



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINER

OCTOBER 2023

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Speckled Trout fishing with Mike Firestone

Fishing Tips: Deep Drop Fishing, Capt Will Bransom

Fishing Reports;

- Lynnhaven: Puppy Drum, Flounder
- Little Creek: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Chesapeake Bay: Black Sea Bass, Flounder, Black Drum, Cobia, Grey Triggerfish, Bluefish
- CBBT: Black Sea Bass, Speckled Trout
- James River: Red Drum, Black Drum
- James River/MMBT: Black Sea Bass
- Elizabeth River: Red Drum, Speckled Trout, Grey Trout
- Nansemond/Chuckatuck: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout, Flounder
- Oceanfront/Sandbridge: Spanish Mackerel
- Europe/Denmark: Shrimping on the Wadden Sea

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. We're holding it at the Izaak Walton League facilities in Chesapeake (same as last year). Don't forget to sign up at the October meeting and for bringing a side dish or desert, which is much appreciated. We will have steamed crabs, oysters, clams, low country boil, and pulled pork planned for the event. Rain or shine, we have indoor facilities if needed. This is a private event for our membership.

We are NOT planning on having a regular November meeting as our meeting will fall on the week of Thanksgiving. We hope everyone has an opportunity to attend the Fall Social and we'll just make that our meeting.

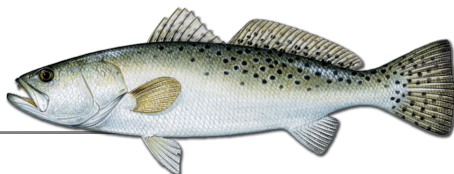
Remember to check the Club Tournaments Page for your entries into the Prize Fish Program. These can be Fresh or Saltwater entries from Virginia or North Carolina that meet their state citation requirements or our club's minimums.

Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mike Firestone

We're incredibly fortunate to have Mike Firestone speaking to the club at our October meeting. Mike will be sharing his expertise targeting speckled trout. Mike's also one of Virginia's Master Saltwater Anglers, achieving more than 25 Virginia Saltwater Tournament Citations in at least five different species (a maximum of one Citation per species per year allowed). Few anglers can achieve this milestone and this is a great opportunity to learn from one of the very best Virginia Anglers.



Important:

October 16, 2023

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

Publishers NOTES

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NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

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Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

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Club Calendar

October

Mon, Oct 16th: Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tues, Oct 24th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

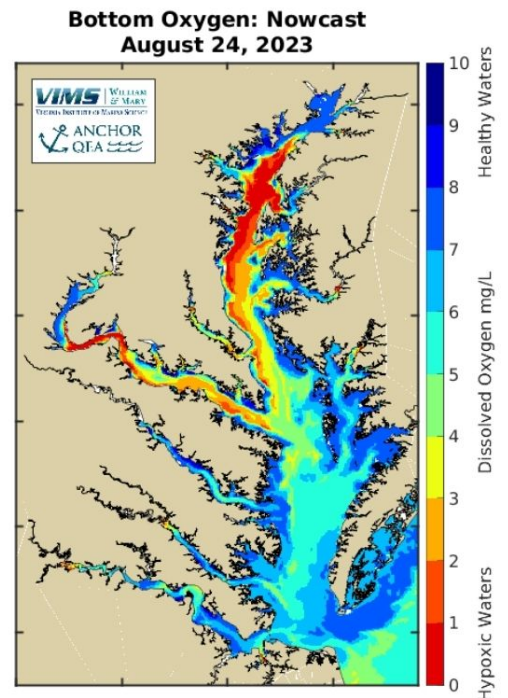
November

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**

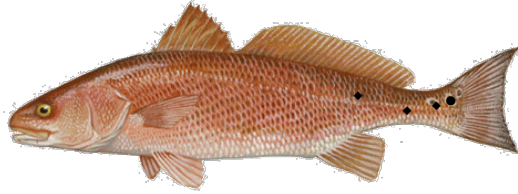
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

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!



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

Club Members Tournament for 2023



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

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



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

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

Thanks for your entries John Curry and Mike Hubert!

Capitán Alez Perez, Sr.
"Temporary" Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)





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) and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 30 September 2023

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12) Russell Willoughby (10)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)
White Perch	Marty Schriebl (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2) Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)
Spadefish	Henry Troutner (2) Mary Troutner (1) John Curry (2)
Sailfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
Grey Triggerfish	Henry Troutner (1) Alex Perez (1)
Tautog	Alex Perez (1)
Sheepshead	Will Bransom (1)
Black Sea Bass	Jere Humphrey (1)
Black Drum	Alex Perez (1)

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

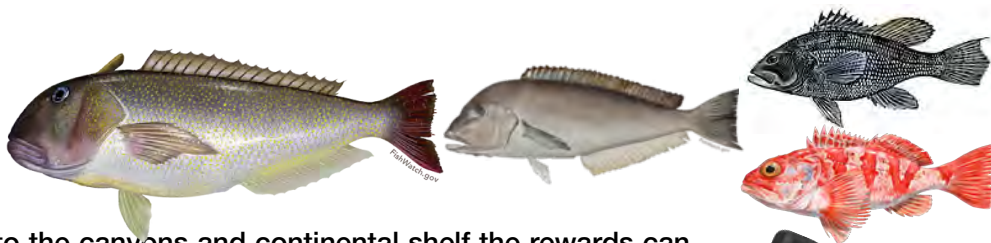
Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, as well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish paperwork is acceptable.

