



VMRC Meeting on  
Cobia scheduled  
for April 26, 2016  
see Angler  
Interests ...

# THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB WIRELINE

APRIL 2016



*April 15th Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Celebrating 52 years*

## What's INSIDE

- Guest Speaker: Susanna Musick, Cooperative Research Program on fishing Barotrauma ("The Bends")
- Guest Speaker: Mark Haskett, routine maintenance of your fishing reels.
- Fishing Tips:
  - Red Drum Fishing by Mark Lozier, 1st Landing Kayak Fishing Services
- Fishing Reports:
  - Offshore Blueline Tilefish
  - Crappie, Blue Catfish, Yellow Perch
- Angler Interests:
  - Boating Safety Education courses available through DGIF

April 11th meeting  
&  
Buffet  
at Teppanyaki Grill

# Leadership Notes...

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Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Cobia seems to be the talk of the town right now and for good reason. Last month NMFS issued a fishery bulletin which will close the recreational cobia season off Virginia (Federal waters only) on June 20th. VMRC will be meeting on April 26th to decide Virginia's cobia regulations. The Norfolk Anglers Club has been involved in this issue and will represent our club's position at the next commission meeting.

Next meeting is at the Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill. As always, it's your choice to dine or not at the restaurant. Either way, just let the hostess know you're attending our meeting and join us in their Banquet Room. It's going to be another great meeting with two guest speakers scheduled. Hope to see you there.

*Will*

## MEETING

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Guest Speaker: Susanna Musick with VIMS sharing their cooperative research project with fisheries scientists from VA, NC, and NJ, Charter Captains, and Anglers to help fish with "the bends".



We've also got Mark Haskett joining us to share routine care and maintenance tips for your fishing reels. This is a topic most anglers don't think about until there is a "reel" problem out on the water.

## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, April 11th at 7pm

## Location:

Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

## Publishers NOTES

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## Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel April 15, 1964 - April 15, 2016

Selected as one of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World in a world-wide competition which included more than 100 major projects in 1964, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel or CBBT remains an amazing accomplishment 52 years later.

Consider that No Local, State, or Federal Tax dollars were used in its initial North-Bound construction or during its South-Bound expansion in 1999. Funding for both projects came from the sale of Revenue Bonds.

Other interesting facts about the CBBT; the initial construction took 42 months to complete at a cost of \$200 million and the second South-Bound bridge construction coming 25 years later cost \$250 million and took 46 months and didn't include tunnel expansion. Future tunnel expansions are planned.

### *Making of an Island*

In addition to constructing more than 12 miles of trestle bridge, two high clearance bridges, miles of causeways and approach roadways, there's the tunnels. Each of the two tunnels span nearly a mile under the Chesapeake Bay. Anchoring each of the tunnels are the man-made islands constructed of rock and more than 1.5 million tons of sand...each.



*Opening Day April 15, 1964*

*Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*



The four CBBT Islands were created by placing rock around the planned entrance and exit of the tunnels. Then millions of tons of more rock and sand were barged or pumped into build upon the structure.



Constructed more than 30 feet above sea level, as the pilings for the trestle bridge were being driven to one end, the other end of the island was being prepared for the tunnel entrance/exit. *(Photos courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel)*



## Spanning Great Distances

Precision placement of more than 5,000 pilings to support the roadway in water depths ranging from 30 to 100 feet presented a formidable challenge in the day. The answer came in form of the "Big D" Barge and "The Two-Headed Monster".



*Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*

"Big D" was a steam-powered pile driver that could self-stabilize with long legs that could be driven into the seabed and adjust piling position or angle with great precision. Pilings as long as 200 feet could be driven into the deeper areas of the bay. The Big D was no match for the Ash Wednesday Storm in March 1962. Before the storm hit the barge had been working north of the second island when the storm approached. Despite being raised to its highest level the waves eventually collapsed the legs and the barge was lost.



