

**THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB**

# **WIRELINE**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

## **What's Inside**

No November meeting scheduled, time for the Club Member's Fall Social!

Fishing Tips: Speckled Trout Fishing with Mike Firestone

### **Fishing Reports;**

- Little Creek: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Chesapeake Bay: Black Sea Bass, Black Drum, Red Drum, Grey Triggerfish
- CBBT: Black Sea Bass
- James River Bridge: Bluefish
- James River/Surry: Blue Catfish
- James River/MMBT: Black Sea Bass, Spot
- Elizabeth River: Red Drum, Speckled Trout, Black Sea Bass
- Chuckatuck: Creek: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout, Ribbon Fish
- Offshore/Norfolk Canyon: Golden Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Black Belly

Rosefish, Bonita

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Mark your calendar for Saturday November 18th. We've got our annual Club Social planned and it's an event you don't want to miss. This is a private event for our members and their families. We're hosting it at the Izaak Walton League Chesapeake clubhouse. As many of you know it's a very nice facility that can accomodate us rain or shine. We have plenty of seafood planned for the event as wel as BBQ. We ask that you consider a side dish or dessert, we'll also provide non-alcoholic drinks. If you didn't sign up at the last meeting please send us an email at [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming, how many, and if you're bringing a side dish/dessert. Have a question about what you can bring, send us a note and we'll let you know what everyone else is bringing. We plan to start serving food at 3:00pm so show up early and get to meet new members and catch up on news.

Remember to check the Club Tournaments Page for your entries into the Prize Fish Program. These can be Fresh or Saltwater entries from Virginia or North Carolina that meet their state citation requirements or our club's minimums.



November marks the last month of our Club Members Speckled Trout Tournament. As we learned from Mike Firestone last month November is a great time to catch the larger trout. You need to be registered before you fish, contact us if you're wanting to fish this tournament.

*Will*

## Club Fall Social

### 2023 Fall Social!!

In lieu of our regular meeting we're having our Member's Fall Social at the Izaak Walton League clubhouse in Chesapeake. This is a Private Event for our Members and their families. As in years past it will feature plenty of seafood, including oysters, crabs, fish, clams, low country boil, BBQ, and lots of fun. Rain or Shine!



## Important:

## November 18, 2023

## NAC Fall Social at the Izaak Walton League, Chesapeake

## Publishers NOTES

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### NORFOLK ANGLERS



[www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com](http://www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com)



## Club Calendar

### November

Sat, Nov 18th: NAC Fall Social (Members Event - Chesapeake)

**Mon, Nov 20th: NO Regular Norfolk Anglers Club Meeting this month. Enjoy the Thanksgiving week holiday**

### December

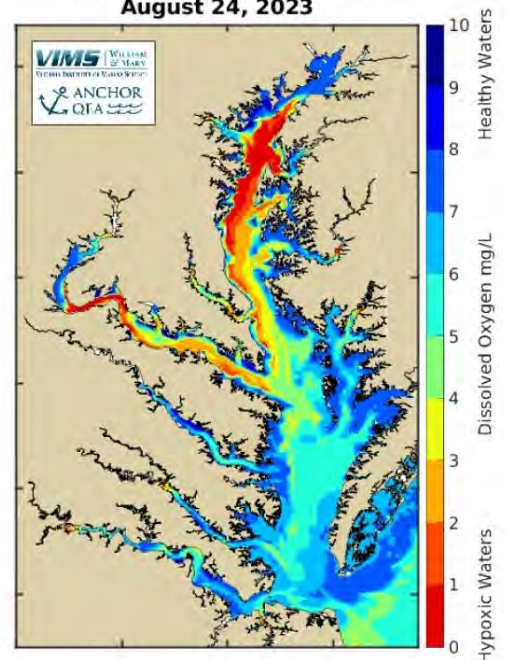
Tues, Dec 5th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Mon, Dec 18th: Norfolk Anglers Club Holiday Party & Gift Exchange, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

# Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

Use our forecasts and real-time "nowcasts" of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms, waves and other environmental factors within the Chesapeake Bay to help plan your fishing! Based on observations and computer models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and partners, these tools accurately predict the current status of important environmental variables and how they are likely to change in the short-term. Check out this free resource to have a more productive day on the water!

