

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

SEPTEMBER 2018

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Mark Lozier, *Oceans East Bait and Tackle*, Fall Feeding Patterns for Inshore Species; Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout, Flounder

Fishing Tips: Don Schnare, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*, Shore & Boat fishing for Flounder

Fishing Reports:

- CBBT: Flounder, Spanish Mackerel, Cobia, Bluefish
- Lynnhaven: Black Drum, Spot
- Chesapeake Bay/Eastern Shore: Cobia
- Oceanfront/Sandbridge: Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish, Black Sea Bass
- Offshore/Norfolk Canyon: Golden Tilefish, Black Belly Rosefish
- OBX/Oregon Inlet: Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass, Mahi



Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

September is a busy month for the Club. On Saturday Sept 8th, we'll be cleaning up the EOV Community Center grounds and fishing pier. It should only take about an hour so, come out and join us!

We've got our Club 5-Fish Tournament at the end of the month. The sign-up list will be at the meeting.

At the September meeting, Sea Tow Hampton Roads will be kicking off the Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy drive. Supported by the Angling Clubs in southside Hampton Roads and a number of businesses, all toys collected benefit local children through the USMCR Toys-For-Tots program. Bring along a new and unwrapped toy to the meeting and support our local children.



- Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mark Lozier, *Oceans East Bait and Tackle*, Fall feeding patterns for inshore species; Puppy Drum, Flounder, Speckled Trout. This is a great opportunity to learn from Mark's 22+ years experience fishing in Hampton Roads. Mark specializes in light tackle fishing for Puppy Drum, Flounder, and Speckled Trout.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, September 10 at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Club Calendar

September

Saturday, September 8th: East Ocean View Community Center Clean-up at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, September 10th: Club Meeting

Wednesday, September 19th: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Public Hearing on Atlantic Cobia FMP Draft Amendment 1

Tuesday, September 25th: VMRC Commission Meeting in Newport News

Saturday, September 29th: NAC 5-Fish Tournament

October

Saturday, October 20th: Club Member's Fall Social (Va Beach)



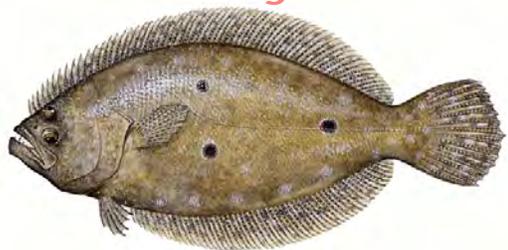
On The Cover: Norfolk Anglers Club member Alex Perez coming in to Rudee Inlet after a day of fishing with his family. Aboard his 21ft Coastal Skiff by *Four Sons Marine* are his parents Manny and Nellie Perez, his Brother Danny, nephew Dani, and Alex's son "AJ" Naturally, "AJ" and Dani are hanging out in the cobia tower.

Alex also serves our club as the Member-at-Large on the Board of Directors. *Thanks Alex for your support!*

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Fishing Tips...



Don Schnare, Oceans East Bait & Tackle,
Flounder Fishing from Boat & Shore

Summer Flounder or Fluke, as they're called north of our area, are easily identified and can be caught on many different style of rigs and fishing methods. Drift fishing, Jigging, Live Baiting, and Surf Fishing are all successful methods for catching flounder. Whatever method you choose, anglers should keep in mind flounder are ambush feeders. Placing your lure or bait in as natural presentation as possible where flounder are lying in wait for their next meal has the best chance for success.

Drift Fishing

As Don explains, there's good & bad about drift fishing for flounder. The good; you're drifting over bottom that doesn't have snags or obstructions to hang rigs on. The bad; you must have the right conditions for a drift speed of 1/2 to 1 1/2 knots. Wind speed and direction and current can be both good and bad for you. Fishing an outgoing tide, as Don prefers, with an opposing wind may slow your drift and make for a good drift speed. However, you need to monitor conditions as they change during the day. When current *and* wind are moving you in the same direction that can present a problem. Don recommends checking the current direction and speed by observing the channel buoys or other structure near where you're planning to drift. Using your motor to slow your drift is another option to consider.

Your drift fishing rig consists of a 3ft length of 50-60# mono snelled to a 4/0 Kahle hook and attached to a 3-way swivel. The dropper to the weight is lighter weight mono to allow the rig to break free if it does hang up on something. Don also uses a double hook drifting rig with 40-50# mono and snells a 4/0 Kahle hook inline and another 6-8 inches at the end. Both of these types of rigs can be dressed up with mylar skirts, spinning spoons, beads, or left clean with a piece of strip bait.