*"Big D"  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*

The "Two-Headed Monster" was another specially designed construction platform which spanned multiple pilings to perform two important functions. The first was to cut the pilings at

the correct height then cap with a concrete block.



*"Two-Headed Monster"  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*



*"Two-Headed Monster cutting pilings"  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*



*Concrete Piling Caps  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*

## Tunneling

Tunneling under the bay required 37 sections each 37ft wide and 296ft long. Steel tunnel sections were constructed in Orange, Texas and towed nearly 1,700 miles to Norfolk for preparation. Preparations included the addition of interior concrete and the roadway surface. Sections were then floated to the CBBT and lowered into position where divers directed the alignment and made the connections.



*CBBT Tunnel Section  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*

Over 116 million vehicles have used the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and future transportation requirements have shown the need for parallel tunnel construction. In 2013 the Bridge-Tunnel Commission approved a resolution to accelerate construction of the Parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel Project as soon as early as financially practicable.



*Submerging the Tunnel Sections  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*



*Construction of CBBT Tunnel Sections  
Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*

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### Red Drum Fishing with Mark Lozier, 1st Landing Kayak Fishing Services

Without question Puppy Drum are one of Mark Lozier's favorite fish to target. He chooses to use artificial bait over live bait for a number of reasons. "Artificials are just easier to deal with" Mark advises. A couple of his reasons are; no bait well to manage in your boat, no dying bait to deal with, time on the water is spent fishing instead of catching bait. Artificials are easy to store and there's lots of selections and manufacturers have really dialed in on color, scent, and durability of lure materials. Mark recommends you take a look at the Z-Man® elaztech artificial lures. They're extremely flexible, very durable, and include a Pro-Cure scent attractant manufactured into the lure during production. Z-Man Scented Baitz™ come in a variety of colors and styles like jerk baits, swim tails, curly tails, and many more.



Scented Paddlerz™



Scented Curly Tailz™

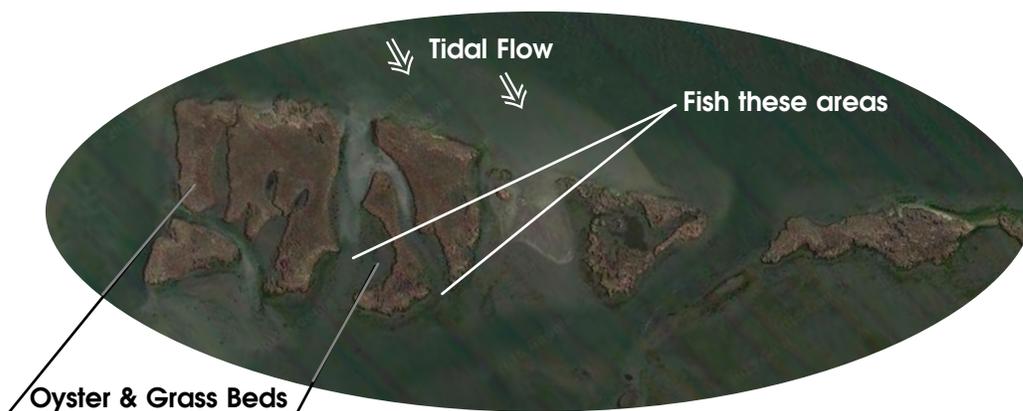


Scented Jerk Shadz™



**Scouting a location:** Finding "Your Spot" takes time and patience, lots of factors come into play when searching for that perfect fishing spot. Tides and how they flow around structure, time of year, weather all influence a particular area. Knowing how the fish behave during the year is equally important. Early in the spring Red Drum will be schooling up and hungry. Primarily feeding on finfish, like mullet, menhaden, and other small fish, they're looking to fatten up. They're also searching out the warmer water so use this to your advantage!

On a warm day the sun will heat up dark surfaces, like oyster beds, much more rapidly than a light colored sand bottom. As the tide rises over an oyster bed it warms the water and this attracts fish looking to warm themselves while searching for food. During the early part of the season Red Drum are looking to fatten up using as little energy as possible. They're ambush feeders and would rather have their food swim to them than expend energy chasing it down. Find types of areas that funnel small bait fish around structure or through a slough and look for the Red Drum waiting for them as the smaller fish are swept through.



