

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

SEP 2016

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Guest Speaker: Zach Bowles, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*,
Fall Inshore Wreck Fishing and Trolling

Fishing Tips: Speckled Trout Fishing, Captain Craig Freeman, *Grading Scales Sportfishing*

Ocean View Community Center annual youth fishing trip

Fishing Reports:

- Flounder fishing in the Chesapeake Bay
- Puppy Drum
- Spanish Mackerel
- Deep Dropping and Black Sea Bass offshore
- Last days of the Cobia season

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

In August we made a great start for the SeaTow Hampton Roads Holiday Toy Drive. At each of our meetings through November we'll be collecting new/unwrapped toys for Hampton Roads families this year. Be generous and bring a toy to each meeting and make a child's holiday brighter.



We're continuing our collection of canned goods and non-perishable food items for the Foodbank of SE Virginia and the Eastern Shore. We do this year round at every meeting. So, if you're out and about remember to put an item in your vehicle and bring it to the Sept 12th meeting.

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped out with the Ocean View Community Center youth fishing trip. On one of those blistering hot August days you treated the Ocean View kids to a day of fishing they'll never forget. Thank You for supporting the kids and the club. Well Done!

Will

MEETING

Guest Speaker: Zach Bowles, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*, is joining us to talk about Fall Inshore Wreck Fishing and Trolling. He'll share his expertise fishing Flounder & Sea Bass on the wrecks and trolling for King Mackerel & Wahoo.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, September 12th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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70th Anniversary

Norfolk Marine Company had 230 people come through our dealership during our 70th anniversary open house. We had several door prize winners that were lucky enough to enjoy a great marine product at no cost to them. Things like GPS units, coolers, VHF radios and much more were given away.

Having the Norfolk Anglers Club, Land and Sea, Sea Tow Hampton Roads as well as all of our boat and motor vendors here to answer questions and or concerns for our customer was great as well. Live music, great food and lots of great people getting together over a weekend is always a recipe for success.

Norfolk Marine Company was truly blessed to have our customers and vendors share a weekend of fun with us. A big thank you to all of the vendors as well as all of our fantastic customers! - Tim Fitzgerald



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB MEMBERS WHO HELPED WITH OUR BOOTH: BEN CAPPS, NED SMITH, IKE & KATHY EISENHOWER AND WILL & WENDY BRANSOM

Norfolk Anglers Club Fishing Tips...

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Speckled Trout fishing:

Captain Craig Freeman, Grading Scales Sportfishing

Speckled Trout are one of the best looking fish in the bay and they provide a great fight. Anglers prepared with some basic knowledge of Specs and rigging, minimal tackle, and a few rods can quickly become addicted to fishing Speckled Trout.

Speckled Trout Basics: Specs are great predators, but they're lazy. They prefer their prey to swim to them over chasing it down. They like structure and grass flats where they can lie in wait for their next meal to swim by. Their varying color shade and speckles makes their camouflage very effective along the grass beds. Speckled trout also have tender mouths and hard hook sets, high drag settings, and quick retrieves can often pull a hook free. Lastly, location is important. Knowing the types of bottom and structure in your fishing area and the right times to fish it greatly increases your success.



