

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

OCTOBER 2019

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Ethan Simpson, Virginia Marine Resource Commission
Virginia Recreational Assessment Program

Fishing Tips: Fishing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel,
William Ragulsky

Fishing Reports:

- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Bluefish, Spadefish, Tautog, Sea Bass, Croaker and Citation Red Drum
- Chesapeake Bay/HRBT: Puppy Drum and Flounder
- Little Creek Inlet: Speckled Trout
- Lynnhaven Inlet: Spot and Speckled Trout
- Inshore/Tower Reef: King Mackerel
- Offshore/Norfolk Canyon: Yellowfin Tuna, Blueline Tilefish and Bonita

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Don't forget! At the October meeting we begin collecting for the Sea Tow Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy drive. The toys collected go to the USMCR Toys-for-Tots program and then distributed to local Hampton Roads children in December.



Remember to sign up or let us know if you're planning to come to the Club members Fall Social. This is an annual event for the membership and their families. If you can make it send us an email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com or sign up at the October meeting.

- Will



On The Cover: Norfolk Angler "AJ" Perez with his Citation 15 pound King Mackerel. AJ caught it trolling the Tower Reef and registered it with the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. Read more about it in AJ's fishing report in this edition of the *Wireline*.

Meeting



A lot can be learned from donating your filleted fish carcass (head & tail intact) to the Virginia Recreational Assessment Program. The program is looking for Bluefish, Cobia, Sheepshead, Sladefish, Spanish Mackerel, Speckled Trout, Red & Black Drum, Tautog, Golden & Blueline Tilefish, and Grouper.

On Monday October 14th, we have Ethan Simpson with the Virginia Recreational Assessment Program/VMRC joining us to highlight the information Marine Biologists gain from your donations and the resources available for anglers to learn more about the fish they catch.

Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 14 October at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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NORFOLK ANGLERS



www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com

Club Calendar

October

Mon-Thur, October 7-10, Mid-Atlantic Marine
Fisheries Council Meeting (Durham, NC)
Mon, October 14th, Club Meeting
Sat, October 19th, Membership Fall Social
Tues, October 22nd, VMRC Meeting

Club Membership Fall Social
Saturday October 19th, 3:00-8:00pm
Virginia Beach

Sign up at the
October Meeting



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Fishing Tips...

Fishing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel throughout the season, William Ragulsky

Hampton Roads has many fishing opportunities, from fishing off the beach, fishing Piers creeks, rivers, inshore, offshore and the Chesapeake Bay. Our area includes one of the best and perhaps largest artificial fishing structures in North America ⇒ The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. With xx miles of bridge pilings along two spans, four man made islands, and two tunnels, the Bay Bridge Tunnel or CBBT, provides great fishing year round. As William Ragulsky explained, the CBBT is a sort of mixing area of northern and southern species throughout the fishing season. During each part of the season anglers can target multiple species using a few basic rigs and baits.

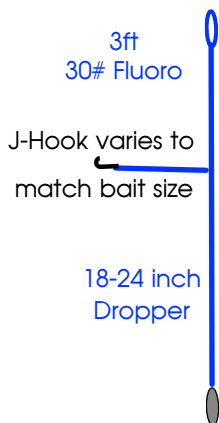


Live bait and natural bait is key to catching sheepshead. While artificial lures will work well, anglers shouldn't rely solely on them. To maximize your day on the water find the freshest bait you can find. Fiddlers are William Ragulsky's #1 choice for sheepshead bait with sand fleas (mole crabs) a close #2. He advises fiddler crabs are pretty hardy and can last for a long time if cared for. Keeping them cool and covered during the day will keep them fine. If you don't mind the stinky, sticky mud in the marshes, you can catch your own. Storing them in the cool place with some cover, like crumpled newspaper or pressed cardboard egg crate, and a little water will keep them for a long time. Sand fleas are available at most of the beaches during the summer and early fall. Dig them up by hand when you see the telltale "V" in the sand as the water recedes. Much like fiddlers, keep the sand fleas cool, shaded and they'll last all day. Sand fleas are his prime bait on the jig or carolina rig for sheepshead.

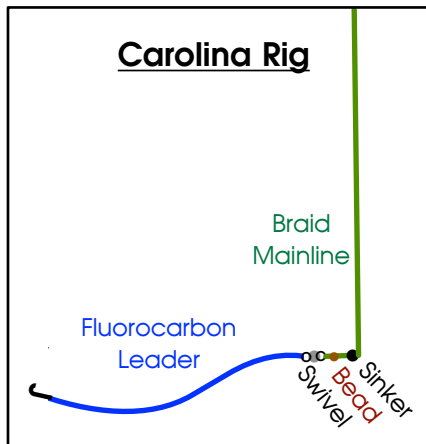
Rigging for sheepshead includes three principle rigs; The Dropper Rig, Carolina Rig, and the Jig. The Dropper Rig, sometimes also called a Taug Rig, is a good rig to use in swift current or when fishing structure, like the tunnel spine or rocks of the CBBT. The advantage is you can use heavier weight to hold the bottom than you can with other rigs. Rig the dropper about 18-24 inches from the sinker to keep it off the bottom. You want your bait off the bottom to avoid the "Summer Undesirables", as William described the bait stealers (pin fish, oyster toads little sea bass, etc). Keeping your rig as nearly vertical as possible is also important. You'll want to "feel the bite" and any slack in your mainline will minimize that feel.