**Topwater Fishing:** Fishing the topwater for Red Drum can be one of the most frustrating tactics you try. It can also be the most fun and rewarding. Red Drum are primarily downward feeders, their mouths are lower than other fish and successfully striking a topwater lure can present a challenge. It's important to keep "walking the dog" as you see a Red Drum approaching your lure. Red Drum see the lure presentation as an easy meal when everything else they're trying to eat is swimming around. Remember, Red Drum are looking for an easy meal, getting them to strike the lure and get a hook set is the challenge.

Set up your topwater tactics when you see "nervous water" as Mark would say. Often you'll see a school of bait fish spooked and darting away from other predators. Those predators could be Red Drum. Average water depth is about 2-3 feet with 5 feet being about as deep as you want. Work the topwater lure with the flow of the current as natural bait would move. Working a topwater lure against or across the current isn't a natural presentation.

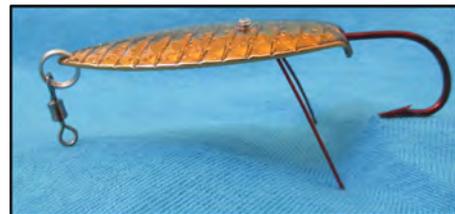
Mark uses 30-45# braided line with a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader ranging between 12-18 inches. A shorter leader is used to aid in casting. A long leader will typically have the leader-braid knot running through the rod guides.

**Search Baits:** Search Baits are Spinner Bait Rigs. Use them when you think the Red Drum are there but aren't sure. Mark likes to use Aqua Spinner Bait Rigs and will change the Jig Head to target differing depths, usually no deeper than 10 feet of water depth. Spinner Bait Rigs have a stiff wire attaching to the leader with one end going to the Jig head and the other end to a spinning blade. Mark prefers using the Colorado style spinning blade like the one pictured right. Tie your Spinner Baits directly to the leader.



Another great search bait is the classic gold spoon. AquaSpoon (<http://www.aquadreamliving.com>) makes a variety of 1/4oz and 3/8oz spoons and have a weedless feature to minimize those frustrating weed snags.

Mark recommends placing a swivel on the lure side of the AquaSpoon, though it can also be placed where the leader and main line join. These lures will spin and definitely bind up your leader and braided main line if you leave out the swivel.



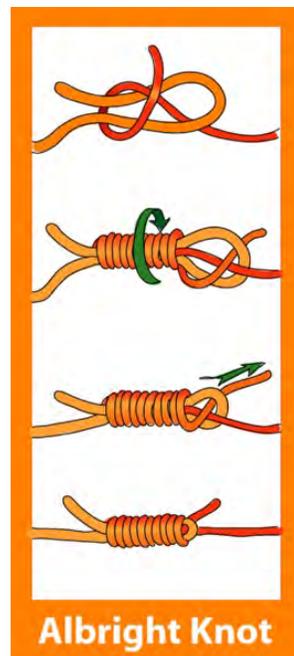
**Swim Baits:** Swim baits are jig heads rigged with a swim tail and can provide a wide variety of rigging styles, from jig head weight and color, to the style and color of the swim tail. You can choose a classic swim tail, a jerk bait style, or curly tail depending on your preference. The Z-Man product line seems to have an unlimited number of styles and products available.