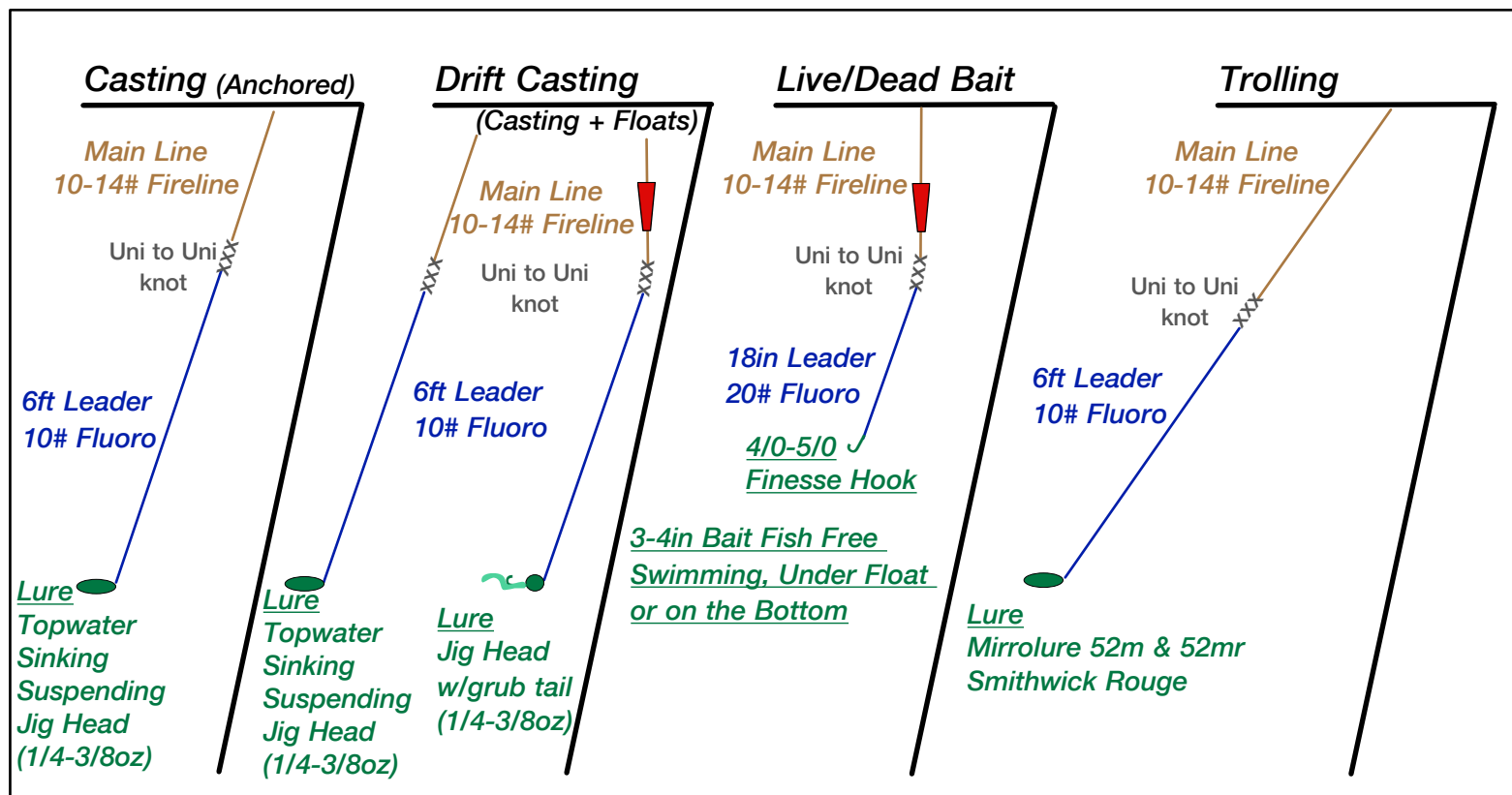
Captain Freeman shared his expertise fishing the Back River and Poquoson Flats areas. He advised to get to know the area where you fish, tidal flow, structure, drop-offs, grass beds, turns in the river all account for the uniqueness of the area. No "one tactic" fits every fishing area, something (lure or jig combo) that works great in Back River may not work in Lynnhaven.

Equipment: Each angler's casting and retrieval technique will eventually guide their selection of rods and reels for a particular species. Captain Freeman prefers Shimano 2500-3000 Spinning Reels and 200 sized Baitcasting Reels, many other reels work fine and finding what works for you is important. His rods are 6'6" - 7' Medium Heavy Fast Action spinning rods as his primary casting rod. A *Fast Action* rod will generally have its bend in the last 12-18 inches before the tip and a *Moderate Action* rod will bend about 2-3 ft from the tip. Drag settings for Speckled Trout fishing should be very light, as mentioned, due to their soft mouths and the risk of pulling the hook and injuring the fish. On Spinning Reels he uses 10-14 lb Berkley Fireline in smoke color. Capt Freeman recommends the Fireline on Spinning Reels as it lays flatter and casts much smoother. For Baitcasting Reels he uses 10-14 lb PowerPro Braid. Knots to join the leader (flouro/mono) to braid are completed with a Uni-to-Uni knot with 5 turns on the leader side and 7 turns on the braid side.

Tackle: Tackle needed for Specs can be as simple as Jig Heads and Rubber Tails but most Speckled Trout anglers will have a wide assortment of lures, jig heads and soft baits to cover a wide range of conditions and locations.



Technique: Capt Freeman uses four basic techniques fishing for Specs; Casting, Drift Casting, Live/Dead Bait and Trolling. Much depends on conditions like wind direction, current, tidal flow and how they effect the area you want to fish. Casting from an anchored position allows you to work an area that's holding fish, such as a drop off, structure, or wash out by a creek. Drift Casting permits you to cover ground while being moved by the wind or current and gives you the opportunity to set out floating corks with rigged lures/baits. When drifting like this always have a pair of marker floats at the ready. When you locate an area holding fish drop the marker float so that you can relocate the position again when setting up your next drift. Be cautious to not continually drift over your marked area but rather drift around it and cast into it. Speckled Trout can be spooked by boat traffic, noise, or just about anything that's not natural. Employing Live/Dead Bait largely determines on the location and conditions to present it. You may want it free swimming, suspended under a floating cork, or on the bottom. For Live/Dead Bait fishing Capt Freeman uses a Gamakatsu 4/0-5/0 Wide gap Finesse Hook snelled to an 18in Fluorocarbon Leader (20#). Trolling obviously covers the most ground while deploying the most rigs (4-8 rods) dependent on conditions. You should consider a Moderate Action Rod for trolling, it's a bit stiffer with a bend radius lower on the rod and can take the pressure of trolling lures. Capt Freeman advises Mirrolure 17m/mr don't troll well and he uses Mirrolure 52m/mr for trolling (the "r" represents having a rattle) and will sometimes troll jigs.