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

Deep Drop Fishing

Capt Will Bransom

For those wanting to venture offshore to the canyons and continental shelf the rewards can be fantastic. Whether it's on a private vessel or with a charter operator there's a few things to understand about long offshore trips. Safety is a prime consideration. When planning a trip take the time to review what might be needed when you're 70nm offshore; Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs), VHF radio, Emergency Position-Indicating Radiobeacon (EPIRB), distress signaling devices. If you fish offshore often you may want to consider a life raft and satellite communication device. There are a number of satellite communication devices such as the Garmin inReach® or ACR Bivy Stick. On my vessel I opted for an Iridium Satellite phone with a monthly service plan. It gives me the same convenience as a cell phone anywhere in the world. I've heard it said when it comes to an emergency, cost isn't so much a factor anymore. So, on my vessel I also have an 8-person Viking offshore life raft. Use the buddy boat system is another good plan but you have to remain within VHF radio range. Lots of factors come into play with VHF range; type and height of the antenna and the radio's power/wattage. Handheld VHF radios generally have a range of 6-8nm whereas, VHF mounted radios with an antenna mounted high on the vessel can reach 20-24nm.



What fish can you catch?



"Deep Dropping" is generally considered depths of 150ft or deeper. The Triangle artificial reef 33nm off the coast lies in 100ft. Travel another 30nm and that's where you get into the 150ft depth contour, now you're deep dropping. The first species you may encounter around the canyon is dolphinfish (Mahi) around some of the Long-Liner buoy markers you'll find out there. Always have a pitch bait ready when around a buoy, then keep the first fish on the hook while you hook up with others. The Mahi will school around the first fish and remain in a feeding frenzy. Between 150-300ft you can expect black sea bass around structure. Around 275ft is where blueline tilefish begin to show up on gravel, pebble, and shell bottom...a "hard bottom".

150ft



275ft



400ft



800ft



1000ft



When you get in deeper water and a soft sticky mud bottom around 400ft you'll start to find golden tilefish. These are larger fish that live in mud burrows and generally stay in a localized area. Once you find golden tiles be certain to mark the spot. Further down around 800ft is where you might find the black belly rosefish schooling. Don't pass up the chance to reel these in. They are one of the best fish out there! In the deepest areas of the canyon you'll find the groupers, warsaw and snowy, along with barrel fish and wreckfish.



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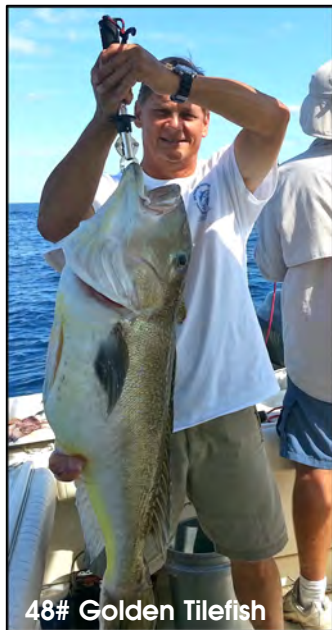
Fishing Tips...

Bait and Rigging

Squid and fresh cut fish are your best choices for bait. Often you can pull in a bluefish or mackerel when dropping and they make excellent bait. The larger squid is preferred for tilefish. To prep them take them out before they're fully thawed out. Take your bait knife and slice them so you can pull out the still-frozen insides and get rid of them, preferably NOT over your fishing spot. The insides of the squid, guts, ink sack, all of it, stains everything. Separate the squid head from the mantle body and either cut the squid in strips or chunks. My preference for the head & tentacles is to slice it lengthwise and use 1/2 on each hook. A friend of mine who got me into deep dropping years ago told me "*Big Hooks, Big Bait, Big Fish*". I followed that advice and on my first drop ever hooked a 48# golden. He reeled in a 42# fish right behind me.



Fresh Caught Mackerel



48# Golden Tilefish

When it comes to hooks, it's circle hooks for everything! When fishing deeper depths circle hooks are necessary because you can't *set the hook* with lots of line out. An angler needs to feel the bite and slowly start retrieving the bait until they feel the weight of the fish. Sometimes the tilefish will hammer the bait and hook themselves. The circle hook is self-setting and works its way to the fish's jaw. They also prevent gut hooking a fish and make it easier to remove. My choice for circle hooks for sea bass and blueline tilefish is the Gamakatsu 4/0 and 5/0 hook and for golden tilefish the Owner 4x Strong Demon 10/0-12/0 circle hook. Another essential is braided fishing line. The extreme low stretch and high degree of "feel" of braid makes it the only choice for fishing the deep.



A classic double drop bottom rig is used with short leader drops to the circle hook. The drops to the circle hooks are attached to a 130# barrel swivel sandwiched between beads with a crimp above and below (Photo below). The barrel swivels are spaced far enough apart so the hooks with strip bait attached

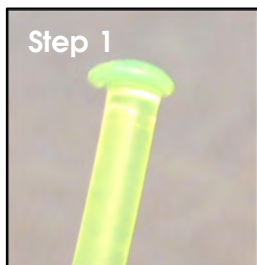


don't tangle. The leaders are only about 6-8 inches long and attach with crimps. Everything for deep dropping is crimped. Rigging for sea bass and blueline tilefish you could use your standard rig for shallow sea bass fishing, except with circle hooks. Sea bass/blueline rigs are made up with up to 100# monofilament. While there's little chance of snagging the bottom sometimes you'll hook into an 18-20# tilefish and the added strength helps get the fish to the boat. Rigs for golden tilefish and grouper are upsized to 200# mono with drops rigged with 150-200# mono. Unlike blueline tiles, golden tilefish will retreat into their mud burrows and getting them out with a prolonged tug-o-war can be exhausting. The heavier rigging can take the abuse of a 20 minute fight before it works free. The key thing to remember fishing deep is to not let your line scope out, try and feel the bite, and working the circle hook for its own hook-set before in gets in their burrow. To draw attention to your rig, try using the glow tubing, glow beads, glow squid skirts, and lights. There's no light even at 300ft so the extra "bling" helps draw attention to your bait (Photo right). The tubing also serves as added chafe protection. Tilefish have lots of small teeth and during that prolonged tug-o-war your leader can experience a bite off.

