

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

SEPTEMBER 2025

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Finding your way & fishing spots, *Will Bransom, Norfolk Anglers Club*

Fishing Tips: Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS), a User's Perspective, *Will Bransom, Norfolk Anglers Club*

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Tautog, Black Sea Bass, Flounder
- Chesapeake Bay/HRBT: Gag Grouper
- Little Creek Inlet: Red Drum, Croaker, Pinfish, Flounder, Speckled Trout, Grouper
- Elizabeth River: Red Drum
- Chuckatuck Creek: Red Drum, Flounder Speckled Trout
- North Carolina/Freshwater: Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie

www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com

Club Calendar

September

Tue, Sept 9th; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASFMC) Public Hearing on Striped Bass DRAFT Addendum II at 6:00pm at VMRC, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Mon, Sept 15th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Sept 23rd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Sat, Sept 27th; Club Members Fall Social, Izaak Walton League Park, Chesapeake

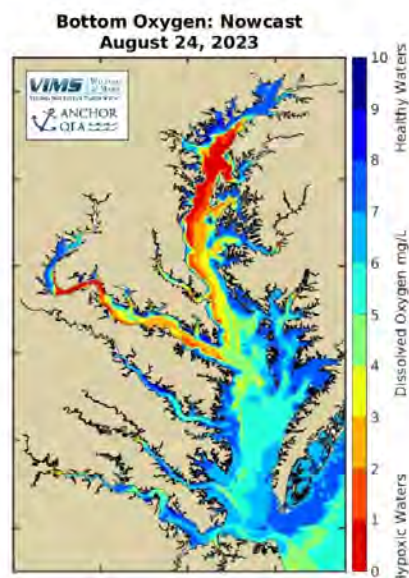
October

Mon, Oct 20th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Oct 28th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

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/>



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JOIN OR RENEW TODAY. RECEIVE \$30 OFF MEMBERSHIP.

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Offer only valid through December 31, 2025. May not be combined with any other offer.

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 31 August 2025

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (8) Bill Seemueller (1)
Largemouth Bass	Bill Seemueller (3) Mike Rheinhardt (11)
Chain Pickerel	Bill Seemueller (1)
Gar	Bill Seemueller (1)
White Perch	Bill Seemueller (5)
Yellow Perch	Bill Seemueller (3)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Red Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Black Drum	Henry Troutner (1)
Sheepshead	Henry Troutner (2) Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
Wahoo	Greg Rogers (1)
Blueline Tilefish	Mike Hubert (3)
Flounder	Bert Sainz (1)
Triggerfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
Golden Tilefish	Wes Waters (1)

****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

Members Fall Social Saturday September 27th

We're starting at 1:00pm this year and will have the usual; crabs, oysters, clams, fish, BBQ, and sides.

This is an event for our members and their families. We hope to see you there!



Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS) a user's perspective *Will Bransom, Norfolk Anglers Club*

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

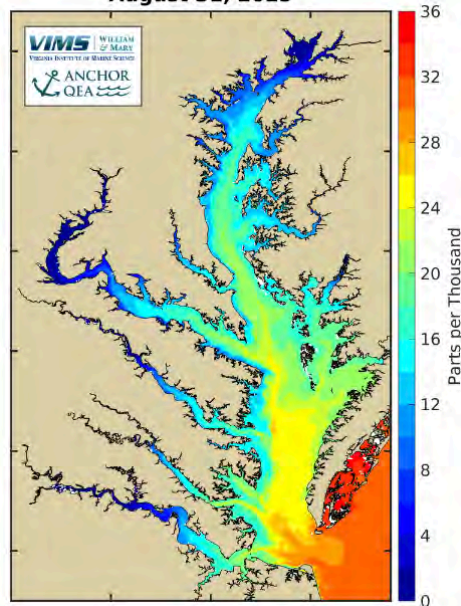
Every angler has their personal favorite online resource for weather, waves, tide, sea state, etc. Whether it's accuracy over time, easy to use, or habit, we generally rely on a few, maybe 3-4 sites to plan a day on the water. My personal choices are FishWeather (www.fishweather.com), FishCurrents (www.fishcurrents.com), and Tides4Fishing (www.tides4fishing.com). Some are websites and some have "an app for that". There's another online resource specific to the Chesapeake Bay that hosts a wealth of information valuable to the anglers in our area. The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System or CBEFS is another resource I use to assess conditions in the Bay.