Working the Lures: With Jig Heads you'll want to hop the bottom or swim it in & out of grass edges. With swim or paddle tails lures the tail can be rigged either up or down. Rigging with the tail down is a traditional method but to draw the lure deeper, rig it with the tail up.

There's two standout Mirrolures, the 17m/mr and the 52m/mr. When working the 17m/mr count slowly to allow it to suspend to depth before the retrieve. Use one of three types of retrieve; a SLOW retrieve, a SLOW retrieve with an occasional fast-twitch during the retrieve, and a "reel bump". The best way to describe the "reel bump" is to just lightly bump the reel handle causing it to rotate around. For the 52m/mr use a SLOW retrieve or a SLOW long-twitch style of retrieve.

So, what's "SLOW" mean? It means if you think you're slow enough, SLOW so more. You can't be quick on the retrieve when fishing for Speckled Trout.



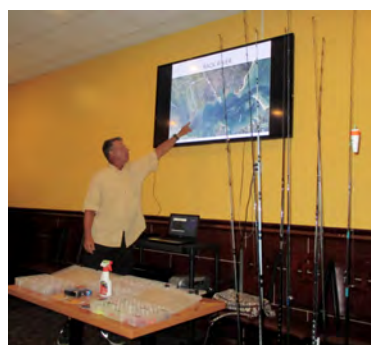
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Fishing Tips...

Location: Each Speckled Trout Angler has "their spot", it's the favorite *go-to* location when conditions are right. Anglers should scout for their "spot" by looking for natural drop offs, structure, and grass beds. Observe and record the fishing action with different tides, wind, and sun conditions. On an outgoing tide fish the mouth of creeks where the bottom drops, or edges of the grass beds. Darling's Bar off Wallace's B&T has a number of cuts and grass beds. It's a good place to fish at the start of an incoming tide. Fishing structure like the duck blinds and the old Govt Dock are also good. Specs are ambush feeders that rely on their camouflage and a good hiding place to await their next meal. Just north of Back River is Plum Tree Island. Fish the grass beds and drops on the NE shore from Gun Hammock Creek to Whalebone Island. You can fish but **DO NOT** anchor or go ashore around Plum Tree Island.

The island is now a National Wildlife Refuge but was once a military bombing range and danger exists due to remaining unexploded ordnance.



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Annual Kids Head Boat Trip

The Head Boat Trip on the Judith Ann with the Kids from the East Ocean View Community Center went off without any glitches and fun was had by all. We had about 47 kids and a dozen NAC members assisting the kids for the trip. The boat was captained by Ronnie Boone, owner of the Judith Ann. We fished the Thimble Shoals Channel between the First and Second Islands of the CBBT to begin with but couldn't seem to find the croaker bite that I'd heard of. CAPT Ron then pulled us real close to the bridge on the ocean side north of the Second Island so the kids could catch some of the juvenile black Sea Bass and the kids really seemed to enjoy catching them. None were big enough to keep but that didn't seem to matter. It was hot on the water to begin with but once the NE wind kicked in later in the morning, it felt great to be on the water. One of the kids caught the first Flounder of the season on the Judith Anne, confirmed by one of the Judith Ann's Mates. We all had a great time on the water and I'm sure they are looking forward to doing it again next year. I have secured VMRC's approval for doing it again in 2017.

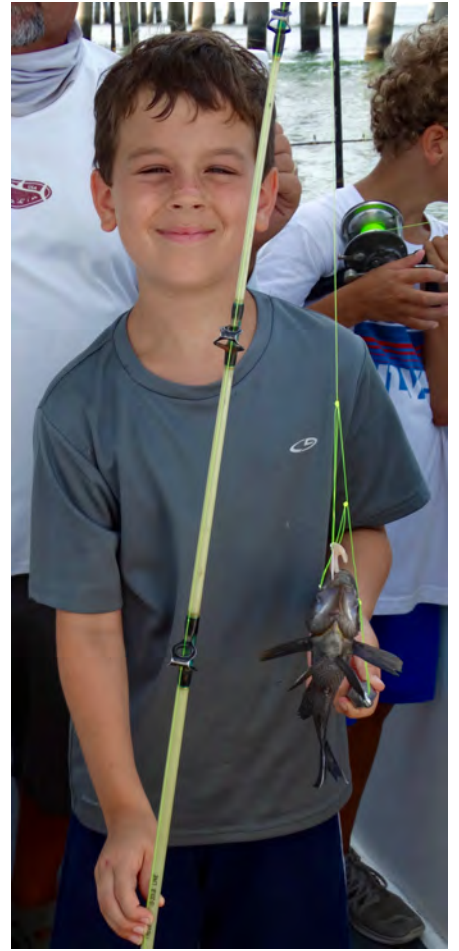
After the fishing trip the Ocean View Community Center was the site for the Kids Cookout. The Anglers Club hosted the cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, watermelon, and some of Michel Smith's homemade Mac 'n Cheese. Special Thanks to Michel for adding the homemade touch and to Bert Sainz & Johnsonville for the hot dogs. They were a big hit and the kids lit into them like baby Sea Bass on fresh squid.