**Bottom Oxygen: Nowcast  
August 24, 2023**



<https://www.vims.edu/cbefs/>



## Speckled Trout Club Members ~~Tournament~~ May 1st - November 30th



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$5 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$100 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$50 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at [www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com](http://www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com)) and submitted by email to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto:NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)

### **Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries** **1 January - 31 October 2023**

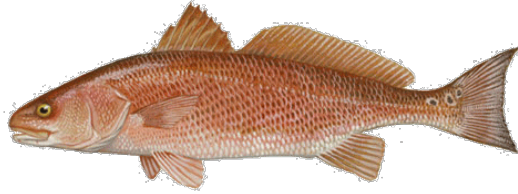
Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (5) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1) Alex Perez, Sr. (1) Henry Troutner (1)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)		
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)		
White Perch	Marty Schriebl (1)	Spadefish	Henry Troutner (2) Mary Troutner (1) John Curry (2)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)		
		Sailfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
		Grey Triggerfish	Henry Troutner (1) Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
		Tautog	Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
		Sheepshead	Will Bransom (1)
		Black Sea Bass	Jere Humphrey (1)
		Black Drum	Alex Perez, Sr. (1)

***For the 2023 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be submitted to [NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



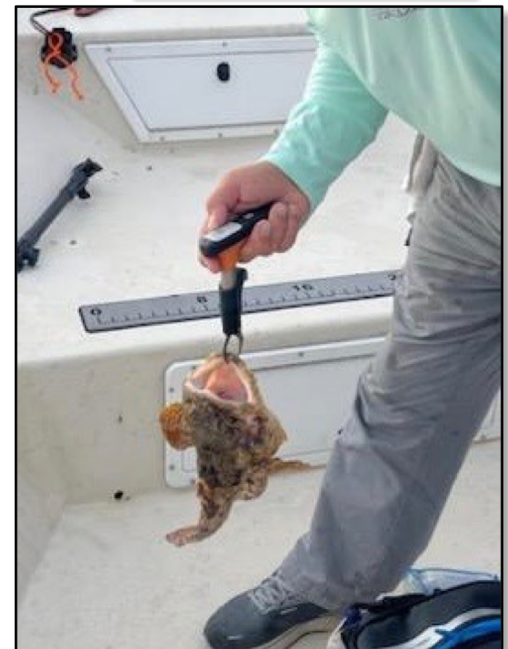
## Oyster Toadfish Tournament

### 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](mailto: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

Capitán Alez Perez, Sr.

"Temporary" Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)





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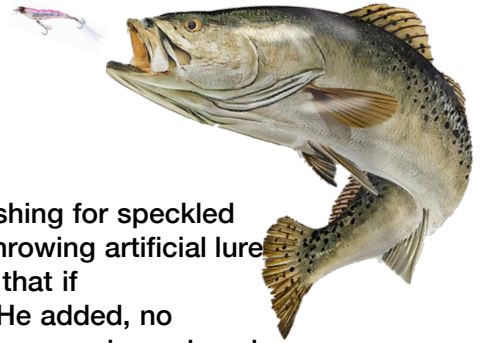
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### Speckled Trout Fishing

with Mike Firestone

Mike Firestone, a Virginia Master Saltwater Angler, with more than 35 years of fishing for speckled trout, shared his angling experience with the Norfolk Anglers Club. Mike prefers throwing artificial lure over live bait and "lives for the *thump* of a fish striking the lure". He recommends that if you're starting off fishing for a species try and fish with the best angler you can. He added, no matter your experience level fishing you will always learn something new from more experienced anglers.