Produced by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and their Partners, CBEFS is another tool to accurately predict Chesapeake Bay conditions. CBEFS provides current status and near-term forecast of environmental variables. These environmental variables include; Salinity, Water Clarity, Temperature, Oxygen Content, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Pathogens, to name a few. CBEFS is unique in that it doesn't replicate information in existing online resources or apps mentioned previously, it provides a greater insight for what's going on in the Bay.

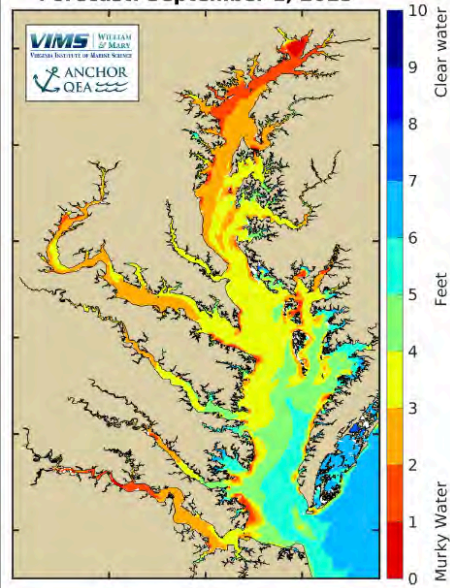
For example, the Water Clarity depictions (right) show the Water Clarity in the Bay and the short-term prediction of change. How is this important to anglers? Anglers who sight cast to Cobia or Drum schools would benefit from knowing what the water clarity will be in the area they plan to fish. Another condition to consider is the presence and forecast of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and the degree of Dissolved Oxygen in the water. Many factors affect the location and degree of algal blooms such as, water temperature, salinity, organic nitrogen and other elements. Many anglers refer to these conditions as a "Red Tide". While not necessarily red in color they represent an area of explosive bacterial growth and a corresponding condition of low dissolved oxygen in the water. They can be harmful to people, animals, and fish. For anglers, CBEFS provides a forecast location where algal blooms and low oxygen exist. My recommendation is to NOT try your luck fishing in those areas.

For the anglers who like the science, fish will begin avoiding an area with 3-4 milligrams of oxygen per liter (mg/L). At 2.0 mg/L fish will not be found and with falling oxygen levels other species begin survival behavior or die off. The depictions on the following page reflect where most impacts occur and observations of HABs and Oxygen content in the Bay at the beginning of the month.

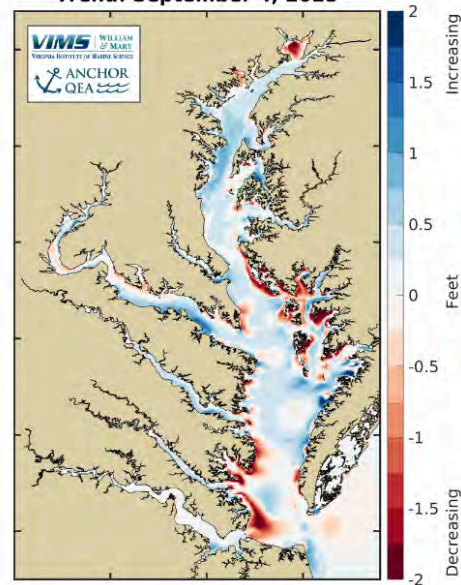
Bottom Salinity: Today's Forecast
August 31, 2025