The Dropper Rig is ideal for fishing the bottom but with heavier weights can be used in fast moving current around the pilings and rocks that surround the CBBT islands.

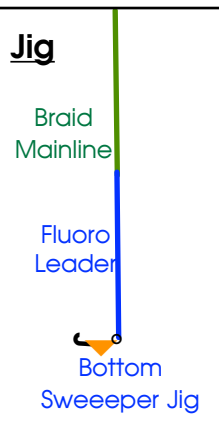
Dropper Rig



Carolina Rig



Jig



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Fishing Tips...

The Carolina Rig is another successful rig for sheepshead. Rigged with fluorocarbon leader from a barrel swivel to your J-hook and a small bead above the swivel and then your egg sinker, the Carolina Rig is an excellent method to target sheepshead in the water column. Rig with a fiddler crab or sand flea and using as light a weight as possible drop down until you locate where in the water column the sheepshead are feeding. How do you consistently place your bait within the feeding zone? William Ragulsky recommends dropping your bait down near the bottom and feeling for a bite, if nothing, bring the bait up some and repeat. Once you locate the depth the fish are concentrating and actively feeding, place your baits at that depth. One tip he shared was to use metered line.

Metered line is an alternating colored braided line with color segments ranging from 10-25 feet. This provides a visual indication to consistently place your bait. Berkley® carries two metered line products; ProSpec® with 5 color segments in 20 ft lengths and Fireline® Metered with 5 color segments in 10 ft lengths. ProSpec® and Fireline® Metered come in 20# to 100# and 4# to 20# line strengths, respectively. Power Pro Depth Hunter is another product with a 4 color segment pattern in 25 ft lengths with an additional visual cue of a black tic mark every 5 ft. Power Pro Depth Hunter comes in 10# to 150# pound line strengths. He also recommends using the metered braid as a Top Shot instead of spooling the entire reel. This will make your spool of the more expensive metered line last longer while providing the visual reference for the most important first 100 feet of fishing line.



The third method for targeting sheepshead is a Jig. Perhaps the simplest of the three rigs, William Ragulsky uses a Bottom Sweeper style jig head tied directly to his line. With a short fluorocarbon leader tied directly to the jig head and then to the metered braid mainline, this style of rig provides the most "feel" then the other two rigs. There's no need for additional weight and is an ideal rig to use in slow moving water. This is not a rig you'd use for bottom fishing, he added.

Rigging with Fluorocarbon or Monofilament? William points out that you've invested a lot already for a day of fishing. There's the time investment getting everything ready, the cost of bait, rigs, etc. While fluoro and mono both work fine, when you look at the

big picture the cost of using fluorocarbon leader really isn't that expensive. Fluorocarbon leader is a bit stiffer than monofilament (better feel for the bite), it's more abrasion resistant, and it's nearly invisible in the water (as long as it doesn't get nicked up too badly). Both sheepshead and tautog are sight & scent hunters so fluorocarbon definitely provides an advantage here. Typically 30# fluoro is the choice leader weight but getting as light as possible is best and 20# fluoro is occasionally used.



Hook size does matter, actually..., matching the hook size to the bait is what matters. When it comes to sheepshead or tautog, the hook size and bait should be matched up. William will use hooks as small as #2 and up to 2/0-3/0 depending on the size of the bait. His preferred J-Hooks are Owner SSW and Mustad UltraPoint hooks. He described them as the sharpest hooks he's found, of great quality, and won't bend out during a hard fight and seldom, if ever, break off. He explained, if you look in a sheepshead's mouth once you get past the gnarly front teeth you'll find multiple rows of large molars. Your hook point needs to be strong enough and sharp enough to work its way between those large molars to get a good hookset.

The speed of the current and location is going to drive your decision on what rigs you initially employ and bait size will guide your hook selection. Fishing around the CBBT structure can be challenging if the

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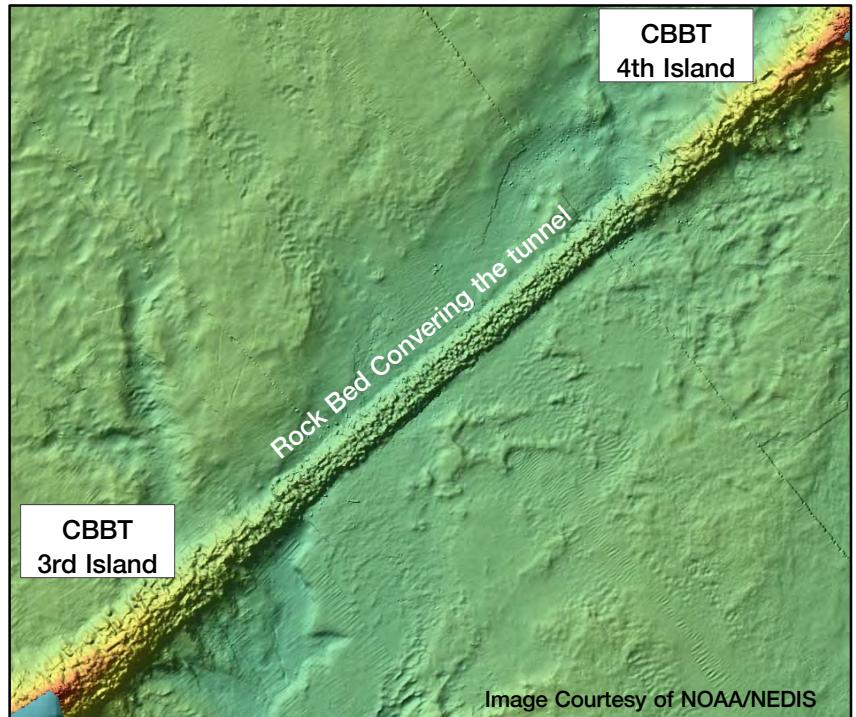
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Fishing Tips...