#### Light or Dark lures, Topwater or Bottom

Mike's answer, Yes, Yes, Yes, and Yes, try them all! He shared a general practice of speckled trout anglers to use dark color lures on dark sky days, and lighter color lures on bright sunny days. On a dark overcast/cloudy day he'll start off throwing the MirrOlure® 83MR She Dog lure that has a dark body and chartreuse head (83MR-NSCH). This lure is 4" long, 3/4 ounce, double treble hooks and features a high frequency rattle (image right). Conversely, on bright days the Bone colored (83MR-Glow) She Dog lure is preferred (image left).



Fishing with topwater lures is a great way to locate fish and it's the most exciting way to hook a trout. Nothing beats the visual sensation of watching a speckled trout strike a topwater lure. A common mistake many anglers make with topwater lures is a quick retrieve after a trout strikes and misses the lure. Mike recommends if a hit and a miss occurs to stop the bait and let it remain for a few seconds. This mimics a stunned baitfish and most often the speckled trout will come back for a second strike. Remember, the speckled trout is still out there looking to feed on an easy meal and what's a better target than a "stunned" or "wounded" baitfish on the surface. As the water temperature drops it signals the speckled trout to feed heavy before they begin migrating out. Mike shared the ideal water temperature range is 55-60 degrees. When the water temperature falls into the low 50's the trout will begin to slow down and topwater isn't as successful. When the water gets into the 40 degree range, topwater isn't going to work well and it's time to shift to other tactics.



Suspending lures like MirrOlure's 17MR and 18MR twitch baits are good lures to work within the water column. They're identical in their size, hooks and color options but vary in their weight and suspending depth. The 17MR is a classic speckled trout twitch bait that's designed to slowly sink to a 24 inch depth. The 18MR "Heavy Dine" twitch bait sinks quicker and it designed for 2-5+ foot depths.

Being identical in shape, size and colors, the easiest way to tell them apart in the tackle box is to look for the "Heavy Dine" logo (circled right) on the 18MR. The 17MR lure doesn't have the lettering.



Mike will fish these lures by giving them a few seconds (4-5 count) to suspend lower in the water column before giving them a "Hatteras Hop". Mike describes the *Hatteras Hop* as a quick pop up of the lure and then letting it flutter back down. The quick pop of the lure draws attention and the slow flutter back down mimics a vulnerable bait fish. He added, for speckled trout the slowly sinking flutter is irresistible and an easy meal they won't pass up. MirrOlures® are great lures to use in most conditions but when it comes to *fast* moving water throwing soft baits with jig-heads is a better alternative. MirrOlures just won't sink fast enough in the fast moving water.

In fast moving water "Grubs" or soft plastic lures are a better alternative. Depending on the current, Mike will use as light as 1/4 ounce and in swift moving water up to 3/4 ounce jig-heads. He recommends casting as far up current as possible and as the lure moves with the current use the *Hatteras Hop* method to pop the lure up.



Later in the season when the shrimp are moving in our area Mike recommends trying a Yo-Zuri® Crystal Pink Shrimp (image right). He added, every angler ought to have this lure in their tackle box. He fishes it the same as the MirrOlure 27MR and the Yo-Zuri® 3D Inshore Twitch bait (image right). After pausing to let it sink he'll use a *slow* pop up of the lure and let it sink back and then repeat. Like any hit & miss strike with a speckled trout, let the lure remain for a few second before beginning a retrieve. Mike shared, sometimes the trout will only lightly hit a lure before turning back for a full strike.



Yo-Zuri Crystal Shrimp (Pink)



Yo-Zuri 3D Inshore Twitch bait (Silver Black)

Pure Flats®  
The Slick™



Late season trout fishing and in areas where an angler might want to target fish in the grass beds the Pure Flats® Slick Lure™ (image left) is a good choice. These lures incorporate a Texas Rig style rigging. The hooks have a long elongated shank and feature a hook eye screw to attach the lure. When properly rigged the hook point

will extend upwards through the Slick Lure with the hook point aligning with the top surface. The Owner® Beast™ hook is an example of the style of hook used (image right).



