launch attempt, I lost my bait- large mullet, cutting board, and knife. My rods and other tackle were inside the kayak, but I knew I was out of luck without bait. Nevertheless, I knew the specks were stacked in Rudee. Sure enough, they were stacked. Again, it was dink city all over Lake Wesley. However, it was a steady pick of keeper trout.



I saw 2 nice trout landed, but most fisherman were catching and releasing dinks. It was also extremely crowded by late morning. I left with 2 keepers and headed to Little Creek. It was a 3 hour non-stop / fish on every cast outing in Little Creek. I finished the day with 2 more keepers.

- Brian Tsai