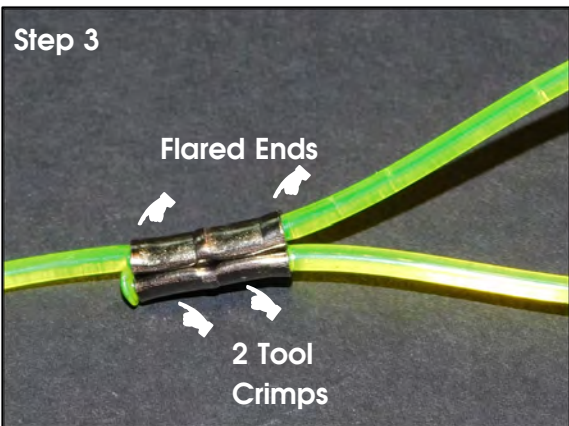
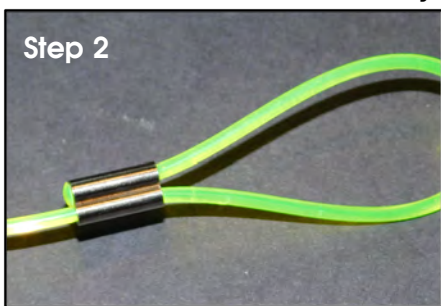


Crimping Connections

Once you learn the technique crimping provides a quick and high strength connection. You'll need a crimping tool (photo right) and correctly sized crimps (chart lower right). Before you begin, review what you want to put on the rig and the order it needs to go. Thread the monofilament line through the crimp and extend it so the tail end is away from the rest of the line. Use a lighter and heat the tip before using your finger to mushroom the end of the mono (Step 1). The second step is to pull the mono back



through the crimp until the mushroomed end stops against the crimp (Step 2). The last step is to apply the crimp (Step 3). When applying the crimp be careful to NOT crimp the ends of the soft copper crimp and use the correct crimp setting on the tool. When properly done the crimp will have a slight flare on the ends.



With heavier leader material the leader can be simply looped through the hook eye and then crimped. The disadvantage of this connection is the hook will hang freely from the leader. A preferred method of attaching the hooks is to use a Figure-8 wrap around the hook shank. The first step is to insert the leader through the hook eye and wrap it around the hook shank (Step A). The second step is to continue the wrap until it leader can be insert back through the hook eye from the opposite direction (Step B). The last is to feed the leader through the crimp and adjust the hook shank in line with the leader (Step C).

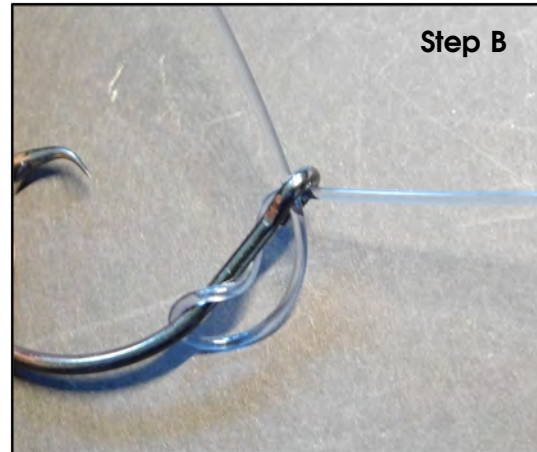
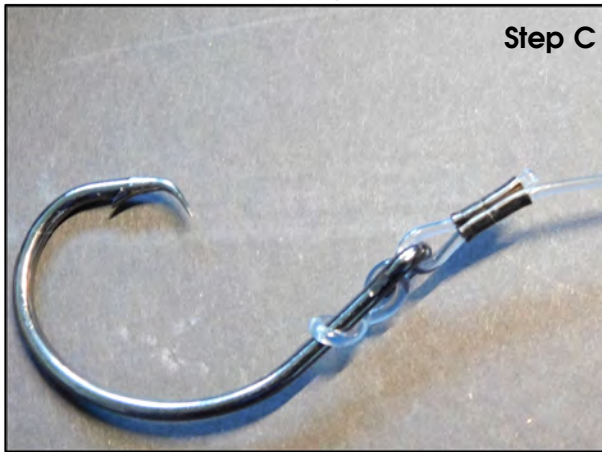
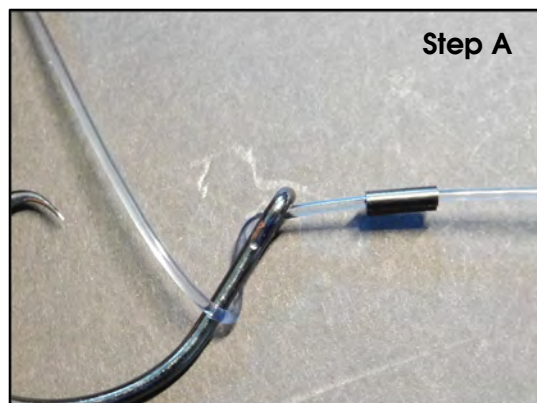
When done properly there will be a Figure-8 around the shank. This creates an extremely strong attachment. The final step would be to slide a protective hook sleeve over the shank and add glow tubing/beads to finish the rig.