Owner® Beast™  
unweighted Hook

### Speckled Trout Territory

Anglers may find speckled trout in just about any area during the fishing season however, there are natural features that attract fish to an area. Mike recommends taking the time to research the area where you're planning to fish. Use some of the satellite mapping services available and look for certain features. Speckled trout will congregate in areas which hold or funnel baitfish. Areas such as natural outflows from marsh areas on a falling tide, drop offs, ledges, deep channels, oyster beds, and shallow grass beds are all very good areas to fish. Speckled trout are ambush feeders that will use their natural camouflage to hide around oyster and grass beds for their next meal. Outflows and channels will carry baitfish to deeper water and the awaiting trout. Fishing these areas and getting to know how the water moves during changing tidal flows will make for a better angler.



Image courtesy of Google Earth

Mike shared he's not concerned about whether it's high or low tide, it's all about moving water. He prefers to fish the start of the moving tide and fish for a few hours. Knowing how the water moves during change in tidal flow will help guide you on where to set up. The key is to fish the *Moving Water*!



Image courtesy of outdoorever.com



## Rods, Reels, Line and Leaders

Every angler has their favorite rod/reel combination, whatever you feel comfortable with is what you should use. Mike shared his personal preferences for speckled trout fishing and prefers a medium-fast rod seven feet long. He stressed your reel is one of the most important choices and recommends a quality reel with a very good drag. His choice is the Penn Spinfisher 2500 series. After decades of trout fishing he's found the Penn Spinfisher has the drag quality he desires in a durable reel. He sets a light drag and uses a firm hook-set once the fish has taken his lure. Whatever selections you make he stressed it's very important to develop "the feel" of a speckled trout bite. Often trout will strike a lure out of curiosity or to wound the baitfish. Your rod needs to be able to relay that light feel and have enough strength or backbone to successfully land a larger fish. He spools his reel with 15# braided mainline and uses an albright knot to attach a 15# fluorocarbon leader. Braided line will give you the all important "feel" of a light speckled trout bite. Leader length will change as you retie snap swivels or lures, Mike starts off with just under 3ft of fluorocarbon leader and will retie a new leader when it gets down to about a foot. Snap-swivels or Loops; Mike most often uses snap swivels to make changing out lures quicker and easier. When he decides to use a loop knot he ties the MirrOlure® Knot. He shared loop knots provide much better action than tying a knot directly against and tight to the lure.



## Tips & Techniques

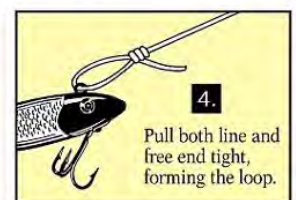
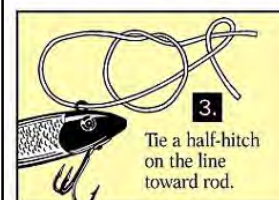
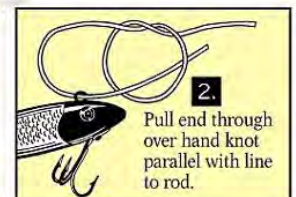
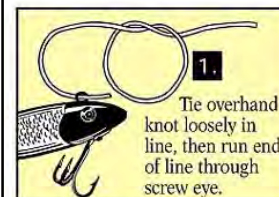
- \* Get out and Fish! Don't let the colder weather discourage you, fish are there, just fish for them slower in colder water
- \* Lighter jig-heads have more action, more action draws more strikes
- \* Expect a lighter initial strike, don't immediately retrieve after a miss, let the speckled trout strike it again
- \* Trout don't like noise and they don't listen to music! Stay away from other boat noise, don't drop your jig-heads on deck, be quiet on the boat
- \* Darker lures on dark or cloudy days, brighter lure colors on sunny days
- \* Fish the moving water no matter the tidal flow
- \* Use the "Hatteras Hop" to draw attention and entice a strike, expect the strike on the falling lure
- \* Try topwater lures at anytime and all conditions



## The MirrOlure® Knot

Your MirrOlure® or L&S freshwater lure will perform better when tied with this simple loop knot. It's easier to tie than other loop knots, and your lure will move with the streamlined free and easy action that it is designed for.