current is running. Some areas are tougher to fish than others, namely the tunnel spine. The speed of the current on the bottom may vary from the surface and then there's the surface winds to contend with. Fortunately along the length of the CBBT there's LOTS of structure to choose from. When conditions aren't favorable for fishing atop the tunnel spine, fish pilings, and then there's the rocks around the islands. All are fish holding habitat that can be fishing in various tide and weather conditions.

Along with William's two primary sheephead/tautog baits (fiddlers & sand fleas) there's also clams and blue crab to consider. The challenge with both of these baits are that **EVERYTHING** eats it! You'll quickly find when dropping down clam pieces around pilings or close to the bottom that you'll deal with everything other than sheephead and tautogs.

Preparing blue crab is pretty simply; remove the top, cut off the legs, and halve it or quarter it. Insert your hook through one of the legs knuckles to get it securely on your rig. Don't forget about the Slocum on the inside of the top shell. William describes it as "Taug Candy" and can be an effective attractant by adding it to other taug baits.



Fishing for Tautog is similar to sheephead, their diets are the same and rigging is very much alike. Unlike many other species tautogs seem to always come back to the same area. Their migration patterns differ greatly from many species than move up and down the coast. Tautogs seem to migrate inshore to offshore over the season, returning to nearly the exact spot year after year. Because of that William cautions, that when you find that perfect taug fishing spot to be considerate about NOT overfishing it. That perfect taug spot might be a certain set of pilings along the bridge tunnel or another peice of structure. He added when looking to fish for tautogs you're going to lose rigs. It's all part of the fishing for tautog. If you're not getting hung up and breaking off rigs, you might want to get the idea you're not fishing in the

right area, he added. Tautogs are all about structure and when they're hooked they'll seek cover and protection in that structure. A good tactic to use when the fish gets back into cover is to wait it out by keeping pressure on and then relax the tension. By making the taug think it's safe again, it'll try and move to it's usual hide, then it's time to tighten up on it and get it away and into clear water.



Tautog Rig



Along with a similar dropper rig described previously with the exception being the dropper is closer to the weight, the same Bottom Sweeper Jig is used. Wiliam recommends using fiddler crab, blue crab and hermit crabs, if you can get them. For both sheephead and tautog, he recommends keeping the claws on the fiddlers to provide the most natural presentation and apply the blue crab slocum to all your baits.

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Fishing Tips...



Late season Red Drum fishing is some of the best you'll find anywhere! Look to the pilings and CBBT islands where you'll find a transition from

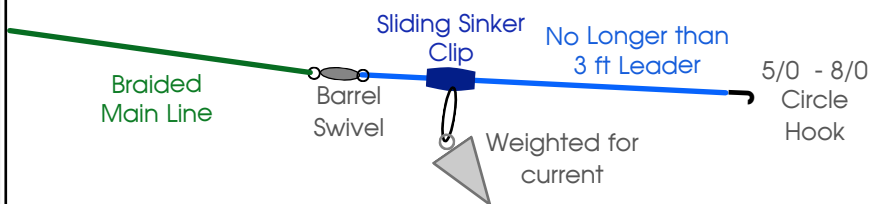
rocky areas to sand. Depth contours are another area to find the larger red drum. The tide cycle really doesn't make that much difference as it does with other species. In the fall, red drum start schooling up and feeding prior to their migration. Live blue crabs and live bait work exceptionally well though, bucktails and jig heads work too.

Fishfinder rigs and Carolina Rigs (Upsized Tackle) work best with live bait variations. When there's not a lot of current try throwing bucktail jig rigged with a plastic tail. Or when there's very light current try a heavier jig head. Be warned, many of the heavier jig heads don't have very strong hooks. It's best not to put too much pressure on the larger drum or risk breaking the hook.



Except for bucktails and jig heads, circle hooks (5/0-8/0) are a must on the larger drum. With a hook set in the corner of the jaw and heavier tackle, an angler can quickly land the fish. Handle these fish gently, support them out of the water (if necessary to bring them out of the water), use wet and or gloves, and never handle them by the gills. Ensure there's a plenty of salt water circulating through their gills while you're reviving the fish. Practice good catch & release habits with proper handling and fully reviving them after a prolonged fight will ensure a better chance of survival.