source: <http://rdlphphillipsinshore.com/>



<http://www.1stlandingsyakfish.com/>



Albright Knot

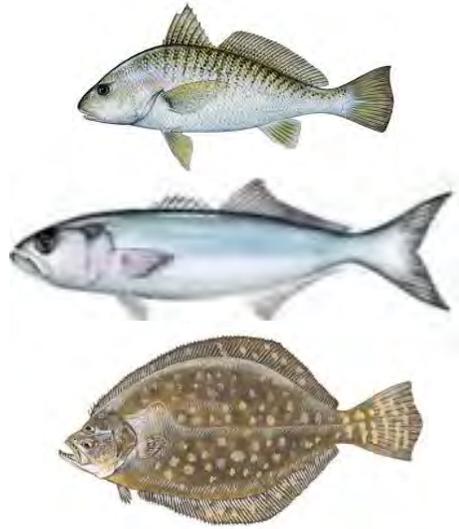
You'll want to join the braid-mono together using an Albright knot. Its small diameter will easily flow through the line guides. It's a great knot to use when making the braid-mono/fluoro or any other lines of unequal size together.



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**"Hunt for the  
Hardheads"  
Challenge**



**Sign Up  
at the  
April 11th  
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"  
Saturday May 14, 2016**

Norfolk Anglers Club, Virginia Beach Anglers Club,  
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A Croaker, Bluefish, and Flounder  
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

**Tentative Date:** Saturday May14, 2016

**Location:** Portsmouth City Park Lines In: 7:00am

**Measure In:** Starts at 12:30pm ends at 1:30pm

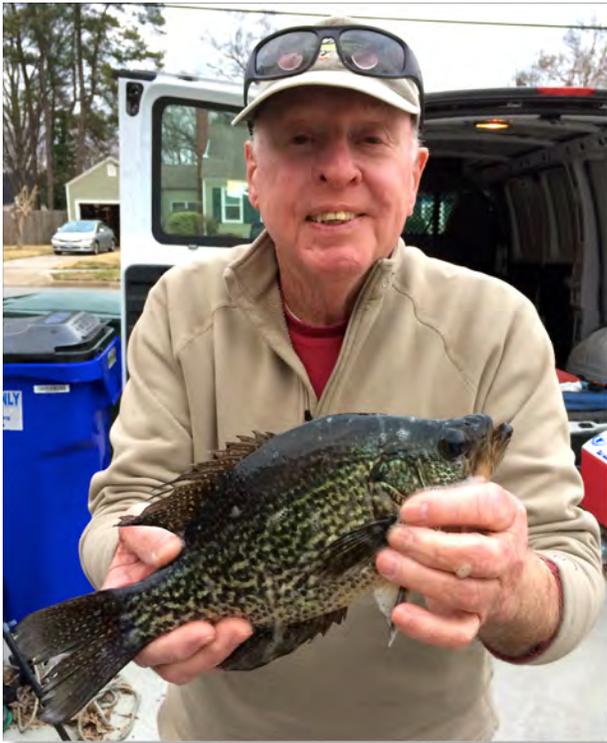
Entry Fee: \$30.00 per boat (3 additional anglers \$10.00  
(Includes Fishing, Picnic, and Wish a Fish Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

**Rules:**

1. Clubs limited to five boat entries. Team Captains must be Club Members
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port
3. Eastern Boundary is 500 yards east of HRBT.
4. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
5. 5 Points awarded for longest fish, 4 pts for second longest, etc. Up to five fish entries for each species. Club with most points wins!

# Fishing Reports...



28 February:  
Fished North  
River near  
Shiloh North  
Carolina on a  
beautiful day.  
Slow bite, but  
we got a few  
keepers. We  
had around a  
dozen with  
releases on  
Cattfish, Bass,  
Yellow Perch  
and Crappie.  
*All new for  
me.* - Steve  
Harding



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1 March: Steve Harding and I were at Lake Smith on the first day of March in his boat looking for Crappie. No Crappie for us. We caught 2 fish (Cattfish and Pickerel); both were released. Several more good bites but no more fish. Will try again soon! - Russell Willoughby