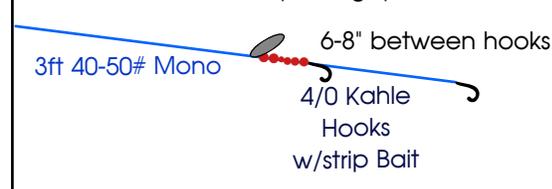
Strip baits are usually 4-6 inches in length and taper to a point. Don advises to shape your strip bait so it flutters in the water. Don't let your strip bait twist, roll, spin, or ball up on the hook. As he explained, it's got to "swim sexy" and if it doesn't you'll need to adjust something. Adjustments usually mean you need to re-trim your bait, re-tie the leader, or replace a swivel. If it's ugly on the surface, it'll be ugly on the bottom and the flounder don't want that.

Don recommends using a soft tip rod that gives light pressure when a flounder bites. When you're drift fishing you place the rod in the rod holder and closely watch the rod tip as your sinker drifts across the bottom. The rod tip should be lightly bouncing or "singing" with a consistent motion. When a flounder strikes your bait the rod tip will slowly bend over. Resist the urge to set the hook, instead place the reel in free spool and give the flounder some line as you remove the rod from the holder. The time it takes to do this is important as it gives the flounder a chance to hold and eat the bait. Too early a hook set or a

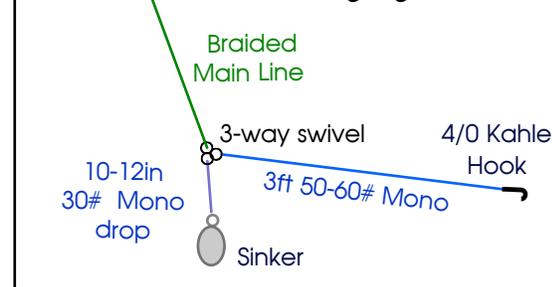


Double Hook Drift Fishing Rig with 4/0 Kahle Hooks

Optional Rigging with mylar skirts, beads, and spinning spoons



Drift Fishing Rig



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Fishing Tips...

hard hook set will likely result in pulling the bait from the fish and a miss. Once the flounder has had a chance to eat the bait gently raise the rod tip until you feel increased weight on the line then raise the rod tip to get your hook set. If the flounder releases the bait, drop your rig immediately back down. As Don advised, once the flounder has taken your bait but then released it, putting it back in front of them will likely get another strike. A hard hook set isn't necessary with a Kahle hook so resist that temptation. The Kahle hook's wide gap will make its own set once the fish swallows the bait. During the retrieve keep the rod tip bent to keep constant pressure on the fish. Don't fight the flounder on the surface! Once a flounder gets on the surface their thrashing around will generally get them free. Try and keep the fish below the surface while you reel it in and have the net ready to scoop it up just below the water.



Who ever said your sinker needs to be just a piece of lead? Don shared that he's retrieved sinkers with teeth marks when fishing for flounder and will sometimes rig a hook (2/0-3/0 Octopus Hook) to the sinker (photo left) with a gulp bait. This can work fine if you're drift fishing along channel slopes or across shoals. Around structure, like pilings and rocks, this is probably NOT what you want to try.

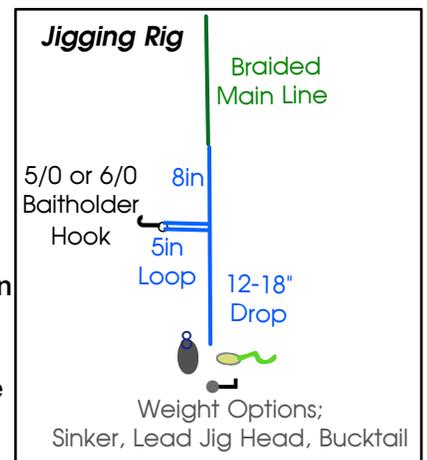
Other options are to attach one of Tsunami's Ball Jigs to your dropper. They come in weights 1 ounce to 8 ounces and are pre-rigged with skirted hooks or the SPRO Prime Bucktail Jig Head. A third option is to try the Shimano line of Lucanus Jigs available up to 7 ounces with colorful skirts and very sharp hooks. These are generally fished as a single jig without an additional sinker.

Jigging for Flounder

Unlike drift fishing, while jigging you want a minimal amount of drift. It's almost necessary someone's going to be driving the boat to hold position. Don likes using a Muskie Rod, which still has some flexibility but is a stiffer rod than for drift fishing. He advised when jigging for flounder "Don't Feed The Fish", meaning once you feel the flounder eat the bait/lure, set the hook. You'll feel a distinctive thump-thump-thump and additional weight on the line, that's a flounder, he added. He prefers using the Gamakatsu Baitholder hooks, which are J-Hooks with barbs on the hook shank to hold the bait. His rig is about 4 ft of 50-60# mono with a 5 inch loop on the high lure with a 12-18" drop to the low lure or weight. The low lure options range from a sinker to lead head jigs or bucktails, which can have rubber tails or bait strips added.