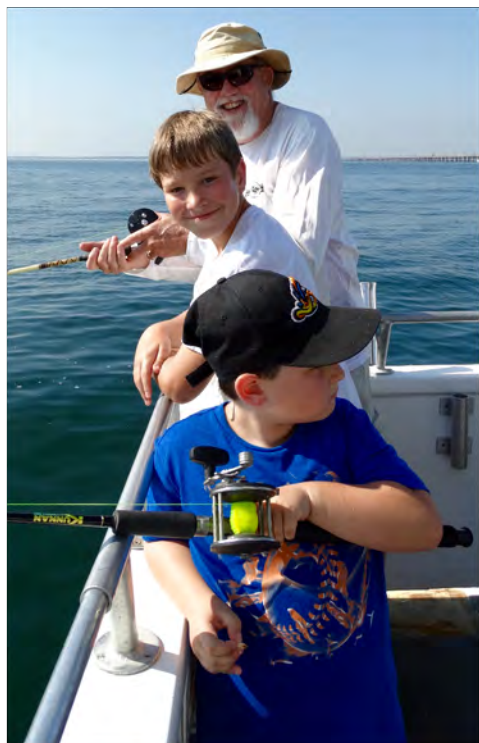


Thanks everyone who helped out!









Fishing Reports...



10 - 21 August: Louis and I went fishing with Bert Sainz to the CBBT (high rise to second island tube). We jigged buck tails with flounder belly strips, and used live bunker and spot on three way bottom rigs.

There was no Flounder bite on the bucktails but we picked up 4 nice Flounder on bunker and spot. We also caught more huge toads then I can remember catching in one outing. *Maybe we need to start eating toads!*

Coming off a full moon and heavy currents, on the 21st, Nick Wright and I went out floundering with Bert Sainz on his boat for 8 hours around the 4th and 2nd islands. While not a great bite, we picked up 7 nice keepers on live mullet and spot. The largest was 21.5 inches. Bert worked the trolling motor to perfection. - Ned Smith

6 August: A couple of us went out for a day of fishing on the Chesapeake Bay. We started out sight fishing for Cobia on our way to 9 foot shoal but didn't see anything. At the shoal, we set up a chum slick at the start of the incoming current. We were anchored on the ocean side of the bridge in about 20' of water so our slick would flow into the bridge and hopefully entice and cobia patrolling the pilings. We maintained the slick from about 9:30 AM to 2 PM and didn't see a Cobia. We had live eels, croakers, spot and pig fish, along with fresh bunker.

Surprisingly we didn't catch one Shark or Ray. I think this is a first while chumming in the Bay. The Bluefish, all of which were about 18- 20 inches, were thick in our slick and played havoc with our baits. We did catch a mess of them but only kept a few to use as bait. We also caught several Spanish Mackerel while throwing spoons to the Bluefish. At about 2PM, the tide went slack and our chum was about out so we decided to hit the islands for Flounder on our way in. First stop, Bay side of Island 3. First drift, caught an 18" and 20" Flounder. Did the same drift 5 or 6 times with nothing else. We also hit the 2nd and 1st Island on the way in but only picked up a couple toadfish. - Henry Troutner



14 August: We dove at the triangles for a limit of Flounder between 18-25 inches and 3 Lobster. Seas got worse the further we went. We were the only boat there. - Mike Delbridge

August 20th: Took a trip out to an offshore wreck called the Eureka (53nm SE of Rudee Inlet) and fished with cut squid and mackerel. We loaded up with lots of Black Sea Bass, including a VSWFT Citation Sea Bass for Mike Delbridge. It appeared the Sea Bass were feeding on small crabs and lots of sand eels.

Wendy landed the first of many double Sea Bass hook ups and there were plenty to go around. Including lots of fish just under the 5 lb citation size. Conditions were perfect with light winds and calm seas, making drifting the wreck slow and easy. We were joined by only one other boat the entire day.

We had a plan to prospect a few other areas about 10 miles to the north for Tilefish and Sea Bass before moving up to the Norfolk Canyon. As is the case with deep dropping, you should always make the effort to explore new areas for Tilefish grounds.