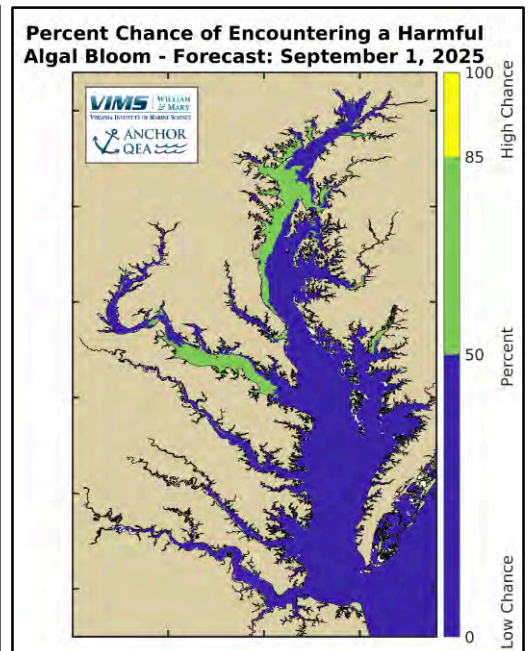
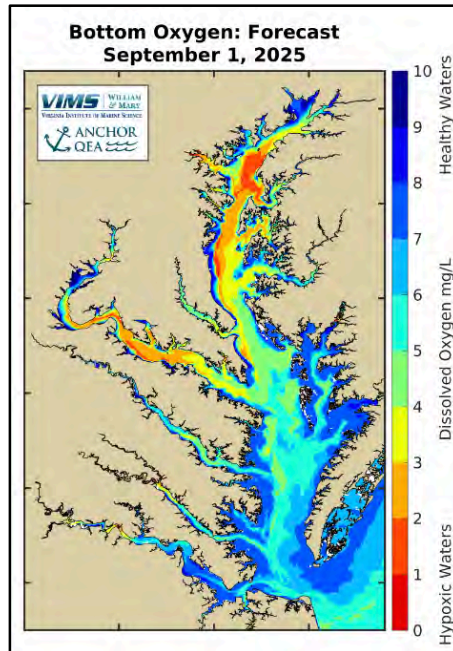
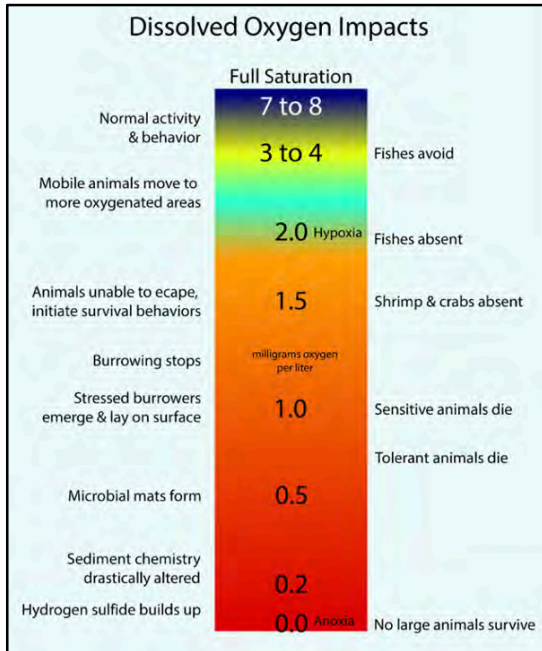