Your jigging technique involves probing the bottom structure with short up/down jigging motion until you feel the unmistakable thump-thump-thump of a flounder strike.

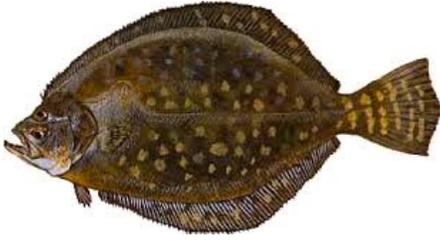
Keep the rod tip down so you have the ability to raise the rod when you execute your hookset. And, remember when using the high/low rig with double jigs you'll need to be careful around bottom structure to avoid losing bucktails in the snags.



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Fishing Tips...



Another jiggging technique Don describes is "Spastic Jiggging" using nearly the same jiggging rig. It requires a more flexible rod and the Tsunami Glass Minnow Jig. It uses the smaller Glass Minnow Jig with 2/0-3/0 hooks and requires nearly no drift. The angler keeps the

weight on the bottom and teases the jig with a quick (hence spastic) short jiggging action. The jig can be tipped with a 4" gulp swimming mullet, a gudeon minnow, or squid strip. There's no jig head added in place of the sinker.

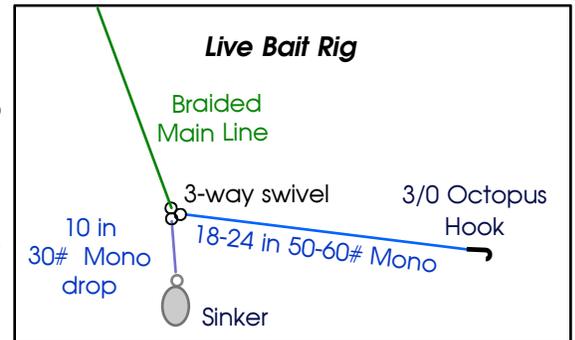


Tsunami Glass Minnow Jig

Live Baiting

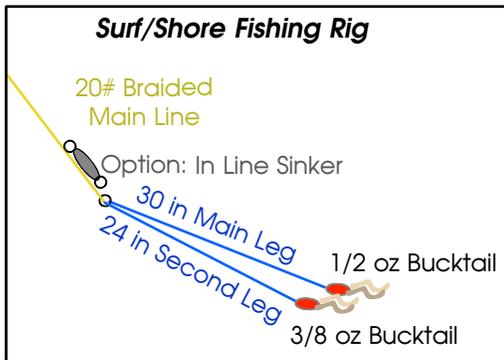
"Communication is key" when live baiting flounder, Don advises. Because your live bait fishing presents your rig as vertical as possible, at the first indication of a flounder strike an angler calls out "Fish On". At that point the boat position needs to remain stationary until the hook set is made. A flounder might strike the bait and hold it, or release it, necessitating you drop the bait back to entice another strike. During this process the boat must remain in position. If the boat moves out of position too much line pays out and makes feeling the bite and the hook set difficult.

Don's live bait rig consists of a shorter leader (18-24") of 50-60# mono tied to a 3/0 Octopus Hook and a 3-way swivel. The dropper is 10" and a lighter weight mono (30#). His choice of bait are a 5" spot or croaker hooked either up from the chin through the nose or through the bridge of the nose. He shared that he's also tried using small eels and they've worked too.



Surf/Shore fishing

Fishing flounder in surf requires an angler get his rig out past the surf line or breaking waves. Generally, lighter lines are used to reduce friction and wind resistance when casting. Don's surf fishing rig consists of a tandem bucktail jig with lengths 24-30 inches in length. Ideally you want to use the least amount of jig weight and still be able to cast past the surf. Too large a jig head weight can be a problem so Don recommends you attach a small (2-3 oz) in-line sinker ahead of the rig. Anglers can dress up the jigs with mylar skirts, swim tails, or bait strips.



The retrieve is a slow "bump" with the rod and reel in. When the flounder takes your bait you'll feel the jig stop and the resistance increase. That's when you set the hook.