Crimp Chart for mono

.6mm	=20-30lb test
.8mm	=40-50lb test
1.0mm	=60-80lb test
1.1mm	=80-100lb test
1.2mm	=100-120lb test
1.3mm	=120-150lb test
1.5mm	=150-200lb test
1.7mm	=220-250lb test
2.0mm	=250-350lb test
2.2mm	=350-400lb test
2.3mm	=400-450lb test
2.4mm	=500lb test
2.6mm	=600lb test

For best fit determine line diameter and go up one size



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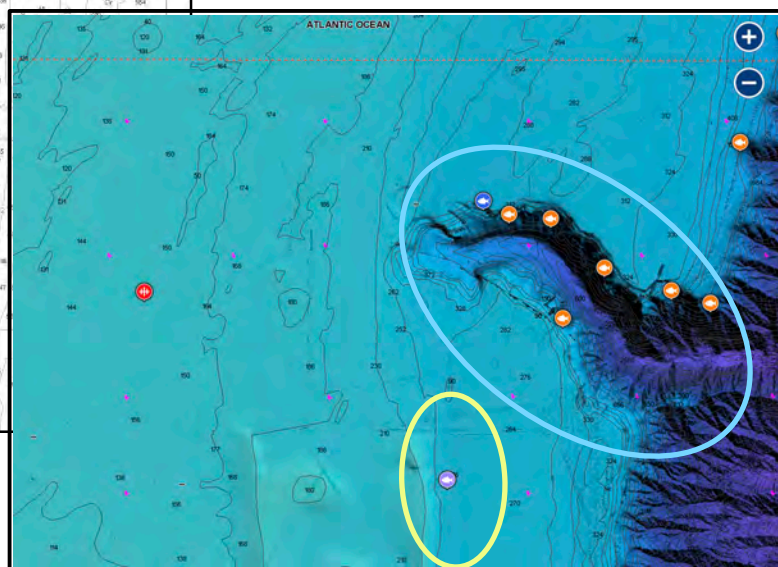
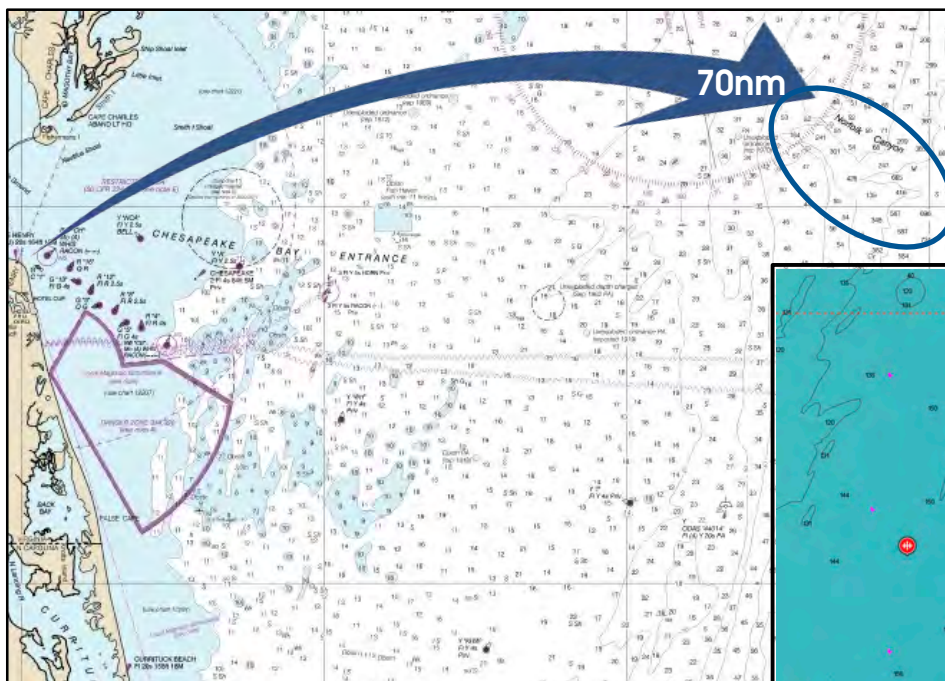
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Fishing Tips...

Location, Location, Location!

One of the first deep wreck sites you'll come to is the wreck of the Ocean Venture. Sunk during WWII (February 1942) in a U-Boat attack, its tall relief and scattered debris field make it an ideal location for sea bass though it gets a lot of fishing pressure during Virginia's February sea bass season and the early regular season. For all other

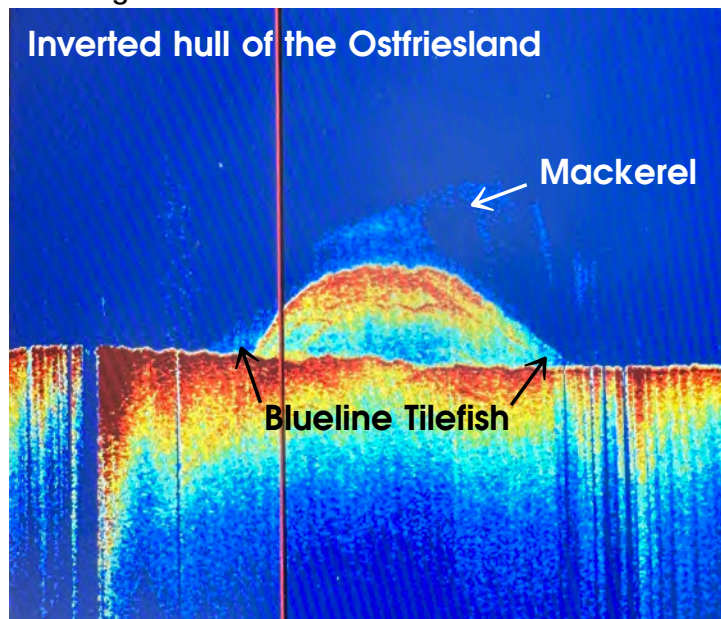
species around the canyon is where you want to be. At various depths going down the walls of the canyon the bottom will transition from a hard bottom of sand/shell to a soft sticky mud. Depths around the canyon range from 300-400 feet before dropping to over 1,000ft.