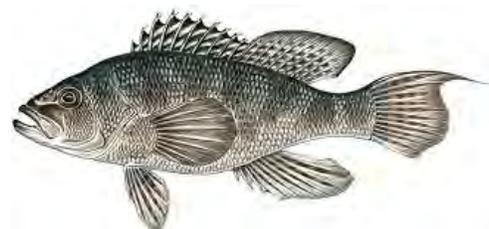
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9 March: Russell Willoughby and I went fishing on the Western Branch Lake in Suffolk. Beautiful day with 60's temps but windy out of SW. We were looking for Crappie, Chain Pickerel and Cattfish. We fished all over the lake all day but only caught two Chain Pickerel. Unfortunately, we didn't get to boat before they came off the hook. We fished with small Silver Sided Minnows for Crappie and Pickerel and Red Wigglers for Cattfish.  
- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



8 March: I went tautog fishing with Henry and Mary Troutner on their 31 ft. Cabo to the Triangle Wrecks. Ned Smith and Henry's friend John completed our crew. Winds out of the SW 15--20 in the morning that settled down to nearly nothing by the afternoon. Started out on the Morgan, then the Webster, Clark and finished on the Luchenbach. We only caught several large black seabass and found only small togs on the Morgan and nothing much on the Webster and Clark. On the Luchenbach we also found BSB. Fished with live green crabs. We saw on the sonar some fish over one of the wrecks but couldn't get them to hit the jigs we offered. Beautiful trip back with calm seas. On our trip out and back we encountered thousands of gannets and seagulls swarming outside of Little Creek near the Thimble Shoals Channel. Beehiving on bait was our guess since we didn't get near enough to check on it. Great trip but no take home fish. Oh well, that's fishing - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

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11 March: Russell and Jerry and I chartered CAPT Petey's boat; Jerry had fished with CAPT Petey in previous years catching big Blue Catfish. We met at the Jordan Point Marina near Hopewell on the James River and went out with CAPT Petey on his 24 foot ProCat Boat. His boat is powered with a 250 hp Mercury that was really laid out for serious catfishing with 10 poles fishing fresh shad on 9/0 circle hooks. Sailing down the relatively calm James River was a blast traveling at about 35 mph from place to place mostly right off the shipping channel in 16-25 ft of water.

Jerry caught the first fish, a 30 lb. citation size Blue Catfish which we released after weighing and taking a picture. Then I caught a 28 lb. Blue Catfish. Russell followed with a 14 lb. fish which we kept for eating. Jerry next caught a 17 lb. fish for keeping. I followed with a 38 lb. blue which ended up being the big one of the day. However prior to this boated fish I hooked up with an even bigger fish that got off the hook after a short fight. Russell then caught his 35 lb. Blue Catfish right before we were starting to pull up our rods for the short trip to the dock.

We think the biggest fish belonged to Russell. He hooked up with a huge one that surfaced during the fight and started to spin around on the hook and cut the line. It looked to be about a 45-50 lb. fish. This cutting the line is not uncommon with the biggest fish. All big fish were released since Capt. Petey advised that the fish aren't good to eat unless they are around 15 lbs. or under. All of us agreed this was a fabulous trip and well worth the charter fee of \$350 for two people and \$50 for each additional person up to 5 on his boat. I've got Capt. Petey's number is anyone is interested to booking a trip. He claims that March is the best month for catching Blue Catfish but they can be caught all year round. I'm looking forward to doing it again. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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*by Dr. Sheta*

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13 March: I went fishing with Will on our 28 ft Parker "Freedom" on a Daylight Savings & Cloudy Sunday. On our way out 85 miles, we saw very little boat activity; ocean was very flat. We did see several US

Navy ships and helicopters conducting live-fire exercises. We also saw a bunch of *Humpback Whales*, and they were everywhere! We did pretty good catching Blueline Tilefish but were hampered by a few Dogfish

Sharks. I caught large ugly Conger Eel; this fellow put up a strong fight! We used cut squid for bait. We had to dodge some strong storms on the way back but finally made it home after dark.