Red Drum Fishfinder Rig



Tips and Techniques

Spadefish

- Find them in all areas up & down the Bay Bridge Tunnel, find their feeding depth and consistently work it.
- Look for larger fish below the smaller fish schooling, Getting your bait below the smaller fish is the challenge.
 - Small hooks, light weight, and clam work best



Striped Bass

- Best live baits; 4-6 inch Bunker and Gizzard Shad but, don't be shy about changing baits or using large lures.
 - Use the light lines along the bridge, Stripers hide in the shallows and attack in the light lines.
 - Use your electronics to determine feeding depth.

Sheepshead and Tautog

- Be patient, it takes a while to learn to feel their bite, they're professional bait stealers!
 - Find one on a piling, keep fishing it, they'll likely be more.



Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive

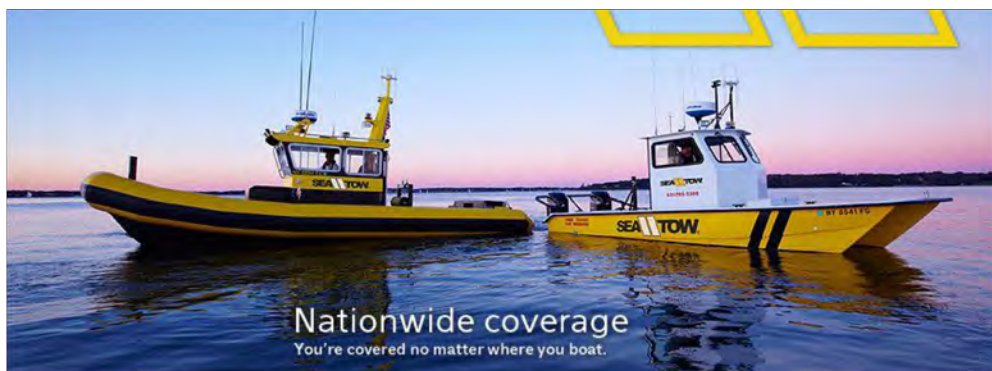
Sea Tow Hampton Roads and The Local Angler Clubs will be collecting toys this year for the “Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive.” We will be collecting toys that are new and un-giftwrapped. Last year we were able to collect over 1,840 toys due to the Angler Clubs tremendous participation.

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 October, 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 will be 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!

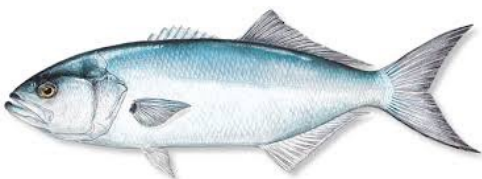


Fishing Reports...

30 AUG: After such a successful trip with Mike Hubert on a Wednesday, I followed up by taking a couple guys from the Coast Guard Auxiliary out on a Friday. Although John, George and I are not interested in bluefish for the table, catching them on plugs is a load of fun. We returned to the 3rd Island and they were still stacked up. After about 2 hours of catching 2.5 to 5 pounders on every cast, we decided to anchor up for Spadefish.

We anchored close enough to the rocks to continue catching blues while putting a couple lines out for spadefish. The spadefish seem to be thinning out and getting smaller. We only caught one. To wrap up the day, we anchored off the 2nd Island trying to repeat our Wednesday's catch of Sheephead but, only managed one keeper tautog.

Counting small seabass, toadfish and a seagull, we caught 6 species. We kept 6 bluefish to smoke, we gave to a friend, the tautog and spadefish. Everything else was released, including the bird which flew off apparently none the worse for wear. We had beautiful weather and great fishing partners. – Henry Troutner





3 SEP: On Michael Firestone's birthday, Mike and I left to fish Little Creek for speckled trout before the storm.

Mike caught a 24 1/4 inch release citation and we ended up catching 14 keeper size trout.

They were caught on Mirror Lures and jigging with bass passions. Mike caught a big one jigging! - Louis Glaser



4 SEP: I fished with Louis Glazer and Bert Sainz in Little Creek. We started at 6:15 am at the rock jetties to catch the last of the outgoing tide. Fishing with top water lures in the morning, Louis and I got two each. Bert Sainz left us at 9 but Louis and I kept fishing and it took all day but we finally found the bite again around 1:00 pm when the tide went out again. We finished the day with 10 speckled trout 17.5 inch to 20 inch. Most were 19 inches. Thanks Louis Glaser for a great trip and future trout dinner.
- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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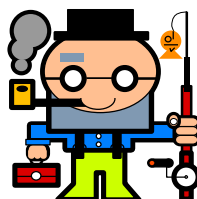
1 SEP: My friend Nicholas decided after being in his room playing video games all day that we wanted to go fishing in a nearby lake with me. After agreeing, we went in his garage to get his fishing rod and then went to his mom to get our bait. My father was making wings that night, so we decided to take raw chicken to use for bait, and of course we had gloves as well. When we arrived, we noticed a bunch of turtles in the water and Nicholas really wanted to catch one. After 20 minutes of attempting to catch a turtle, he just casted out far into the middle of the lake. After a couple of seconds, we got some good catfish bites. After going and telling our parents that we had bites and needed a water break, we went back and Nicholas finally caught his turtle. The idea was for Nicholas to raise it up with the rod out of the water and onto land, then I grab the turtle. It was a good day but we really wish we had caught that big catfish! - AJ Perez