Flounder Fishing Advice

- Always use as little weight as possible
- Keep the Rod Tip bent during the retrieve
- Don't allow the flounder to fight on the surface
- With a strike and a miss, immediately drop the bait back
- Make the bait swim "sexy" and flutter
- Use the channel buoys, markers, pilings to judge current
- Fish the clean water
- Drift speed 1/2 - 1 1/2 knots



EAST OCEAN VIEW RECREATION CENTER HEAD BOAT TRIP: Norfolk Anglers Club held their 6th Annual East Ocean View Recreation Center Head Boat Trip with Captain Ronnie Boone Jr.'s Head Boat the Judith Anne on August 13. We had 17 NAC member's providing the assistance with all the children fishing on this trip. The day started at 8 AM with all members present to assist the kids and adults onto the boat at the Ocean View Fishing Center off of Pretty Lake Avenue. We had 50 children and approximate 4 adults from the Rec Center as guests for this outing. Many of the children had fished with us on previous trips and it was great to see how much they have grown over the years and how enthusiastic they were to go fishing with us. The weather, though threatening in the forecast, turned out to be beautiful and hot. Capt Boone got us started fishing near the First Island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the kids did a fine job of catching as many as were available.



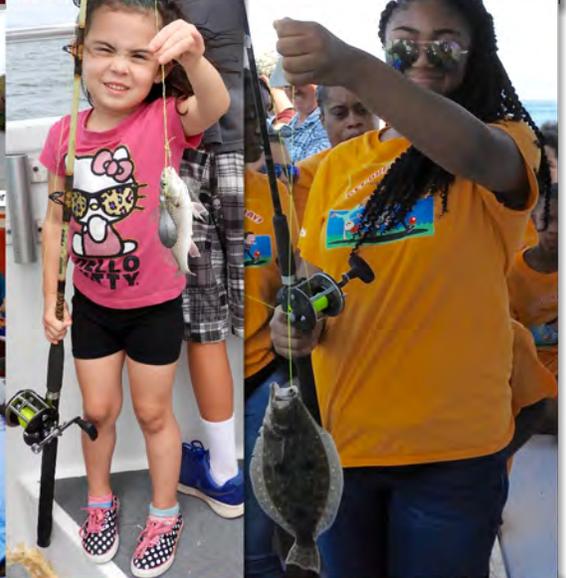
They really got a kick out of catching croaker, spot, black sea bass one flounder and even several small sharks. NAC members on board untangled lines that frequently got entangled. Baited hooks, taught the kids how to control their lines and reels to prevent backlashing as well as untangling bird nests created by the kids as they fished. Several anglers actually fished and then let the kids bring in the fish that the angler's hooked. NAC members frequently instructed the kids about the Virginia Junior Angler Awards Program of the Virginia Saltwater Tournament. Several of them were able to apply their catch to the awards program.



The wind and fast current did present some trouble with a fast drift most of the trip but didn't prevent most of the kids from catching plenty of fish. Over all, it was a great trip and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

After the Head Boat Trip, we headed to the East Ocean View Recreation Center for a picnic lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, mac and cheese and watermelon which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Ed and Karen Schrader of Sea Tow even provided Frisbee's for each of the kids which made excellent plate holders. Members who assisted with the fishing were: myself, Mike Hubert, Greg Rogers, Mary Troutner, Marvin Chivers, Ben Capps, Rich Lewis, EJ O'Brian, John Talha and his daughter Jolie, Russell Willoughby, Beth Synowiec, Paul Harris, Dennie Dobbins of Portsmouth Anglers Club, Alex and AJ Perez and Wendy Branson as photographer. Helping with the cooking and serving of the food at the picnic were Will Bransom, Karen Schrader, Jerry Hughes, Michel and Ned Smith, Kathy Eisenhower and Mike Mancini. If I missed someone who helped I'm sorry, this is everyone I had listed. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower





Fishing Reports...



20 July: Nick Wright and I went to the CBBT's 3/4 Islands looking for Flounder. As the pictures show, we had a very good day. We ended up with 7 keepers and 3 throwbacks. Nick's big boy weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. Both of us were jigging with a 2 to 3 oz jig heads on the bottom and small jig/hook higher up the leader. All but one Flounder were caught on the top jig/hook. We saw other boats catching Flounder as well. Some were jigging and others were live baiting. The winds were light in the early morning but picked up by late morning and afternoon. We fished the outgoing and incoming tides. - Ned Smith



15 AUG: I had a blast Cobia fishing with my good friend Capt. Kenny Louderback. We saw just a few in the morning but by late afternoon, we found and saw plenty of takers. That includes my 58 inch Cobia which was so feisty that the gaff was broke in two as we were trying to get it on the boat. The Cobia kept the metal bling and left Kenny only with the



the handle. Ha! Can't wait to do it again, Kenny thanks for having me aboard your boat Fish Freaks. If you haven't seen his new rig yet folks, you really need to check it out. *What a beautiful boat and what a fantastic day on the water!* - Beth Synowiec

3 AUG: Grant Mott set up a bottom fishing trip out of Wanchese NC on the 42' Topaz Stolat with his father Levon his brother-in-law Jeff Pearman and their sons Theo and Jeffery Junior. They had one open spot which I gladly accepted. Thank you for thinking of me Grant! The weather was rough with a south wind blowing between 10 and 20 all day making standing hard and fishing harder, but we caught fish anyway.