- Wendy Bransom



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17 March: Fished on a Thursday for Tautog. We got a very late start because of heavy fog on the water. Fished the Chesapeake Tower area. *Mary caught her limit with the biggest being 19". I on the other hand didn't catch anything.* Weather was beautiful, water temp offshore was 48' but at the CBBT it was 52'. We stopped at the tunnel on the way in for about 45 minutes but didn't get a bite. We were using frozen green crabs. It was late when we got back to the dock; we were very tired and didn't get around to taking any good pics.

- Henry Troutner

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**SEA TOW**



23 March: The weather was typical March weather but a little warmer, meaning it was very windy! Russell and I went fishing around noon wanting the water as warm as possible. Tried several of our usual places in the swallow water and only found 6 fish here and there but all small, not keeping size. Then we bumped onto a bass fisherman who reported his friend did well on the previous day further north so off we went. We were very happy we did go north because the first place we stopped we found them snapping. Using bobbers with shiners on jigs with plastic Bobby Garlands thrown with our ultra light spinning rods worked great. Russell also found a bluegill looking rubber bait that they seemed to like a lot. Russell was pulling in the biggest



Crappies that were around 1 1/2 lb. size with mine mostly around a pound. Lots of little ones were caught too; plus a couple of Bass, Yellow and white Perch and Sunfish too small to even enter (we'll catch larger ones soon) in the roulette. In all, a very productive couple of hours on the lake and really fun being able to watch the fish hooking up with the bobbers. I have been really enjoying the fishing on the freshwater lakes lately, something I haven't done since the '70's and spring is the perfect time to fish them. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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27 March: This past Saturday, I was able to take my brother Danny, who was visiting from Florida, to catch our first Tautog of the year. We fished the southbound pilings of the CBBT on the out going tide and managed to get six togs 14 to 17 inches using blue crab. – Alex Perez

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# NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB MEN'S SHORT SLEEVE COTTON T-SHIRTS



3(L), 2(XL), 3(2XL)



1(L)



Wear your Norfolk Anglers Club Tee-Shirt to the meeting and get a free raffle ticket!!

Mens Short sleeve M- XL \$15.00, 2x - 3X \$17.00  
Hats \$15.00

3(2XL), 1(XL)



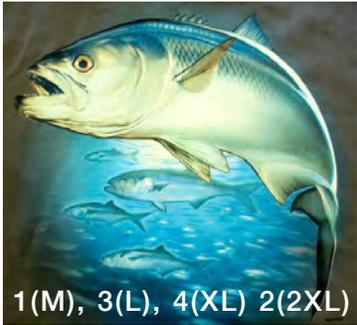
1(M)  
1(3XL)



1(M), 1(2XL)



2(M), 1(L), 2(XL), 2(2XL)



1(M), 3(L), 4(XL) 2(2XL)



2(L), 1(XL), 2(2XL)



1(L), 1(XL), 1(2XL)



2(XL)



1(XL)  
1(2XL)



3(M), (2)L, (7)XL, 3(2XL) 1(M), 1(L), 1(XL), 3(2XL)



1(L)  
Dip Dye



1(M)



2(XL)  
Dip Dye



1(2XL)

1(M)



1(L)

# Men's Long Sleeve Cotton Shirt \$20.00



2(M), 1(L), 1(XL)



3(M)

All White

In Shore  
Long  
Sleeve



2(M), 2L, 2(XL)



1M, 1L, 1(2XL)

	SLATE BLUE	GREY	FORREST GREEN	BURNT ORANGE	MUSTARD
L	1	1			
XL	1	1		1	2
2X			1		5

1M,  
1L,  
2(XL),  
2(2XL)



# Men's Long Sleeve White SPF Wicking Shirt \$25.00

1L,  
2(XL),  
2(2XL)



# Ladies Short Sleeve \$18.00 & Long Sleeve Shirts \$20.00

1(S),  
1(M),  
1(XL)



1(S),  
1(M),  
1(XL)



Fish designs are on the back. Norfolk Angler's Club Logo is on the front left top . All shirt are white.