11 SEP: I didn't find the mother load but got enough fish to make Fran happy. These fish were everywhere in the Lynnhaven - James Robinson



8 SEP: I went my first time on our new boat. I was excited to finally get out there but the only thing I don't like is getting up early. We arrived at 7:00 am at the tower reef. We tried some spots then put a Rapala magnum plug on. Then we got to the best spot where we trolled around. Eventually, the rod clip went off and we got a 15 pound king mackerel into the boat. After that amazing accomplishment, we went to a local place to weigh. *It weighed 15 pounds!* It was a good first catch on our new boat! - AJ Perez



25 SEP: I am happy. There were plenty of nice size spot in Long Creek. I took a short trip and produced these for my friend Al and myself. - James Robinson



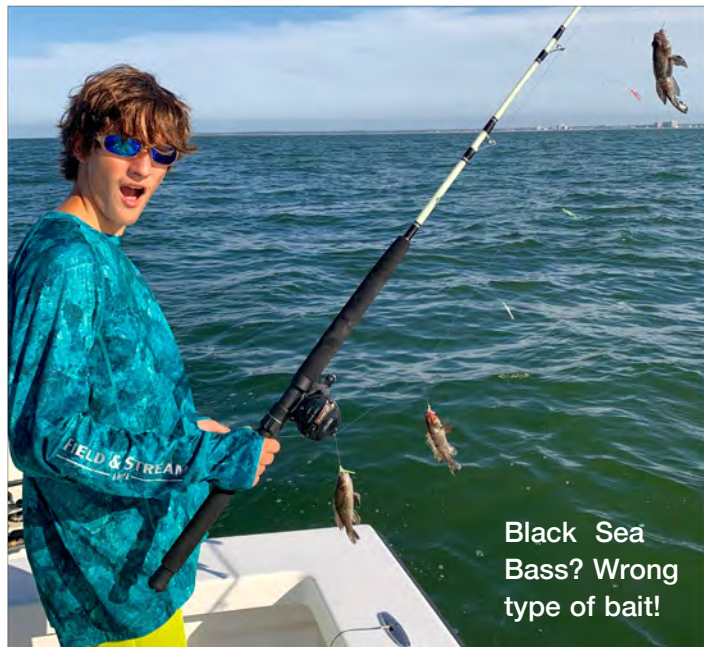
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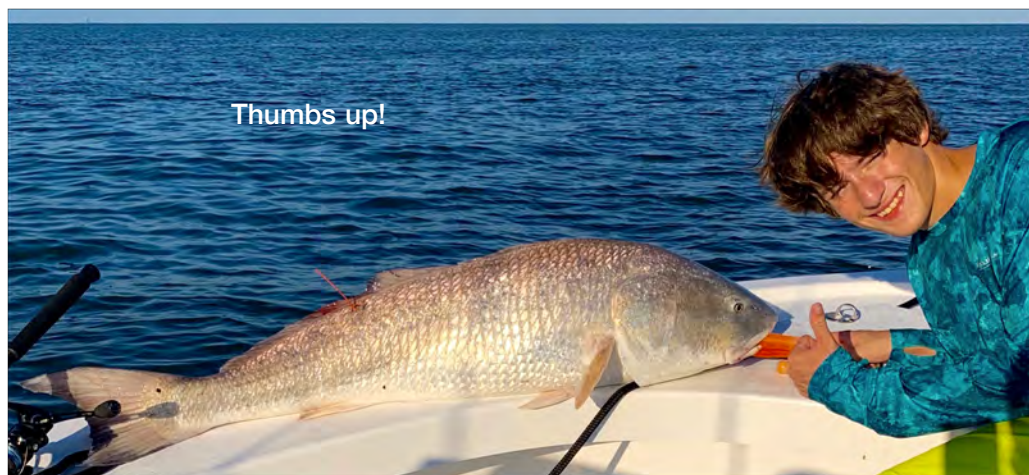
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On September 16, 2019 I waited for AJ to get off the bus to rush to the boat ramp. This is one of the rare times homework takes a backseat to a perfectly timed tide change! I launched the boat while AJ changed out of his school clothes and we were Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT), first island bound before we knew it. We fished a few pilings short of the first island to catch a couple of croaker for bait. Using Bloodworm Fish Bites, we actually struggled to catch four croaker to use live black sea bass, knowing they can't be used, kept volunteering instead! Once we caught our bait, we ran to the island and dropped anchor anticipating the bull red drum passing through. The way AJ and I fish, we put out four live baits on the bottom with 8/0 circle hooks, on fish finder rigs. Since we only had four baits, we decided on only fishing two at a time. He watches one side, I watch the other. Not more than ten minutes and AJ's rod is screaming. After a sporty 5-8 minutes of cranking and complaining, AJ gets his 50 inch, citation Red Drum to the net! The big red is measured, tagged, and released healthy. Our other three baits fell victim to small sharks and it was time to head in before sun down. There was homework to be done! - Alex Perez



Black Sea Bass? Wrong type of bait!



Thumbs up!

50 inches on the stick!