Stolat specializes in bottom fishing. Captain Paul Jr. with Mate Steven are very good at putting charters on fish, keeping hooks baited and putting fish in the boat, thank you both!



The wind and drift hindered fishing the first wreck we hit but we did manage 5 nice Black Seabass. Theo caught one close to 5 lbs. After 3 drifts and minimal success we shifted to fishing for Blueline Tilefish (BLT). The high wind had the boat drifting pretty fast, we needed 20oz to hold bottom, but fish came over the rail! By 12:30 pm, we had limited out and on BLT.

Next we trolled for Mahi until 2:00 pm when the allotted time was up. No Mahi were caught but the water wasn't very good so it was no surprise. The day wound up being a great success! - Mike Hubert



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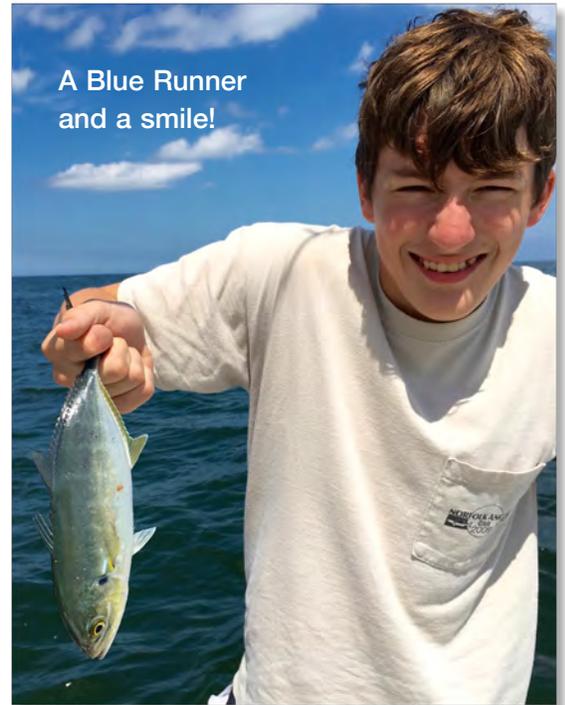




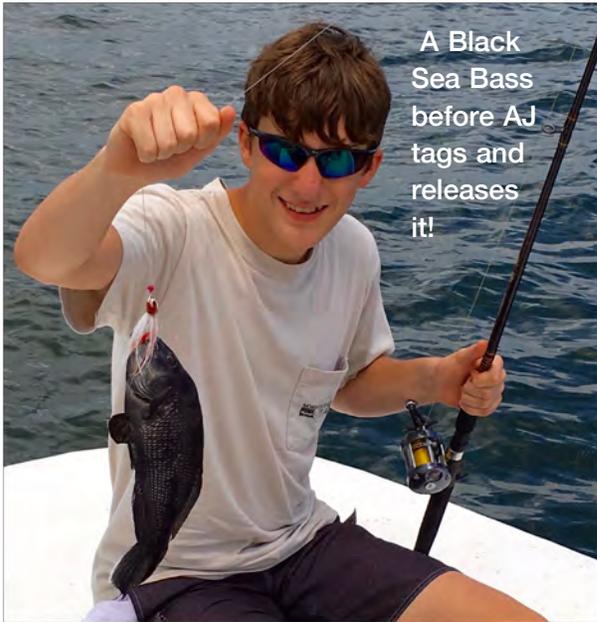
AJ keeping them legal!

4 August: On the first weekend of August was the return of my "Partner in Crime" AJ, as he returned from an endless summer in Florida. My parents, my brother Danny and his son were gracious enough to drive AJ back to VA and spend a weekend with us.

Of course, we decided to go fishing! On Saturday we fished the morning on the oceanfront out of Rudee Inlet for Spanish Mackerel.



A Blue Runner and a smile!



A Black Sea Bass before AJ tags and releases it!

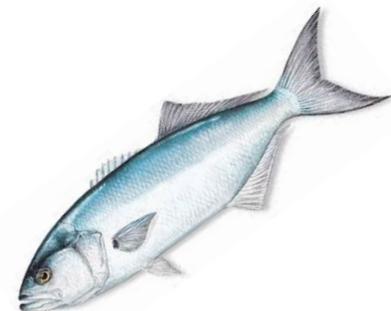
Using 00 Clark spoons with 20 lb test leader, we trolled them behind 2 ounce inline sinkers at staggered distances. Hot pink on one side and Chartreuse on the other provided us with six Spanish up to 18 inches, five snapper Bluefish, and a Blue Runner.