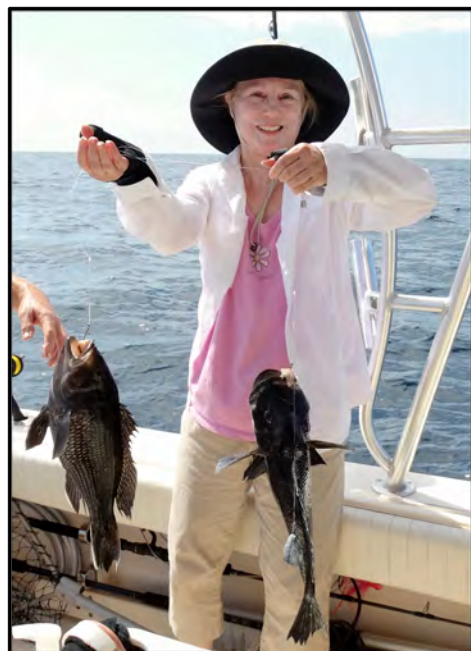
With the prospecting complete we moved over to a favorite Blueline Tilefish location and started putting fish in the box.

We ended up with about 70 Sea Bass and 17 Blueline Tilefish before heading to the next location on the way back to Rudee Inlet.

We stopped at the Triangle Reef for a few drifts looking for Flounder. An easy decision as it was on the way home. So after just a few drifts and one keeper Flounder, we headed home.

I was glad to have Louis Glaser, Mike Hubert, Mike Delbridge and Wendy aboard for what turned out to be a great day of catching.

- Will Bransom





31 July - 6 August:

We fished the Anglo for Flounder and Spadefish. The Spadefish there were bigger than last year but the Flounder were smaller on average for us. There were also some decent size Triggers around that the crew were



nice enough to leave with me! We also stopped off at the High Rise on the July 6th trip and picked up a half dozen nice Flounder on one long drift. Being excited about that, I took my Aug 10th group back there and fished the entire Flood with only 5 Keepers to show for it. We did pick up a lot of good size smoking Blues as well though.

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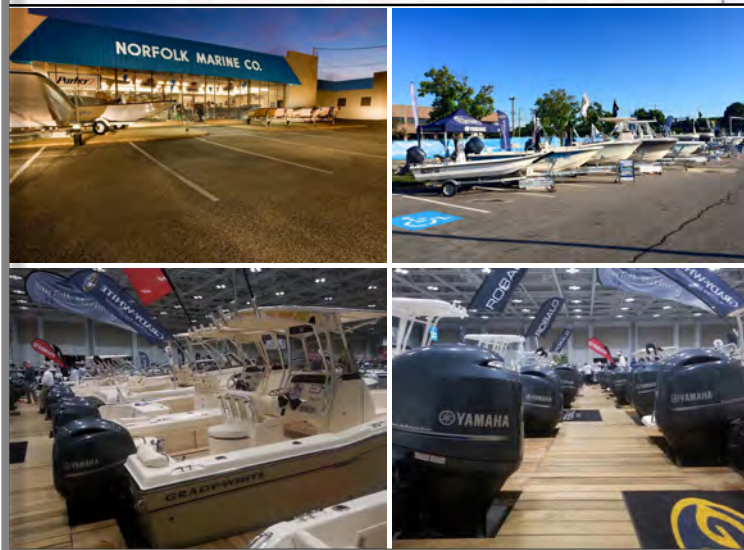
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21 August:

I decided to give this sight fishing thing for Cobia a try since I had a young buck from Maryland with good eyesight and color vision visiting who had never caught a Cobia. As luck would have it, he spotted a nice 46"er near the 2nd that was eager to grab his eel and he got his first Cobia. We continued to the 4th without seeing any more fish and then caught 4 keeper and several throwback Flounder in the pilings there.

26 August: We gave the sight fishing another go and spotted 14 undersized and legal Cobia in the pilings between the 2nd and 3rd Islands but unfortunately the legal ones were "near misses" and of course the small ones and the bluefish were happy to eat our baits!

- Mike Griffith



Norfolk Anglers Club

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26 August: Louis and I went looking for Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum in the Little Creek Inlet at our favorite place for them, the jetties. It was a calm and beautifully hot day but the light breeze from the north helped keep us cool. We began by casting lead headed jigs with soft body lures and then settled with Gulp white and chartreuse 4" tails with light and ultra-light spinning rigs once the puppies began biting. We ended up with 4 puppies from 13-17 inches, thus all requiring release but they were fun to catch. No trout took our baits but we are told they are there. Of course we had to catch some little Bluefish which mostly just ate up our tails leaving only the bodies of the Gulps.