This is the area to fish for tilefish. The shallow areas to the south of the canyon (circled in yellow) is an uneven hard bottom with dark sand, shell, and gravel (photo lower left). Starting out with a slow drift in 275ft will yield good results. Another wreck fishing option for blueline tilefish is the Ex-German WWI Battleship Ostfriesland. The Ostfriesland is 8nm north of the canyon in 350ft with relief as high as 40ft off the bottom. Fishing for golden tiles requires fishing in the canyon's mud bottom in the 600-1000ft range. Both the north and south walls have produced +30 lb fish. For targeting wreckfish, barrel fish, and grouper try the deeper and steeper walls of the north canyon wall.



Blueline Tile bottom at 300ft



Inverted hull of the Ostfriesland

Mackerel

Blueline Tilefish

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Fishing Tips...

Safe Handling & Release

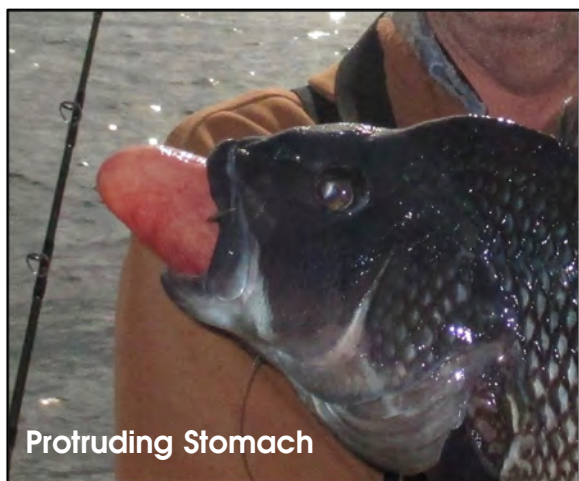
When fishing there's always a fair number of fish that must be released. Whether it's because they're out of season or undersized, safe handling and release of these fish is important. Barotrauma is the term that describes the stress from a pressure related injury. When retrieving a fish from depth the changes in pressure from the bottom to the surface are significant and cause injury if not handled properly. When fishing deeper waters, even as shallow as 100ft, there's a risk of injuring the fish.

The signs of barotrauma; eyes bulging from the eye sockets, extended bowels, protruding stomach from the mouth, and an appearance of being paralyzed. Injury comes from the fish's expanding air bladder during ascent. As it expands it displaces internal organs making it impossible for the fish to descend on its own. If these fish are released without any intervention they are not likely going to survive.

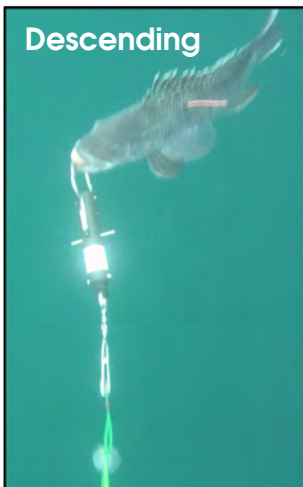
To properly release a fish, handle the fish with wet hands, return it quickly to the water with a descending device. Descending devices come in many forms. They can be an inverted hook with a filed down hook barb snelled to your mainline, an inverted wire device like the Sheldon Descender Device (photo right), or a pressure release mechanism like the SeaQualizer (photo lower right). Descending devices are designed to return a fish to a depth where the fish can revive itself and swim free. They're preferred over the practice of venting fish because they cause less injury to the fish and are easier to use.



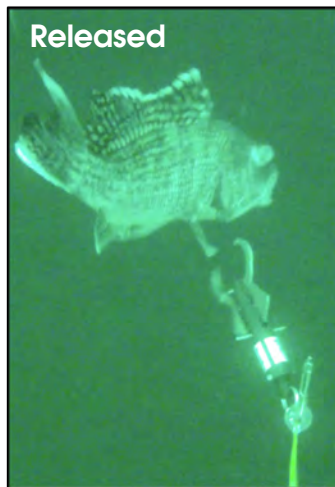
Bulging Eyes



Protruding Stomach



Descending



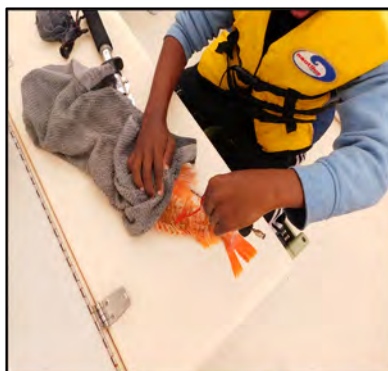
Released



Sheldon
Descender



Paralyzed Fish



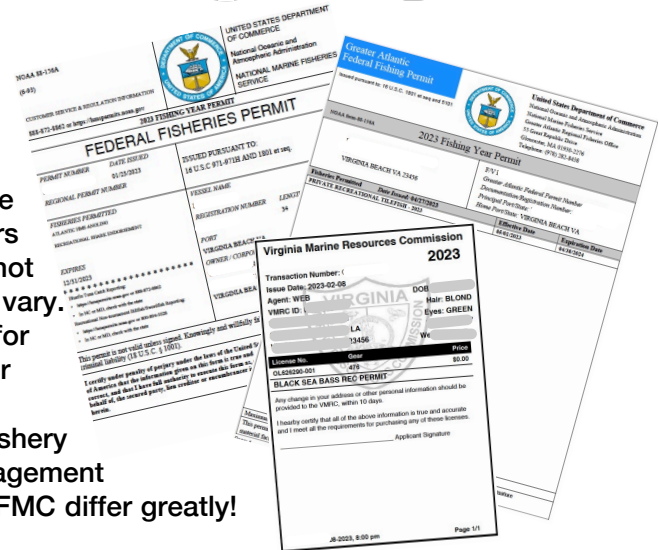
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Fishing Tips...