We kept AJ busy leadering in fish and his cousin Dani busy cranking!



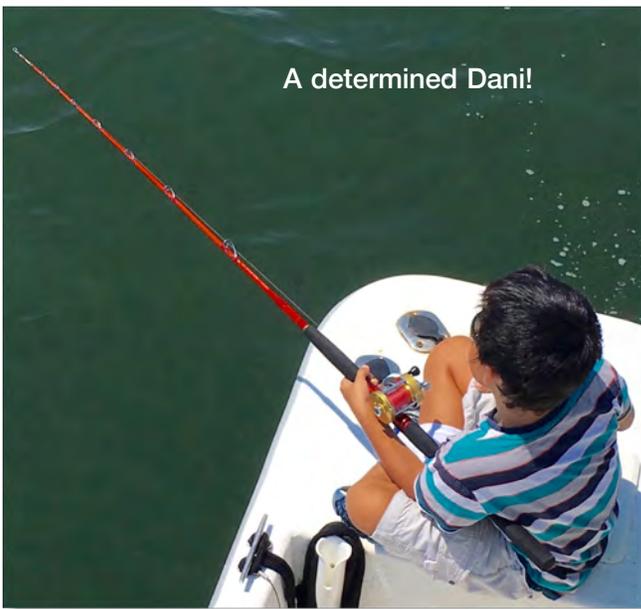
Dani with his Grandad overseeing the operation the same way he did with me 37 years earlier!

At one time AJ took advantage of a moment the boat was out of gear and dropped a three ounce jig (tipped with Bloodworm Fish Bites) to the bottom to catch a 12.5 inch Black Sea Bass. The BSB was tagged and quickly released.
- Alex Perez



Cousins pause from fishing for a photo!





A determined Dani!

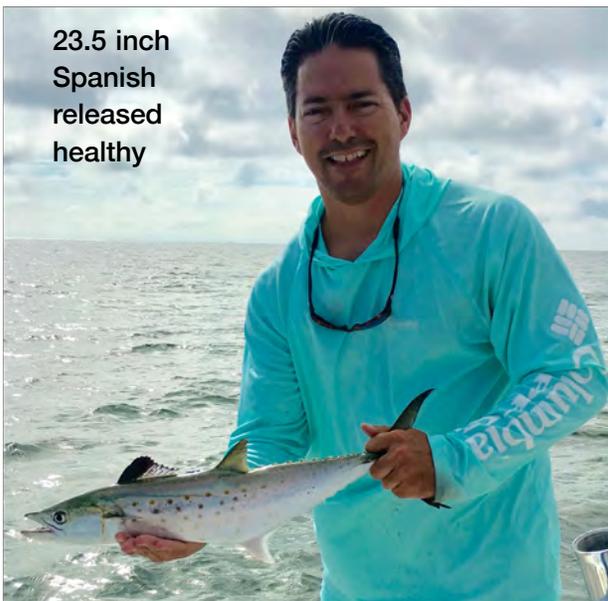


Dani and his Dad, rewarded with a smiling Shark!



5 August: On a Sunday, we did a little sightseeing on the Eastern Shore and fished the outgoing tide out of Kiptopeke. We cruised around looking for Cobia and only saw five that did not cooperate with letting us get a cast to them. With my Nephew Dani wanting to catch a shark, we began drifting using cut Squid on the bottom. It didn't take long before everyone was catching small Sandbar Sharks. Dani, determined to catch one, quietly and patiently, sat at the back of the boat until he finally caught his Virginia shark! All sharks were released healthy. - Alex Perez

Even Mom had to get in on the Shark action!



23.5 inch Spanish released healthy

19 August: On a nice Sunday, the weather was looking better than forecasted so I hooked up the boat and fished the oceanfront. Once clearing the jetty at Rudee Inlet, we turned south and



Some that were invited to dinner!

let out a two line spread of spoons. Trolling at 5.5 knots, we headed towards Sandbridge with a #1 chrome and Chartreuse flash spoon behind a #1 planer. The other side had a pink and chrome #00 Clark Spoon behind a 2 ounce inline sinker. We saw plenty of Menhaden schools, of all sizes, but not many Glass

Minnnows. We ended up catching ten Spanish Mackerel between 21 and 24 inches. The current was moving South at a fast pace. The fish bit off the Back Bay water tower in a short window of a half an hour during the four hour trip. - Alex Perez



AJ and a S'mack!