1(M), 2(L), 2(XL)

1(S),  
1(M),  
1(XL)



1(S),  
1(M),  
2(L),  
2(XL)



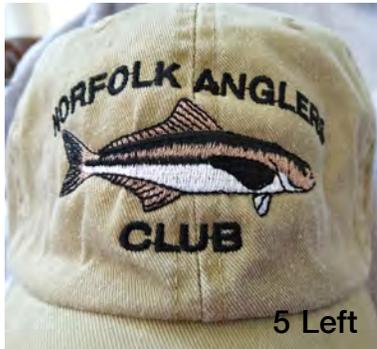
1(S), 1(M), 1(L), 1(XL)



1(S), 1(M), 2(L), 2(XL)

# NAC NEW HATS

We've added some new hats to our inventory, check them out at our 11 April Club Meeting. If you decide you want one now, contact the Wireline Editor. All Hat cost \$15.00



5 Left



11 Left



4 Left



10 Left



9 Left



3 Left



12 Left



8 Left



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..... Hungry?

# Angler Interests

Virginia Safe Boating Courses: [www.dgif.virginia.org](http://www.dgif.virginia.org)



Finding a Safe Boating Course, a requirement for EVERY MOTORBOAT OPERATOR starting July 1, 2016, is easy through the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Website ([www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)). Follow the link to *Boating* and *Boating Safety & Education* to find a DGIF sponsored course in our area. Most courses are FREE or include a small charge to cover the cost of materials. Here's a list of some of the available courses in our area with availability. Make your reservation soon as they'll fill up quickly as July approaches!

As of March 28th:

Virginia Beach Cox High School Rm122: Tuesday, April 5th Plus 5 Evenings 7:00pm-9:00pm 23 of 25 Seats OPEN  
\*\*\*Course taught by US Power Squadron cost is \$25 for materials

Virginia Beach Rescue Station 14: Saturday, April 9th 8:00am-4:00pm FULL with Wait List

Virginia Beach Fleet Reserve Assoc.: Monday April 18th 6:00pm-10:00pm (2 Evenings) 22 of 25 Seats OPEN  
\*\*\*Cost for Materials \$35

Chesapeake Towne Bank Conference Room: Saturday, April 23rd 8:00am-5:00pm 23 of 25 Seats OPEN  
\*\*\*Cost for Materials \$35 or \$50 for family members sharing materials

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, April 23rd 9:00am-5:00pm (1 Day) 11 of 25 Seats OPEN

Hampton Police Division Training Academy: Wednesday April 27th 6:00pm-9:30pm (Plus 1 Evening) 23 of 30 Seats OPEN

Virginia Beach Cox High School Rm122: Tuesday, May 3rd Plus 3 Days 7:00pm-9:00pm 25 of 25 Seats OPEN  
\*\*\*Course taught by US Power Squadron cost is \$25 for materials

## Recreational Cobia Closure set for June 20, 2016:



**NOAA FISHERIES**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

March 9, 2016: The National marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southeast Regional Office issued Fishery Bulletin FB16-018 announcing the Atlantic Migratory Group (GA-NY) Cobia Recreational Fishing Season will close on June 20, 2016. This closure is the result of an accountability measure due to the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for cobia being exceeded in 2015 for the Atlantic Cobia Stock.

## VMRC Meeting on Cobia scheduled for April 26, 2016



At the April meeting VMRC will discuss AND vote on the 2016 Cobia fishing season regulations. The public is invited and encouraged to address the Commission on proposed regulations. Angler participation, whether by email or letter, matters greatly in the decision process.

# VIRGINIA BEACH FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT



**Saturday, July 16, 2016**

## Tournament Schedule

Friday, July 15th 5:50-7:00pm: Captain's Meeting and On-Site Registration

Saturday, July 16th 6:00am-4:00pm Fishing Day

Awards Reception Saturday, July 16th 5:30-7:00pm

Visit Southside Boys and Girls Club Flounder Fishing Tourney website for more information

[www.ssbgcflounder.net](http://www.ssbgcflounder.net)