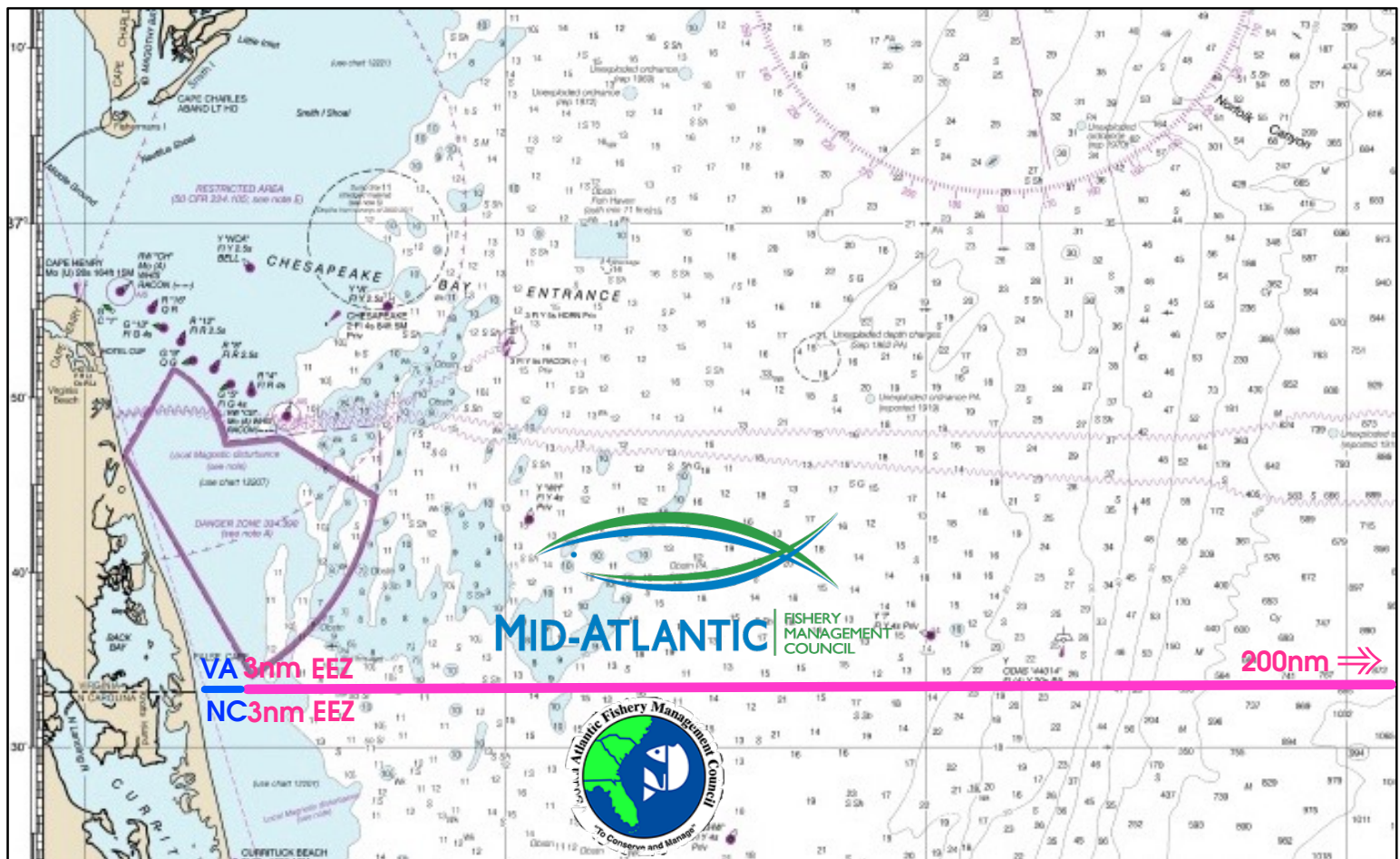
Regulations

It's important to know the fishing regulations when you're crossed jurisdictions and acquire the proper permits before fishing. There are state regulations from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) that regulate fishing within state waters and the North Carolina Dept of Natural Resources (NCDNR) for our neighbors to the south. State fishing regulations often mirror federal regs but not always and regulations between federal fisheries councils may also vary. An important point to remember is you must follow the regulations for the jurisdiction you're fishing in and those where you're landing your catch. The two federal fishery councils that manage the Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) {3nm-200nm offshore} are the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). Regarding the tilefish fishery the MAFMC and SAFMC differ greatly!



For example: In Virginia, to participate in the Special February Black Sea Bass season you will need to get a free/online season permit only applicable to the February season, which comes with some reporting requirements.