6 August: Seeing our family off early Monday morning, AJ and I decided to not go back to sleep and hook up the boat. We decided to launch out of Lynnhaven Boat Ramp. We sight fished for Cobia but became quickly distracted by a Spanish Mackerel feeding frenzy between the Second and Third Islands of the CBBT.



CBBT Bluefish

While seeing terrified glass minnows jumping everywhere, we put out our faithful two ounce inline sinker spread with a 00 Clark spoon and a green with gold 00 Drone Spoon. We quickly caught 12 Spanish and two Snapper Bluefish. The last Spanish turned out to be an impressive 26 inch Spanish which was released. This fish will claim AJ his very first Spanish Mackerel release citation! It took a few minutes to revive the Spanish before releasing it healthy. Time well deserved for such an awesome fish. During this time the frenzied school moved on and a thunder storm over Virginia Beach convinced us to head in while still smiling. It was great getting my sidekick back and spending an amazing time with our family. - Alex Perez



Citation Spanish released

OFFICIALLY APPROVED IGFA ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD

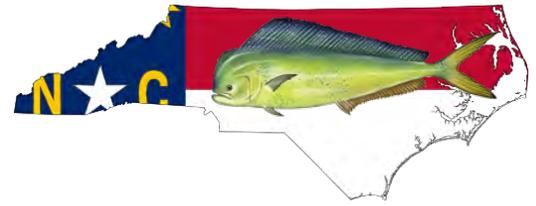


I am very excited to announce that my husband, Kevin Synowiec's IGFA All Tackle World Record for the Spotted Codling (spotted hake) was officially approved. The 12 lb 15 oz Spotted Codling was caught on the Classic Rockfish on January 27, 2018 while we were deep dropping at the Norfolk Canyon. The gear he used was the Shimano Tallus blue water series rod and Tyrnos 30, 2 speed reel with 80 lb braided power pro. The rig he used was my quick change deep drop rig paired with a 24 oz sinker that was featured in the January 2018 issue of the Saltwater Sportsman Magazine. - Beth Synowiec



28 - 29 August: Norfolk Anglers; Greg Rogers, Mike Hubert, Ray Sexton, Phillip Mott and I headed down to Wanchese, NC for two days of deep-drop fishing and trolling with Stolat Fishing Charters. With beautiful calm seas on our first day (in an hour and a half), we landed 170 pounds of Blueline Tilefish with just over a 7 pound average! Then Capt Paul put us on the Dolphin and the action was crazy at times. With an extra 140 pounds of Dolphin on the boat we returned to Wanchese. Our second day was another epic fishing opportunity aboard STOLAT (custom 42' Topaz) as we landed another 215 pounds of Blueline Tilefish in about an hour before switching over to trolling rigs.

We had one hit on the trailing lure and a LONG fight for the remainder of the day. Mike and Greg fought what's thought to be a large Bigeye Tuna for just over 4 hours before it escaped near the boat. That's 4 hours on 30# mono with a TLD25 reel! Well done to both of them for staying on it for so long. - Will Bransom



6 August: Kevin and I finally got a chance to go on my birthday for a fishing trip (a month and a half later, ha!). We have been so busy that words can not even describe the sense of relief that we both felt as our boat, Classic Rockfish, left the Rudee Inlet at 7:00 am in the morning. My usual pattern before a trip is to gather fresh bait the day before, but that never even happened. It was more like an empty the freezer potluck offering "kind of day". We arrived at location at 10:15 am set up and did our first drift. We proceeded over the next 3 hours to do a total of 6 drifts.

I yielded a Golden on every drift, including a nice 34.1 lb slob Virginia Citation. Kevin did not yield Golden's but he experienced a nice Rosie, some squids, and an amazing fight with an insane Bonita that hooked on his deep drop line and took him to the bow of the boat. We saw the crazy fish flashing as he got it to the top of the water but at the very last minute the fish unfortunately got off the line. Kevin attested that it was a crazy fun fight and he was all smiles just for the experience. I would have loved to have gotten a photo or video but I was also hooked up at the same time. After the 6th drift, it was now 1:33 pm and we decided leave the canyon location and to go to another shallower area for some Black Sea Bass, but on the way, we were stopped and boarded by the Coast Guard for a safety inspection. The Safety Inspection was quite a delay, it took them awhile to get to our boat. We are not sure why there was a the delay but when they did arrive, it went very well and they were very friendly. We were finally underway again at 3:10 pm, after hearing on the radio that a huge storm was hammering down in Virginia Beach area. We decided not to go for Black Sea Bass but to just head back and weigh in the Golden Tilefish. In addition to the photos, I also have an unedited video of me pulling in one of my Golden's from the day before on my Facebook Page. Tight Lines Everyone! - Beth Synowiec



10 August: Black drum were snapping in Lynnhaven on a Friday. I kept one for dinner and tagged the rest. Fish bites for dinner, Yum!