**Caution:** Use this knot on leaders and lines testing 14 lbs. and heavier.



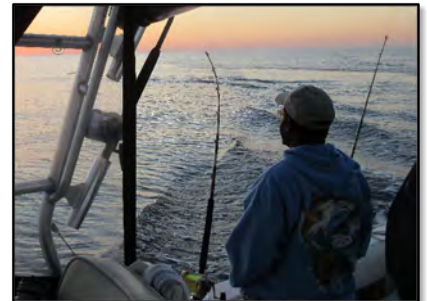
# Fishing Reports...

26 Oct: Alex Perez and I got a late morning start out of Haven Creek boat ramp and fished outside of Lafayette River. Trying along docks and piers we had success catching undersized black sea bass, speckled trout and puppy drum. All of which were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. As is usually the case, Alex took top honors with his +19 inch speckled trout and a 24 inch puppy drum. We were fishing with MirrOlure 17MR lures and 1/8-1/4 oz jig-heads with soft plastic tails or Gulp curly tails. On this day we tagged and released 29 fish. I went out the next day and fished some of the same area and then shifted over to the mouth of the Lafayette to tag more speckled trout. On the second day I was fortunate to tag another 32 fish for the VGFTP.

- Will Bransom



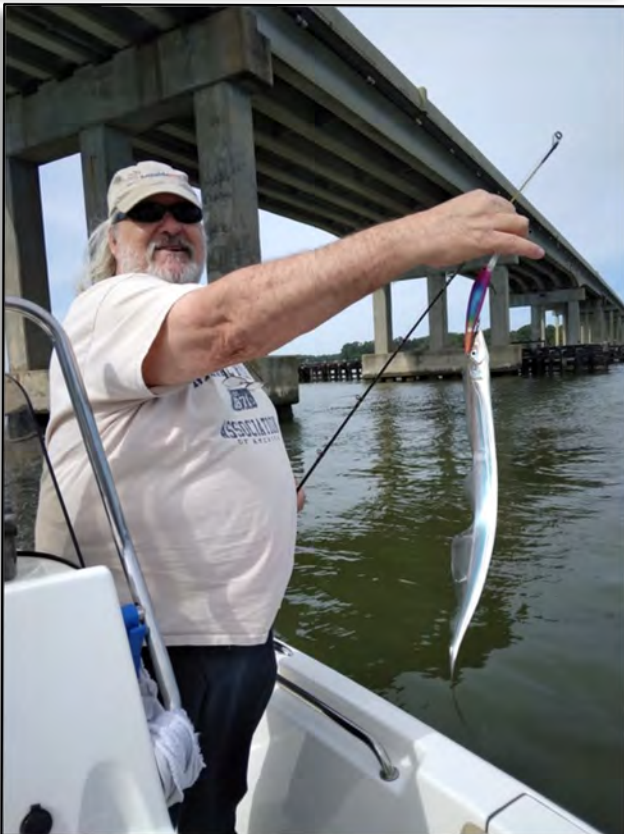
28 Oct: Chris Webb, Mike Hubert, Mike Burton and Will Bransom joined me on a gorgeous early Sunday morning, for what I expect will be *Hoosier Cruiser's* last offshore trip this season. We were blessed with light winds and four foot, but 10 second period waves, so the ride out from Rudee Inlet was fast and efficient. Water was about 5 degrees cooler than we expected, so the last of the yellowfin and billfish most likely had packed up and headed for warmer waters. We still trolled several hours, and tried deep drifting for swordfish, but came up empty on both accounts. Shifting to deep dropping for Golden Tilefish proved to be much more fruitful, and we boated a good number of tasty black bellied rose fish along the way. Mike Hubert's 21(ish) lb Golden was the best of the trip. So, fewer fish and variety than desired, but the time with the "bubbas" made it a great fall day offshore. - Mike Davis