Water Clarity (Secchi Depth)
Forecast: September 1, 2025



Water Clarity (Secchi Depth)
Trend: September 4, 2025



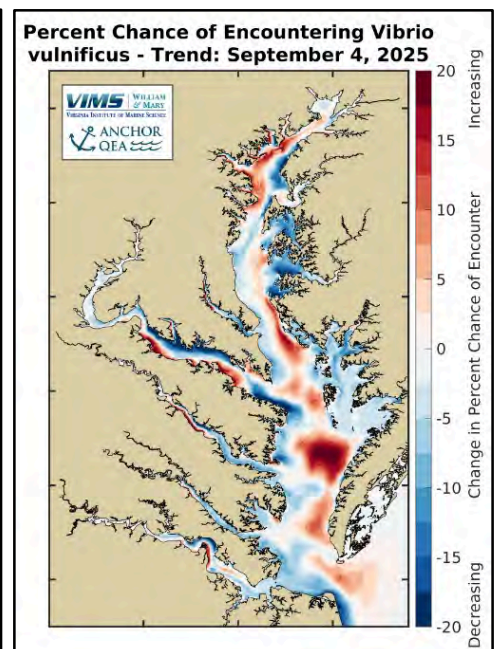
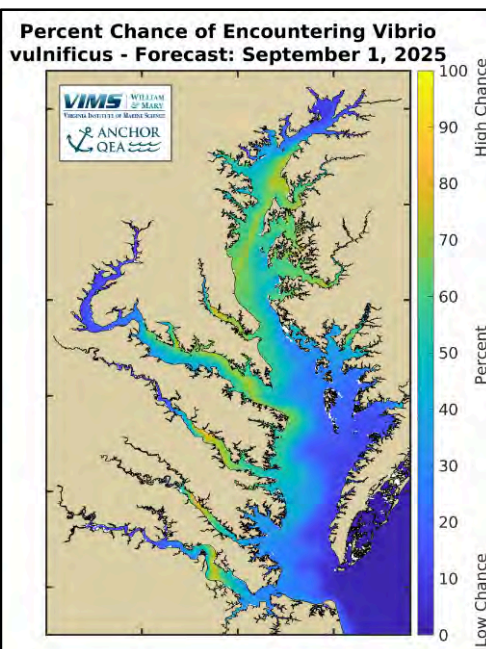


Along with forecasting conditions that might affect fishing, CBEFS also provides predictions of harmful marine organisms, such as *Vibrio* and Sea Nettles (Bay Nettles) for informational purposes. *Vibrio*, specifically *Vibrio Vulnificus*, can exist in warmer coastal water, see the depictions lower right. You can contract it from eating contaminated seafood (undercooked or raw seafood) or from open wounds coming into contact with the bacteria. Recently an angler recounted his experience with *Vibriosis* after he got poked by a thrashing fish. Within hours the wound became infected increasing in size by the hour. He recognized the risk *Vibriosis* represents and checked in to a local emergency room. It took some convincing the medical staff of what he believed he had and fortunately he was treated early on and suffered no lasting effects. *Vibrio* infections can lead to necrotizing fasciitis or flesh-eating bacteria, an often limb and life threatening disease if not treated quickly. The best first step if you receive a wound while fishing is to clean, disinfect, and dress the injury, monitor for infection, and seek medical care if an infection develops. CBEFS provides these forecasts for informational purposes and as part of an ongoing research effort.

CBEFS data and forecasts are derived from daily local observations throughout the Bay and computer modeling. Its unique data set is intended to help monitor Bay conditions and aid in planning a day on the water. It provides Nowcast (present-day), a 2-Day Forecast, and a Forecast Trend between the two. Adding CBEFS to your planning resource list can help identify the most favorable conditions to target your fishing.

***All chart depictions are courtesy of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecasting System (CBEFS).

www.vims.edu/research/products/cbefs



Club Members Tournament for 2025



Redfish "Spots" Tournament Rules

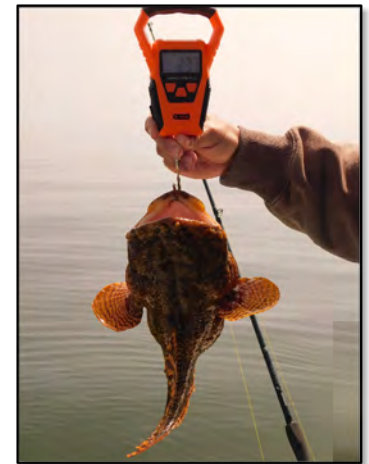


- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. *Entries 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.