17 SEP: I fished with my friend Jerry Gaines early morning in Little Creek for speckled trout. The wind started to pick up over 20 mph so after picking up 7, we decided to go to Pretty Lake. We started trolling with Mirror Lures (MR 52) and picked up 3. For the conditions, we still had a great day. - Louis Glaser



26 SEP: First cast of the day. - James Robinson

SEP 12: *Happy Birthday trip with Thomas Moore Deans in Little Creek.* You had a great catch on your special day. May be many more my friend. We fished with Thomas Moore Deans in Little Creek, we started before sunup and the fish were biting at the jetties. We tried surface lurs but they kept missing, so we tried a variety and caught them. We caught several small puppy drum. We ended up with 14 keeper speckled trout, a triple limit by noon, 14 - 21 inches on MirrOlures, MR 29's, MR 27's and MR 52's with multiple colors but pink worked best. When the current is not running, the bite is off. The outgoing current is best but it must be running to get any bite. - Louis Glaser & Ike Eisenhower



5 SEP: I left the dock with my friends Beth Synowiec and Bert Sainz to Little Creek for speckled trout. We ended up with 17 keepers caught on Catch 2000 Mirror Lures and one on a Topwater lures. It was awful hot which negated topwater fishing. -Louis Glaser

Nov 3, 2019 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2:00:00 am. Clocks are turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, November 3, 2019, 1:00:00 am local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 3, 2019 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.



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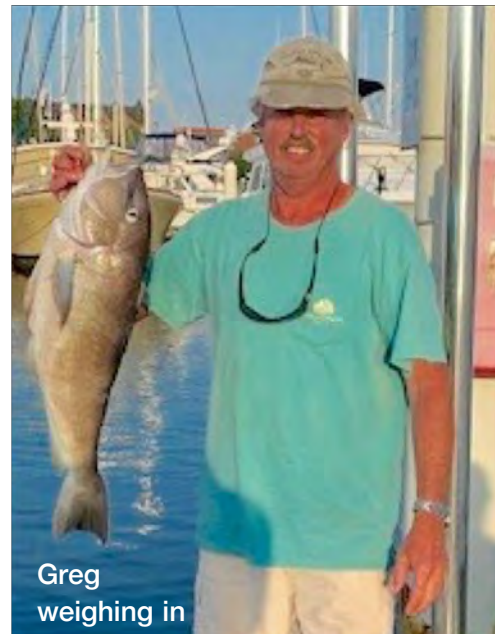
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22 SEP: I left Bluewater Marina in Hampton at 4:00 am aboard my boat Black Swan with NAC members Mike Hubert and Greg Rogers as well as friends Rich Redd and Dave Bowen and headed east to Norfolk Canyon. Just before sunrise, we found a weed line west of the canyon and started fishing. After about 30 minutes nothing happened so we continued east and found another area at the southwestern edge. We set up and within 45 minutes had 3 Bonita and 2 yellowfin tuna. Turning east along the canyon, we hooked 2 more large fish that eventually pulled off and boated another tuna. Things cooled off so we pulled up and started deep dropping for tilefish. Mike and Greg had been on the bottom only a couple minutes before reeling up some nice tilefish. Everyone on board caught some. Mike and Greg weighed 3 citation fish between 11 and 12 pounds! - Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



Greg weighing in



Mike in full stand up gear as the fish is taking line.



Rich watching for the next bite



Some nice tilefish.



19 SEP: We fished in the afternoon in Pretty Lake with Thomas Moore Deans. It was too windy in Little Creek so we stayed in Pretty Lake. There was an outgoing current and the wind was 15 - 20 mph, NE wind. We trolled and found the fish, then set casting with the wind. We caught 11 speckled trout in 3 hours, 16 -20 inches. Ike's silver MR 27 was the best all day. We also caught an atlantic cutlass fish (ribbon fish) while trolling, nasty creatures full of teeth, only about 30 inches in length.
- Louis Glaser & Ike Eisenhower

26 SEP: I fished with Louis Glaser, SW winds were 13-20 mph at the jetties at sunup and at high tide. We had a lot of fishermen company there but found the speckled trout when incoming tide started moving off the beach. We had a double limit by noon. We tried the Pretty Lake trolling and caught one more and one atlantic cutlass fish, both were released. We threw everything we had at them, at different times. I caught most with MR 27's, Louis mostly used MR 52's. - Ike Eisenhower



21 SEP: After hearing AJ brag about his citation Red Drum to me all week I couldn't wait for the opportunity to get back on the water again. On a Saturday, we ran back to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) to catch the morning tide change. We had an easier time catching Croaker and Spot to use for bait. We put three baits on the bottom and had Sharks visit us right away. After replacing all three baits, one rod begins to violently shake in the rod holder. Without any drag being taken, I figured it was another small shark. Once realizing it was hooked, my "small shark" began pulling serious drag. After a few minutes, it turned out to be a 49 inch Red Drum that was netted and placed on deck.

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Well, AJ still had me by one inch but it's not over until the temperature drops! - Alex Perez



14 SEP: We decided to fish the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) at the change of the outgoing tide. Using 1/4 ounce jig heads, we threw Berkley Gulp and Zman plastics toward the bridge pilings. We caught seven puppy drum up to 16 inches and two flounder up to 15 inches. All fish were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and released healthy.