11 Oct: We were lucky enough to have relatives visiting from Colorado that wanted to fish. We went to the mouth of Brewers Creek and Gary immediately caught 3 puppy drum. The largest was 16 inches. All were caught on Fish Bite blood worms one on a popping cork and two on a bottom rig. Might start fishing more with Fish Bites. Tried for Striper at the Chuckatuck but the only luck we had was when Joe caught a ribbon fish on a Bandit lure. Then we went to the M & M and caught small black bass and spot. While at our dock Jon caught a couple of Specks on a bottom rig using Fish Bite blood worm. All fish were released for another day. Jon and I agreed to leave his father at home next time so we could catch some drum.

- John Curry



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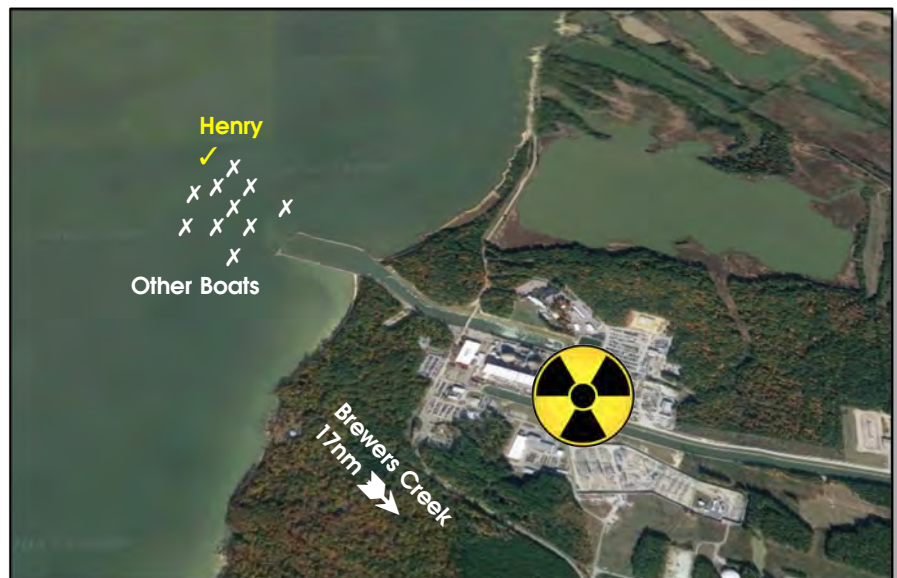
10 Oct: Fished with Ned Smith with NE winds still present but not enough to keep us from fishing the jetties. Ned hooked a puppy drum that ran all over the place and from seeing it in the water we were sure it was over 30 inches. But on the measuring tape it was only 27 inches. One inch too many for eating. It was slow on keeper sized and we only kept 3 around 17-19 inch. I released one for club minimum 19.75 inches but forgot to get picture taken. Caught at least 20 throwbacks. All trout caught on MirrOlures 27MR's and the puppy caught on a white curly tailed jig.

Went back out there with Ned the next day. Less wind and very comfortable. We caught a lot of throwbacks again but stayed in one place and managed to catch 6 keeper sized 16-19 inch trout. I released one club minimum at 20.5 inches. All caught on MirrOlures 27MR's. Bite turned off after about two hours. - James "Ike" Eisenhower



26 Oct: We were following up on reports of Black Drum, Red Drum and Specks being caught at the Surry Discharge. So Mary, George Langdon and I headed there in the Shamrock. Greeted by 8 or 10 other boats, we thought we were in for some action. We were casting various color paddle tails and bait fishing with Shad, Speck belly and Fiddlers. Turned out we only caught one small catfish. We did see several nice Speckled Trout caught but few and far between. Back to the Chuckatuck for this crew.