Jimmy Robinson



1 August: I found some eating size Spot in Long Creek on a nice day!

30 June: I went with Nick Wright to the CBBT to find some clean water and fish for Flounder. We ended up fishing around the 3rd and 4th Islands because the water clarity was very good. Within 2.5 hours, we got our 2-man limit and headed back to the dock. All the fish were caught using a double Jig (2-3 oz bucktail on the bottom and a small bucktail or 4/0 hook with a gulp and small piece of flounder belly on the top hook). We saw other boats catching keeper Flounder; some boats were slow trolling while other boats were low drifting using live bait. - Ned Smith



6 August: Bert and I went Flounder fishing around the 3rd and 4th Islands of the CBBT. When we started fishing at the 3rd, the current was moving fairly fast, I was jiggging with my usual double rig jig and Bert was fishing a 3-way bottom rig with a skirt and a strip of flounder belly. Five minutes later Bert yelled for the net. As I was waiting to net the fish I saw a big white belly come to the surface. At first I thought it was a skate. However when Bert got it to the net, the skate turned into a 26 inch, 6.5 lb Flounder. That was the first time I ever netted a flounder belly up. We finished the day with 6 keepers and several throwbacks. *Congrats to Bert!* - Ned Smith



20 August: Nick Wright and I left the marina later than normal because of heavy rain. We decided to stay close to the shore and Flounder fish around the CBBT's 2nd Island. The wind and current were favorable and the bite was steady but we had to move several times to stay on the bite. Between 9:00 am and 12:15 pm we got our 8 fish limit and threw back 6 small ones. The Flounder we kept ranged from 17 1/2 to 22 inches. All were caught using 2-3 oz. jig heads with twisty tails and flounder strips. *It feels great to limit out!* - Ned Smith





26 August: Nick and I went to the CBBT Flounder fishing. The day was sunny, a little breezy with a slow current. Within 45 minutes we had 3 Flounder in the boat; a 18, 23 1/2 and 24 inch. We finished the day with 7 keepers. Also, about 2 hours into fishing, I had a hard hit on my jigging bait. About 2 minutes later the Cobia came up to the surface and the fight was really on. Twenty minutes later the Cobia broke the top 3 feet of my rod. Ten minutes later Nick gaffed the fish and brought him into the boat. It was a healthy 43 inch Cobia. I was using a double hook rig with a 3 oz jig on the bottom and a 4/0 hook on top with a 4 inch curly tail and a piece of flounder belly. He hit the 4/0 hook. Thanks Nick for gaffing the big boy. - Ned Smith



15 August: I went floundering from 10:00 am until noon. The Flounder are still biting at the First Island. I lost my fourth Flounder at the net. It waked up at a critical moment.
- Jimmy Robinson

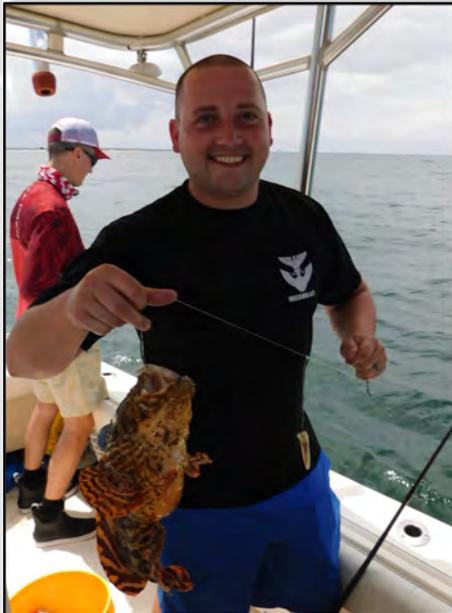


25 August: Alex Perez and I were happy to host three Active Duty Servicemen aboard my boat for the Military Appreciation Day MAD - Tidewater event. Onboard we had Brian Tsai, Tony Mullins, and John Sisson. My Co-Captain Alex helped keep everything and everyone organized throughout the day. We trolled along the Bay Bridge Tunnel and caught plenty of Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish before stopping at the CBBT High Rise Bridge for Spadefish and Black Sea Bass. Then a quick ride over to the Cape Henry Wreck for more Sea Bass and Flounder. Tony Mullins landed an impressively large Oyster Toadfish on the wreck and everyone caught Flounder and Sea Bass. The undersized fish were tagging for the Virginia Gamefish Tagging Program and the rest went home with the guys.



Special Thanks to Alex for joining in and to Brian, Tony, and John for their service. It was a great day fishing!

- Will Bransom



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