I hooked up a couple more but they didn't hold the hook with the ultra-light rig. The tide was incoming and current was light. Overall a great first Puppy Drum catch of the year.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



28 August: I went out with Ned Smith on a nice Sunday and caught Puppy Drums and Speckled Trout at the Little Creek Jetty! Pups and Specks were caught on white grubs jigging. Tide was outgoing and winds were NE 15-18 mph which made it hard to fish. - Bert Sainz

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NEWSLETTERS**

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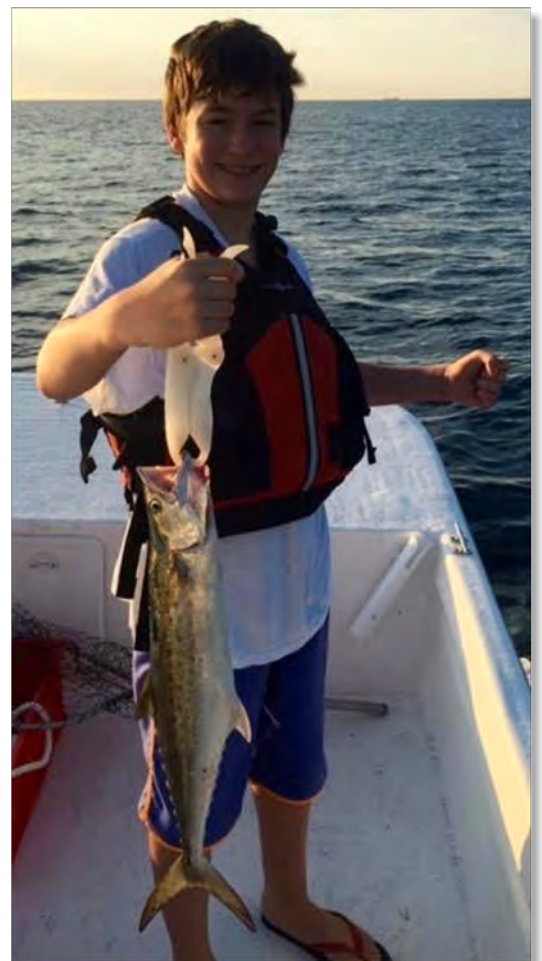
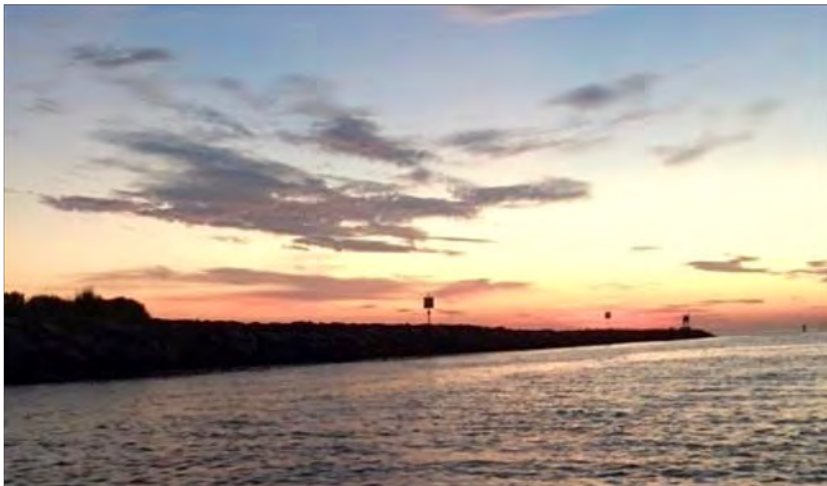


14 August: My Mom, Dad, and cousin David brought AJ back to me from spending the summer in Florida. I welcomed them the next morning with a trip to HRBT for a few Croaker and possibly Flounder. With an out going tide and a scattered showing of small Croaker, we cut the trip short to take a break from the heat. On Wednesday the 17th, I took Mom, Dad, and cousin David out to Rudee to look for Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish since David has never tried either fish. We fished 7am to 11am trolling off Dam Neck out to 35 foot of water using Clark spoons. Spanish fishing was slow but we ended up with four Spanish and five Bluefish to take home.



19 August: AJ and I took advantage of the flat calm conditions to head off towards the light tower trolling Drone spoons. We fished until 10am catching a 23.5 inch Spanish Mackerel and two Barracuda up 34 inches. We tried the bottom fishing on the tower reef to only catch a half dozen small Black Sea Bass. All fish in this trip were released.

We weren't able to get out the rest of the month but we're really looking forward to September fishing!
- Alex Perez





27 August: I found small Puppy Drums in Lynnhaven. I've heard of some keepers but not for me; they're past due. Hope it turns on soon. Also reports of keeper specs in the inlet.