- Henry Troutner





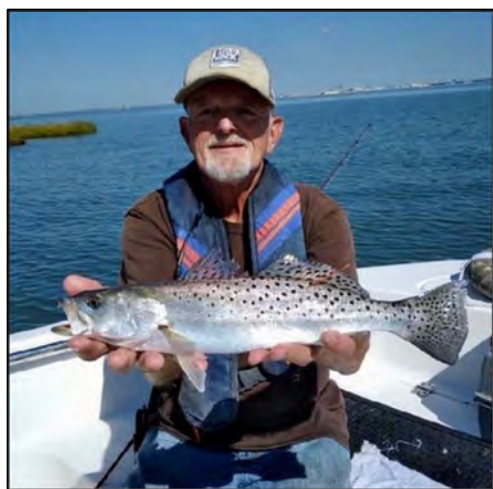
2 Oct: Fished with Louis Glaser and Ned Smith and started catching as soon as we casted. Ended up with 16 keepers 17-20 inch. I released one 20 inch club minimum. Only 3 throwbacks that day. All caught on MirrOlures 27MR and 28MR. Current running was good. We had gone the day before and only caught throwbacks. That's Louis one week after he had skin cancer removed.

4 Oct: Fished with Louis and Bert Whitt and again we found them hungry. Ended up with about 20 caught 11 kept that were 18-19 inches long, I released a 21 inch club minimum. Again only fished with MirrOlures. 52MR's were hot as well as 28MR's. Fish down deep. - James "Ike" Eisenhower



13 Oct: No bad luck for the Chuckatuck Crew. John Curry invited George Langdon and I for a couple hours fishing the outgoing current on the Chuckatuck. After a quick pass for Stripers with no luck, we headed for the James. First casts and we had two Speckled Trout on Z-Man paddle tails (color-Bloody Mary Sunday) on 1/8 oz jigs. We tagged and released 13 Speckled Trout and 1 Red.

- Henry Troutner







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12 Oct: Mary, Marty Schriebl and I headed out of Dandy Point in the Shamrock to fish the lower bay. First stop the tunnel at the 4th island which we fished for about 45 minutes at the end of the incoming tide. Not much luck, a small SeaBass and a couple Toads. We then headed for the Cape Henry wreck. Before the current got too fast we landed two nice Red Drum (36" & 25"), a Black Drum, several Triggers, a bunch of small SeaBass and of course our share of Toadfish. I also lost a nice fish we believed to be a Red when my line broke. Before heading in, we stopped at the Yancy for a half hour and only caught 1 small SeaBass. Fiddlers and Squid used for bait. - Henry Troutner





4 Oct: Opening of Va's Fall Striper Season found Mary, John Curry and I hitting the water at 10 A.M. A short stop on the Chuckatuck and I shortly boated a nice 22 3/4". After a couple more passes with no bites we headed for the JRB with high expectations. Three passes along the bridge resulted in 2 fair size Bluefish, which were released, but no stripers. While we still had the high tide and incoming current we headed back to the Chuckatuck to try for some Speckle Trout & Red's. The Trout were cooperative with us tagging & releasing 10, including a club citation, but no Red's were to be found. Striper & Bluefish caught on Stretches and had three 6" paddle tails bitten off behind the hook. Trout caught on 4" paddle tails.

- Henry Troutner



19 Oct: Made the trip offshore with fellow Norfolk Anglers Mike Burton, Greg Rogers, Chris Webb, and Mike Hubert. You couldn't have asked for a nicer day to be on the water! Seas were calm with a light wind out of the south. We departed early out of Cove Marina (Little Creek) and arrived at the north side of the Norfolk Canyon just after sunrise. We set up to troll for tuna and worked it for a few hours along the northside of the canyon and to the north skirting the continental shelf. We found a nice long weed line and trolled for mahi but only got a few ballyhoo chewed on.

Switching over to deep dropping, we worked up a limit of blueline tile fish and then fished the deeper water for golden tilefish and black belly rosefish. On the return trip we stopped at the Ocean Venture wreck and found plenty of undersized black sea bass and only a few keeper size fish. The undersized sea bass were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and released at depth with a SeaQualizer Release Mechanism. Mike Hubert also caught a nice bonita which was used on the next offshore trip for strip bait.



- Will Bransom







Norfolk  
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Club