Entries to date: Alex Perez (1), Will Bransom (1), Mary Troutner (1)



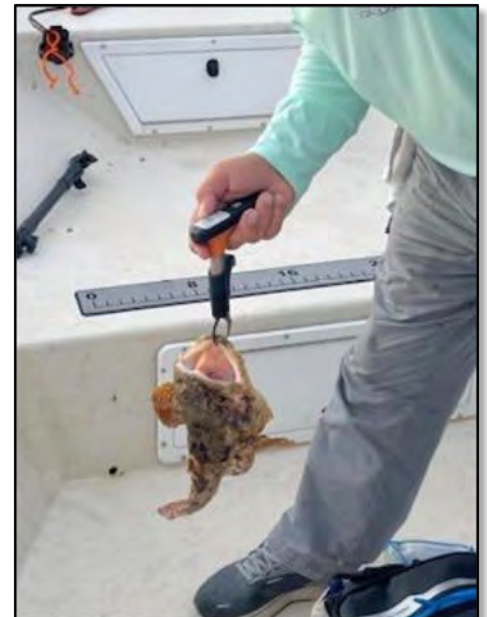
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules



- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- 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

Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr.
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)

Entries to date: Jere Humphrey (1), Mike Rheinhardt (1)





Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament May 1st - November 30th 2025



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$10 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 \$50 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$25 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

28 AUG: Mary, John Curry, and I launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point and headed to Bluefish Rocks to see what's biting. The Oyster Toads were thick, gobbling up our Fiddlers and Blue Crab bait as fast as we could drop it. Catching two at a time sometimes. There were a few small Tog and Black Sea Bass mixed in. We moved to the Back River Reef only to find the same conditions: Oyster Toads, Small Tog, BSB, and a Flounder. Bait included fiddler crabs, Blue crabs, Squid, and Minnows. Everything that was released and tagged is applicable.

- Henry Troutner



27 AUG: John Curry wanted to check on some of the Chuckatuck. He invited Mary and me to join him, then make a short stop to check on the Speckled Trout bite at the James River. We only fished for about an hour, but caught several small Speckled Trout. All were tagged and released. The Speckled Trout have finally shown up at the Chuckatuck and should only get better as Fall progresses.

- Henry Troutner



24 AUG: I returned to the Elizabeth River (Norfolk International Terminals) and used 2.5-inch Gulp minnows or curly tail grubs on a 1/8-ounce jig head to catch small Spot, Croaker, and a surprise 30-inch Red Drum. Using cut Spot, I caught a decent Bluefish on the bottom in 40 feet of water.

- Alex Perez



10 AUG: Bert and I fished the Little Creek inlet. The most unusual thing happened to me. I caught one each of six different fish (puppy drum, speckled trout, flounder, croaker, pinfish, and a grouper).

- Ned Smith



23 AUG: Having escaped a hit by hurricane Erin, the morning was beautiful. John Curry, Mary, and I were on the Chuckatuck at 9 AM to see how it affected the fishing. In the first case, Mary snagged and broke off her lure. I gave her my rod while retying hers. First cast with my rod and she lands a 25+ inch Red with 15 Spots (7 - 8 per side). After that, we fished for about 3 hours and landed a half dozen Specks, three short Flounder, and a Ray. Everything was tagged and released. Minnows and Z-Man paddle tails were used to catch the fish.

- Henry Troutner



30 AUG: Jennifer and I when to our favorite crappie spot in Halifax, North Carolina on an absolutely beautiful day. We began fishing some downed trees and caught a few. Then changed up and started a slow troll with a bobber and live medium sized shiners. Ended up catching 27 nice sized black crappie and 3 largemouth bass.

- Jere Humphrey



7 AUG: Bert and I fished the CBBT from the 2nd to the 4th islands for flounder. We started fishing at 7:00 a.m. in an outgoing heavy current and stopped fishing at noon in an ingoing heavy current. We picked up four flounder between 18 and 22 inches and five or more shorts. The big toads wore our arms out. The water temperature was 77, and the winds were low.