In the MAFMC area Golden Tilefish is open all year with a possession limit of 8 per person/per day. In the SAFMC the possession limit is 1 per person with an aggregate tilefish limit of 3...when the season is open, and on July 17, 2023 it closed. Blueline tiles are open from May 1 to Oct 31 in the MAFMC area with a possession limit of 3pp for a recreational (not for hire) vessel. In the SAFMC the aggregate limit of 3 tilefish applies but the season closed Sep 1, 2023. You'll also need a Federal Tilefish permit available from NOAA/Greater Atlantic Regional Field Office (GARFO) to fish tilefish in the MAFMC area (free/online) and it comes with a reporting requirement.



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Fishing Reports...



AJ Moved to Nyhavn,
København, Denmark
August 18, 2023 for
studies!



AJ Perez Shrimping in Denmark

Through the adventures of exploring Scandinavia, I was finally able to stop at the Wadden Sea in Western Denmark and go foraging for shrimp and snails with my classmates and professor. Using a shrimp push net, I was able to catch over fifty shrimp varying in size.

They were jumping in the net and put into a white bucket with water. Additionally, we looked at the posts off the shore and gathered snails from them. It was great to get a glimpse of marine life on another continent.

- Alex Perez, Jr.



The Wadden Sea is the largest tidal flats system in the world, where natural processes proceed largely undisturbed. It extends along the coasts of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. For its globally unique geological and ecological values the Wadden Sea is listed by UNESCO as World Heritage site.



7 SEP: "Heat Advisory - Stay Indoors! So, to beat the heat, John Curry, Mary, and I headed out at 6:30 AM to fish the James River for a couple of hours. We caught 5 Reds and 1 Black Drum and lost a couple in the pilings. The Reds were tagged & released, but the Black was kept for dinner. Bait was Shrimp, Crab (Blue and shedder), and Minnows. Home by 10:30 AM - beat the heat.

- Henry Troutner



19 SEP: Fall is starting to show with a drop in temperature, so Mary and I headed out in the skiff for a couple of hours on the Chuckatuck. With an incoming current and high tide, we were fishing for speckled trout and reds using minnows and Z-Man paddle tails on 1/8 oz Jigs. Fishing was slow, but we tagged four speckled trout, a 28" red drum, and two short Flounders. Beautiful weather for fishing.

- Henry Troutner

20 SEP: It was a beautiful day, and John Curry invited Mary and me for a late afternoon on the Chuckatuck and MMBT. We left his dock at 3 PM. and fished the mouth of the Chuckatuck for an hour or so, catching ten speckled trout, one short flounder, and a Ladyfish. All were caught on a minnow, or a Z-Man paddle tail fished on a 1/8 oz. jig, and were tagged and released. Moving to the MMBT, we caught a couple of very small Black Sea Bass. Looks like bad weather is brewing into next week.

- Henry Troutner



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17 SEP: I cast netted peanut Bunker and fished the Norfolk International Terminals on the Elizabeth River. Fishing six feet of water during the incoming tide on a 1/8-ounce circle hook, I caught three red drum up to 34 inches. The second drum caught, measuring 27.5 inches, was previously tagged by me 27 days earlier in the same spot. It was nice to learn that the red drum stays in a general area for a while. The tag already had significant growth, so I cleaned the tag before releasing the fish.

21 SEP: On Thursday, September 21st, Will Bransom and I ran out of Rudee Inlet and headed towards Sandbridge.

We began trolling swimming plugs and 00-size Clark spoons. We aimed to catch a few small Bluefish for live bait in search of Cobia to tag and release. We ran farther offshore after trolling for a few hours and releasing two small Spanish Mackerel. We checked a buoy and the Kingston Celonite wreck to find only Sea Turtles. From there, we ran in shallower, off the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier, and found schools of Menhaden. We slow-trolled a couple of Menhaden with nothing to show for it before heading in.



Red Drum with less than a month's growth on its tag.

- Alex Perez



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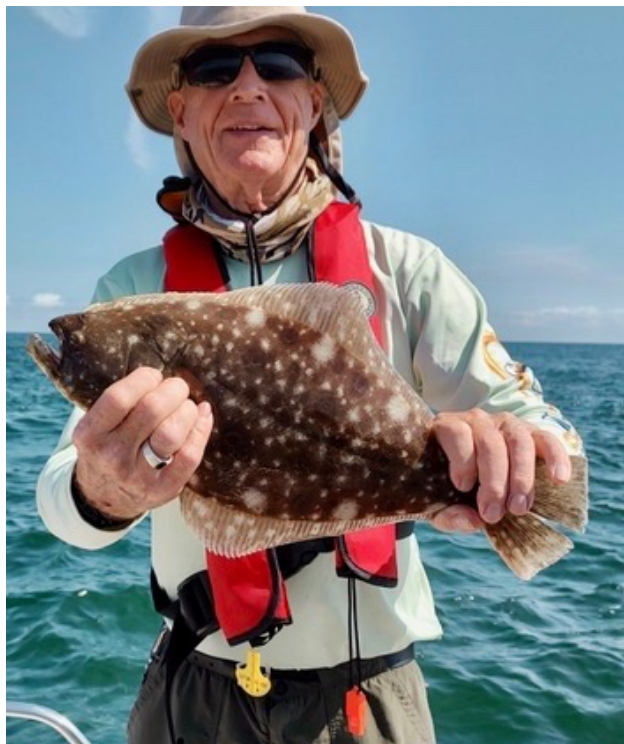
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11 Sep: Mary, John Curry, George Langdon, and I fished the Shamrock on some structure in the lower bay. We Launched at Dandy Point/Wallaces with more wind than predicted, but it was still not uncomfortable to fish.