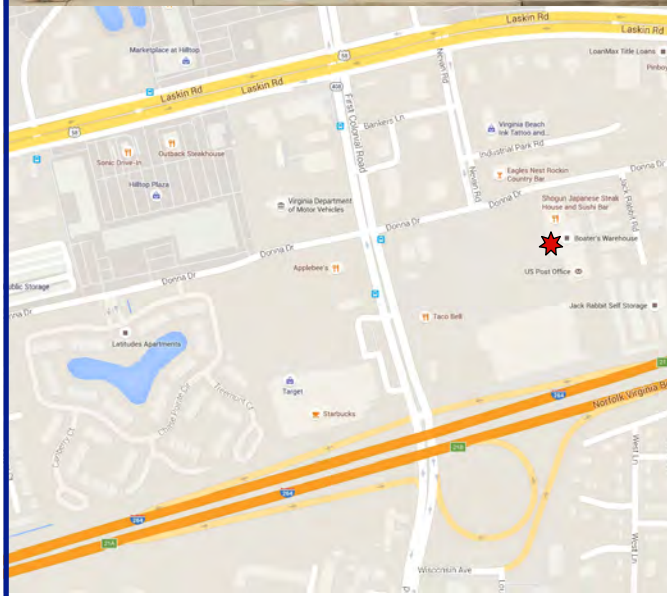
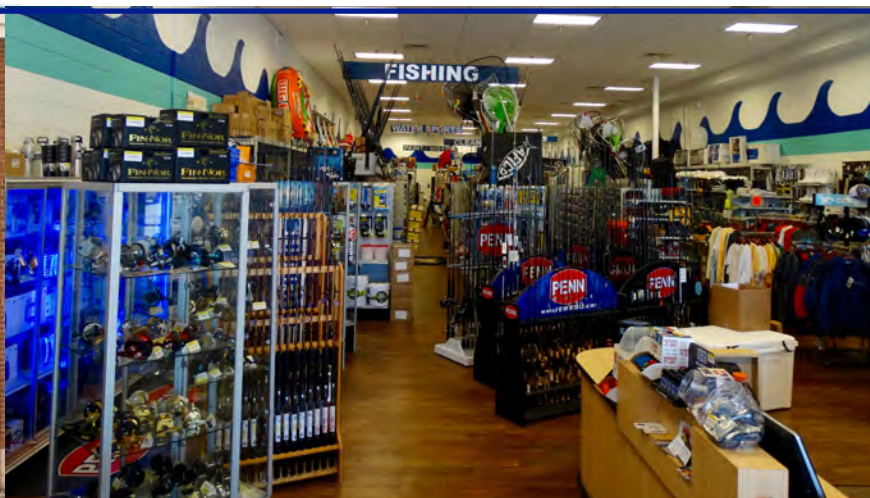


29 August: I caught 6 Puppy Drums in Lynnhaven, Tag & Release. No keepers, but a lot of fun. I cut crab and live mullet for bait.
- James Robinson



27 August: Headed out of Rudee Inlet looking for the inshore Mahi bite. First time I've rigged for trolling and headed east of the Chesapeake Light Tower. Set up four lines out; two rigged with ballyhoo and two with cedar plugs. Trolling at just around 6 knots we only landed Bonito.

- Mike Delbridge



Mon - Sat: 9:00am - 7:00pm
Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm



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August 29th: Joined Louis Glaser, Ned Smith, Bert Sainz, and Dr Ike on Louis' Parker 25 *Hooked Up* out of Vinings Landing (Little Creek). With a breezy start and a few choppy seas, we made our way out to the CBBT High Rise Bridge area to try our luck at Flounder. Wanted to fish the end of the incoming (Flood) tide, then switch over and troll for Spanish Mackerel/Bluefish before returning to fish the start of the outgoing (Ebb) tide.

Arriving at the High Rise most of us started with live bait rigs (Croakers mostly), Ned worked his jig and a strip bait of Cobia belly. If you've not used Cobia belly, it's a very tough and long lasting bait. So

when Cobia are in season talk with one of your Cobia Charter Captains and get some. We had to work for the 1/2 dozen fish we caught during the day. We also had a single release fish which was tagged for the Virginia Gamefish Tagging Program.



During the lull in the tide we set up trolling three lines for Spanish Mackerel. We used the small Clark Spoons in Gold and Silver. We quickly realized all the strikes were on the gold lure and switch up to have that color on the spread. The spoons were rigged to #1 Planer and towed at 5-6 knots.

What we ended up catching was quite a few small Bluefish and no Spanish Mackerels, but that's okay because it's still "*Catching*" and "*it's all good*" as Louis would remind us.



When the tide began its turn we headed back over to the CBBT and setup jigging and live baiting Flounder along the pilings to the 4th Island and fished around the remaining islands heading for Little Creek.