- Alex Perez



16 SEP: I had a great day speckled trout fishing in Little Creek with Bert and Andy. We went out early to fish on the right current. The bite started immediately and never stopped. We had over 35 speckled trouts from 16 to 21 inches. Almost any bait thrown at them worked - curly and paddle tails, Mirrolure 17s, 27s and 52s. and paul brown originals. We were back in the marina by 12pm.

- Ned Smith

27 SEP: I fished with Ike and Tom in Little Creek on a nice morning and ended up with our limit. It was



extremely windy so we positioned the boat with the wind to our back. Most fish were caught on MR 52 Mirror Lures because they are slow sinkers and heavier weight.

- Louis Glaser



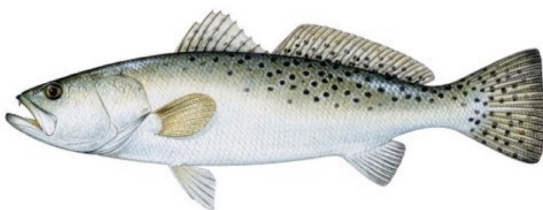


28 Sep: I always enjoy fishing with Louis and had another great time fishing in Little Creek on a Saturday morning. We fished the early morning bite right after sunrise. Initially using MirrorLure 27 lures we switched to topwater and the action was fantastic! By mid-morning we'd worked the Speckled Trout with heavier MR52 lures and approaching noon when the sun was high switched to MR27 suspending lures. We landed 20 fish that morning with the smallest 16 inches with the larger ones at 22 inches. We kept our limit of 10 total and tagged and released another 10 during the morning.

We saw a few other Norfolk Anglers out there. Bert Sainz on his Carolina Skiff (behind Louis in the photo) and Brian Tsai paddling by while kayak fishing in a tournament.

Thank You Louis for another day of fantastic fishing!

- Will Bransom



Chuck Kahlert: *I do not fish anymore. I know it is expensive to buy weights now. I have lots of various size weights to get rid of at a very reasonable price. Everyone can contact me at vze29wtp@verizon.net*
Thank You ! Chuck AKA Flounderman

- 40-100 lb leader material
- 2 coffee containers of 6-12 oz weights
- 1 small container of lures
- The large plastic container has Deep Drop weights in it
- A folding rod and fishing container with wheels
- A container with premade up Tog, Spade and Sea bass rigs



All is to be sold at good prices!



Angler Interests

Little Creek Inlet Restricted Area Effective September 9, 2019:

August 8, 2019
CENAO-WR-RS
NAO-2016-00332

PUBLIC NOTICE

The District Engineer has established a restricted area in waters surrounding Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story:

APPLICANT

Commanding Officer
Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story
2600 Tarawa Court, Suite 100
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-3297

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE RESTRICTED AREA: The restricted area has been established within Fisherman's Cove and Little Creek Harbor adjacent to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Little Creek (JEBLCFS) in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

ACTION: Establishment of a restricted area published at 33 CFR §334.305 "Little Creek Harbor, Fisherman's Cove, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Little Creek, Virginia, Restricted Areas."

This regulation, promulgated by the Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District prohibits certain activities from being conducted within the restricted areas at certain times without prior authorization.

AUTHORITY: Pursuant to Section 7 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1917 (40 Stat. 266; 33 U.S.C. 1) and Chapter XIX of the Army Appropriations Act of 1919 (40 Stat. 892; 33 U.S.C. 3), the District Engineer has authorized the establishment of restricted areas in waters of the United States adjacent to JEBLCFS within Fisherman's Cove and Little Creek Harbor in Virginia Beach, Virginia as follows:

THE REGULATION: 334.305 Little Creek Harbor, Fisherman's Cove, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Little Creek, Virginia, Restricted Areas.

(a) The Little Creek Restricted Areas. The Little Creek Restricted Areas consist of two distinct areas: The Outer Harbor Restricted Area and the Inner Harbor Restricted Area.

(1) The Outer Harbor Restricted Area. The waters within an area beginning at latitude 36°55'57.7" N, longitude 76°10'35" W; thence southwesterly to a point at latitude 36°55'53" N, longitude 76°10'44" W, thence southerly to latitude 36°55'21.2" N, longitude 76°10'42" W; thence southwesterly to latitude 36°55'18.3" N, longitude 76°10'49" W; thence northwesterly to a point in Fisherman's Cove at latitude 36°55'22" N, longitude 76°11'15.5" W; thence southerly to latitude 36°55'19.2" N, longitude 76°11'16" W, thence easterly near the southern shoreline of Fisherman's Cove, to latitude 36°55'15.8" N, longitude 76°10'58.8" W; and ending at latitude 36°55'18" N, longitude 76°10'30" W; thence to the point of origin.

(2) The Inner Harbor Restricted Area. The waters within Little Creek Harbor south of a line beginning at latitude 36°55'15.8" N, longitude 76°10'58.8" W; and ending at latitude 36°55'18" N, longitude 76°10'30" W.

(b) The regulations.

(1) The Outer Harbor Restricted Area. All privately owned vessels, properly registered and bearing identification in accordance with Federal and/or State laws and regulations, and all Government owned vessels (public vessels) may enter or exit the waters described in subparagraph (a)(1) at any time and transit inbound/outbound of the marked dredged channel leading to Little Creek Harbor between jetties 8 miles westward of Cape Henry Light. All vessels transiting inbound/outbound of the channel except as noted in subparagraph (c)(2) shall proceed at speeds commensurate with minimum wake. Any vessel equipped with a marine radio can monitor VHF-FM channel 12 for message traffic from Little Creek Port Control.

When Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story is ordered to implement Force Protection Conditions (FPCONs) Charlie/Delta, or when specific authority is granted by the District Engineer, all vessel traffic movement can be restricted except for those vessels in paragraph (c)(2). FPCONs are a system of protective measures used by the Department of Defense (DOD) installations to guard against and deter terrorist attack. Senior commanders assign the FPCONs for their region, and installation commanders may raise FPCONs and tighten security measures based on local conditions. In the event FPCONs Charlie/Delta is implemented by the Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, which requires the restriction of vessel traffic movement in the Outer Harbor Restricted Area, the installation will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard, Fifth District; Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District; state and local law enforcement and governmental authorities; to disseminate information to the public and local news media outlets. Information on whether vessel traffic movement has been restricted in the Outer Harbor Restricted Area due to the implementation of FPCONs Charlie/Delta will also be published and disseminated by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Norfolk Anglers Club

Angler Interests

(2) The Inner Harbor Restricted Area. All vessels or persons intending to transit inbound/outbound of the Inner Harbor Restricted Area shall request permission from Little Creek Harbor Port Control using VHF-FM channel 12 prior to transiting and will provide their destination/ intentions with the exception of those listed in paragraph (c)(2) below. The Inner Harbor Restricted Area is restricted to those privately owned vessels or persons calling upon the commercial/private piers located within the Inner Harbor and Government owned vessels (public vessels) transiting to and from U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard facilities and authorized DOD patrons of the U.S. Navy recreational marina. No other vessels or persons may enter or exit this area unless specific authorization is granted by Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, and/or other persons or agencies as he/she may designate.

(3) All vessels or persons transiting inbound/outbound of the Inner Harbor Restricted Area are subject to all applicable federal and state laws including laws or regulations designed to protect the naval facility and persons or vessels assigned therein. Federal and state law enforcement officials may at any time take action to ensure compliance with their respective laws. In addition, this regulation authorizes Navy security personnel, designated by Commander, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story or persons authorized to act in his/her behalf, the authority to ascertain the identity and intent of any vessels and/or persons transiting the restricted area that indicate by way of appearance or action they are a possible threat to government assets. If a determination is made that the vessel and/or persons are a threat to government assets located within the restricted area, Navy security units may take actions as provided by law or regulation that are deemed necessary to protect government personnel and assets located within the restricted area.

(c) Enforcement.

(1) The regulation in this section, promulgated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, shall be enforced by the Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, U.S. Coast Guard, local/state law enforcement, and/or persons or agencies as he/she may designate during emergency situations.

(2) Federal and state law enforcement vessels and personnel may enter anywhere in the restricted area at any time in the operation of their statutory missions or to enforce their respective laws.

(3) Nothing in this regulation is deemed to preempt 33 CFR 165.501

(4) Vessels or persons calling upon the commercial/private piers located within the Inner Harbor with proper identification and clearance will be allowed entry subject to the same provisions described in Section 334.305(b). Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story reserves the right to temporarily deny entry in emergency situations, elevated DOD FPCONs in the Harbor, or other safety of navigation constraints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 7, 2019

DURATION: This order shall remain in effect until changes or formal regulations are developed.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For the latest information regarding the restricted area modification contact Nicole Woodard, Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch at 757-201-7122 or check the website at <https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/>. For permission to enter the area contact Little Creek Harbor Port Control using VHF-FM channel 12 or for information regarding technical issues associated with the restricted area, contact The Executive Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, 2600 Tarawa Court, Suite 100, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-3297.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

William T. Walker
Chief, Regulatory Branch
















THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION ***WANTS YOUR FISH.... TO MEASURE AND AGE.***



*You catch it, you fillet it,
but instead of throwing the remains in the trash,
please donate them to science.*

The Marine Sportfish Collection Project will focus on species of fish that are difficult to collect through the agency's normal sampling program. Anglers are asked to donate their filleted carcasses (head and tail intact) of legal and fresh-caught:

<u>BLUEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 36 INCHES) 	<u>TAUTOG</u> 	<u>COBIA</u> 	<u>RED DRUM</u> 
<u>SHEEPSHEAD</u> 	<u>SPADEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 12 INCHES) 	<u>SPANISH MACKEREL</u> 	<u>SPECKLED TROUT</u> (SPOTTED SEATROUT) 
<u>BLACK DRUM</u> 	<u>TILEFISH</u> (BLUELINE OR GOLDEN) 	<u>WRECKFISH, SNOWY GROUPEL, WARSAW GROUPEL</u> 	

In return for participating in the project, the agency will provide
ONE FREE PROJECT TEE SHIRT, OR HAT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT,
PER MONTH of the DONATION.



Please visit these merchants to participate:

Chris' Bait and Tackle (Capeville)
Wallace's Bait and Tackle (Hampton)
Port Messick Marina (Poquoson)
Little Creek Marina (Norfolk)
Long Bay Pointe Marina (Virginia Beach)
Virginia Beach Fishing Center (Virginia Beach)
Rudee Inlet Station Marina (Virginia Beach)