The first stop was the Big D, loaded with small seabass, toads, and a lone speckled trout. John Curry caught a big Toad we entered into the Toadfish Tournament. With the current approaching slack, we fished the Cape Henry Wreck until 6oz wouldn't hold bottom. The wreck was loaded with small Seabass, but we caught four flounder, three short, George got an 18", and Mary caught a 25" black drum.

We moved to the 2nd Island and were inundated with small BSB. At about 12:45 PM, we headed toward the Back River Reef, but the sky turned black and started drizzling, so we called it a day. We fished Fiddler, Blue Crab, Squid, and some miscellaneous cut bait. Seabass, speckled trout, short flounder, and black drum were tagged and released. George's keeper, Flounder, went home for dinner.

- Henry Troutner



19 SEP: I got a couple nice puppy drum in the morning. I broke two more off. Then the bite shut down.

- James Robinson





12 SEP: Went fishing with Ned Smith on Louis' Carolina Skiff in the Little Creek, looking for speckled trout. I had caught a couple the week before, so we figured the bite might turn on at daybreak for topwater action. Once out there, about half an hour before dawn, the topwater was zilch. But I at least hooked an 18-inch at the jetties on an 18MR. Ned also hooked up one as well, but that was all.

Then, around 9:30 AM, we decided to try one more spot as a last resort. I tried Topwater one more time, got a nice swirl and miss on the first cast, and hooked up on the second cast with an 18-inch. From that point, we stayed with the topwater lures, getting a hookup or miss on almost every cast.

By 10:30 AM, we had boated seven speckled trout 17-19 inches and two puppy drums on topwater MirrOlure She dogs or Henson One Knockers. At one point, I hooked up something more significant and saw a bluefish at least 25+ inches jump out of the water and bite off my lure. One of my favorites is cream-colored. It was an outstanding end to a fishing trip that started poorly.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



48-inch
Cobia
release

40-inch Cobia tagged and released.

2 Sep: Henry Baumann and I fished out of Cape Charles looking for Cobia. The water was cloudy after a recent blow with a slight northeast swell. We fished from 10 AM until 1 PM and only saw two Cobia while searching from the tower. Fortunately, both fish ate the two-ounce bucktail we presented to them. The first Cobia measured 48 inches, and the second measured 40 inches. We found an area near the anchorage that had scattered small schools of Menhaden, where we found the Cobia cruising between them. Both fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.



- Alex Perez



On Sunday, September 3rd, Danny Moore and I fished the Craney Island side of the Elizabeth River. Using three-inch Gulp Shrimp on 1/8- and 3/8-ounce jig heads, we caught one small Speckled Trout, three Gray Trout, and two Puppy Drum casting along the rocks. The fish were holding 3-4 feet off the rocks.

- Alex Perez



Red Drum release.



Red Drum released



14 SEP: Slow morning in the creek. One decent flounder and lots of critter bites.



6 SEP: Caught some nice fish yesterday morning in the creek.



- James Robinson

20 SEP: I fished the end of the outgoing tide on the Cape Henry wreck, using live blue crab for bait. As the current slowed, I used a dropper rig, a 4/0 hook with an eight-ounce weight, and instantly hooked up with a 35.5-inch black drum. I hook another mid-30-inch fish on my second drop but lost it on the boat side. My third black drum came in at 26 inches and was followed by catching small black sea bass. My location on the wreck was 57 feet of water, and both drum I boated suffered from barotrauma.

I utilized a Seaqualizer tool first to revive the Drum and then release both fish at the 50-foot setting. It is great to feel the fish come to life and the tool release once they reach the depth they were taken from.

I decided to check two more bay wrecks, finishing on the Anglo-African. Small Triggerfish and Bluefish were the only bites on the wreck.

- Alex Perez



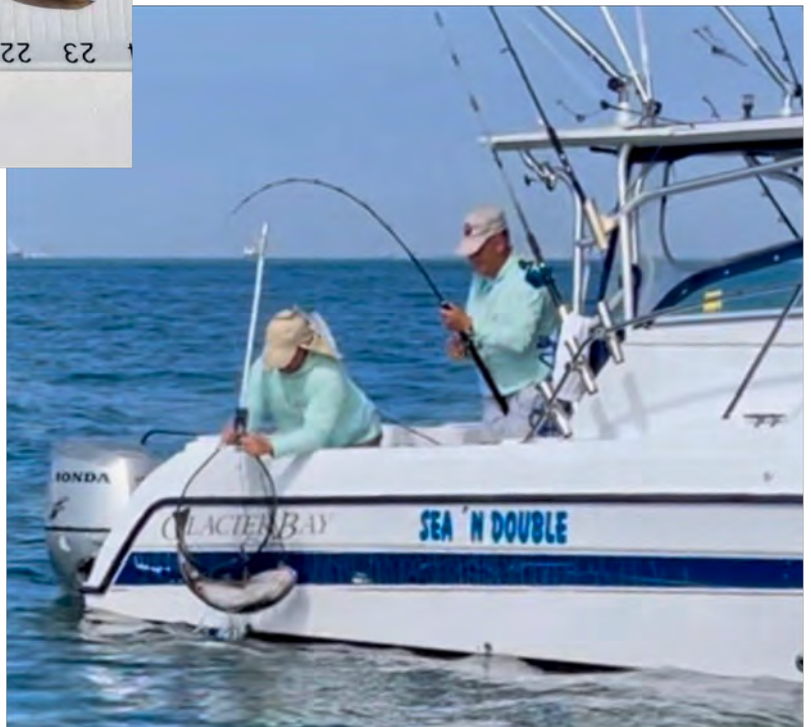
Gray Triggerfish, tagged and released.



Black Drum tagged and released.



Our very own Will Bransom catching a Black Drum. Mike Hubert on the net.





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