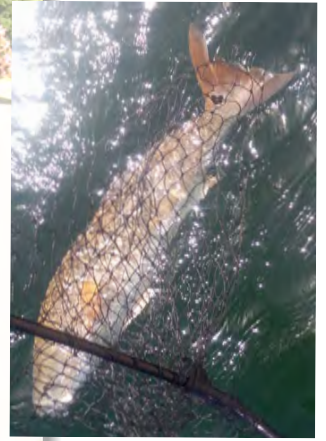
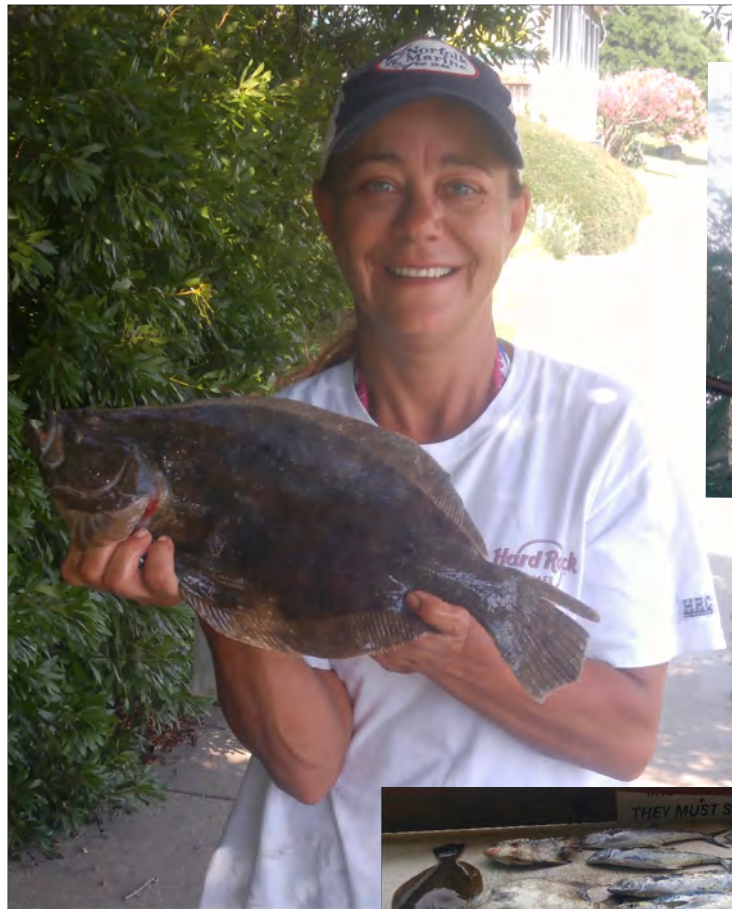
We also spotted Captain Austin Hayne with *FINAO Sportfishing* returning from another very successful Cobia charter.

- Will Bransom



8 August: Sam Bragg, Gregg Rogers and I went out to target Spadefish and Flounder between the 4th and high level. We wanted Bluefish for Flounder bait and Gregg's crab pots. We did manage a few blues but had trouble getting through the Spanish Mackerel (I guess that isn't a bad thing). We wound up releasing a lot of keeper Spanish because we didn't need any more than we had. We also caught and released a nice Red Drum at the 4th while trolling for Bluefish. The Spadefish bite was pretty hot toward the 200 pier of the north span. We kept one nice Spadefish and one small one. The current was ripping, it was tough to get the baits past the smaller fish. We also stopped at the 4th to flounder fish on the way home. We caught one 18" fish and a bunch of shorts.

- Mike Hubert



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Angler Interests

Summer Flounder Catch & Landings Limits: 2017-2018 Reductions Coming



Recent stock assessment information for summer flounder suggests a continuation of the negative stock trends described in last year's assessment update. The most recent stock assessment update for summer flounder indicates that the stock has been experiencing overfishing for the past several years. Although the stock is not overfished at this time, the estimated biomass continues to trend downward, closer to the overfished threshold. These results appear to be driven in part by low recruitment. The stock has experienced below-average year classes each year for the past six years (2010-2015). The assessment update also indicates that fishing mortality rates have been underestimated in recent years, and stock biomass has been overestimated. The exact causes of this pattern are unknown. In addition, there may be sources of mortality that are not being fully accounted for in the assessment, such as illegal/underreported landings, and/or incorrect assumptions regarding discard mortality and natural mortality rates.

Management Implications – What Happens Next?

In August 2016 the Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reviewed the SSC and Monitoring Committee recommendations and approved revisions to the previously-implemented summer flounder specifications for 2017 and 2018. Combined, the commercial and recreational ACLs cannot exceed the ABC recommended by the SSC. Based on the revised ABC, the Council and Commission recommended a commercial quota of 5.66 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 3.77 million pounds for 2017, an approximate 30% decrease from 2016. For 2018, the Council and Commission recommended a commercial quota of 6.63 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 4.42 million pounds. Specifications for 2018 may be adjusted based on changes in the fishery or new scientific information.

ASMFC Initiates Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Cobia



Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved the initiation of a new Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Atlantic Migratory Group of Cobia to complement fishery management efforts of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). This action responds to a request by the Council for the Commission to consider joint or complementary management of the resource in light of the significant overage of the 2015 recreational annual catch limit (ACL), the impact of those overages to state management, and the observation that approximately 82% of reported recreational landings are harvested in state waters.



Fall Fishing Flea Market , Saturday, October 22nd from 7:30am to 2:00pm at Captain Max King's Marine, 3829 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23455