- Ned Smith

11 AUG: I launched from the Willoughby boat ramp and tried the rocks around Fort Wool. Action was slow, except for a small Gag Grouper, so I ran around the Navy base and tried Norfolk International Terminals in the Elizabeth River. There, I caught two Red Drum up to 28 inches, using a three-inch, chartreuse curly tail grub on a 1/8-ounce jig head. Both Drum were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



15 AUG: Marty Schriebl invited Mary and me to fish the lower bay. It was a beautiful day, just a little choppy in the morning than we expected. First stop the Cape Henry Wreck for the end of the outgoing current and the change to incoming. The wreck was infested with large Toadfish. We were catching two at a time, UGH! We moved to the 2nd Island and then the Big D, with not much biting at either location. I did get to tag about a dozen small BSB, and Marty caught a short Flounder. Bait - We had it all: Fiddlers, Shedders, and Minnows, Squid, Flounder Belly, and Clam.

- Henry Troutner



Got triggers?

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is recruiting conservation-minded anglers with excellent catch & release handling skills to help us take fin clips for a Grey Triggerfish genetics study.

To learn more email:
susanna@vims.edu



Angler Interests



Public Hearing on Striped Bass Regulations

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will hold a public hearing at the VMRC Main Office at Fort Monroe (380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroes, VA) on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 from 6-8 PM to gather input on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. In response to the 2024 Stock Assessment Update and the updated projections, the Board initiated Draft Addendum III to consider recreational and commercial management measures for implementation in 2026 to support rebuilding the stock by 2029. This action is intended to increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by reducing fishery removals by -12% with management measures implemented in 2026. For the commercial fishery, this action proposes a commercial quota reduction. For the recreational fishery, this action considers season closures and/or size limit changes.



Public Hearing on Red Drum Regulations

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will hold a hybrid meeting (in person & online) at the VMRC Main Office at Fort Monroe (380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroes, VA) on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from 6-8 PM to discuss Red Drum and draft addendum II, specifically changes to recreational measures in the northern stock region (New Jersey to North Carolina). Although the northern stock is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing, the Sciaenids Management Board is concerned with an increasing trend in fishing mortality observed in the northern region. To address this trend, the Draft Addendum considers changes to the recreational bag and slot limits of states in the northern region, as well as provides states the opportunity to align their differing regulations, particularly in Chesapeake Bay.



Virginia Junior Expert Angler Awards Program

Are you 15 or younger and love fishing in Virginia's saltwater? You could earn your very own Junior Expert Angler Citation Plaque - just by catching and releasing some of our amazing saltwater species.

Whether you're fishing off a pier, the beach, or from a boat leaving a Virginia port, your saltwater adventure could land you official recognition from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

To earn your Junior Expert Angler Award, here's what you'll need to do:

- Be 15 or younger on January 1st of the year you're fishing
- Catch and release qualifying saltwater species with rod and reel
- Fish must be caught in Virginia Marine waters, the Chesapeake Bay, or the Atlantic Ocean (and boats must launch and return to Virginia)
- Get a witness to each catch and complete the Junior Citation Form
- Submit your form by December 31st of the same year
- There's no entry fee - just fun and recognition

Fish Species Youth Citation Length

Atlantic Puffer 8 inches, Oyster Toad, Spot, Pinfish, Hogfish 10 inches, Bluefish, Croaker, Kingfish 12 inches
Sea Robin 14 inches, Speckled & Grey Trout 16 inches, Red Drum, Houndfish 18 inches, Flounder 22 inches

Go to the VMRC Website and download your Junior Citation Form and mail or email it to;

Mail to: Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road, Ft. Monroe, VA 23651

Email scanned form to: Virginia Saltwater Tournament Director at Matt.Hargis@mrc.virginia.gov



Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

**Last Revised
May 2025**



Atlantic Croaker

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Spot

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Kingfish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



Bluefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



Spanish Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



King Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Cobia

- Minimum Size Limit: 43 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
- Season: June 15 - September 20
- Gaffing prohibited



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: Jan 1-May 31: 16 inches
Jun 1-Dec 31: 17.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Striped Bass

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-31 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. www.mrc.virginia.gov



Spadefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Sheepshead

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 13
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15
- Season: May 15-July 15, Aug 5-Dec 31



Tautog

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



Speckled Trout

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



Red Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Black Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person

