



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

APRIL 2019

## What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Largemouth Bass fishing and crossover lures with Kenny Boulter, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*

Fishing Tips: Black Sea Bass fishing with Captain Jake Hiles, *Matador Sport Fishing*

### Fishing Reports:

- Freshwater/Lake Smith; Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass
- James River; Blue Catfish

### Angler Interests:

- Virginia Recreational Grouper/Tilefish permitting and reporting requirements eliminated
- ASMFC to consider Striped Bass 2018 Stock Assessment and Management Actions
- MAFMC 2018 Stock Assessment for Summer Flounder
- USCG Notice to Mariners regarding GPS system rollover



# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Thanks to all that helped out at the March Fishing Flea Market. Mike Hubert, Greg Rogers, Rebecca Duck, Ned Smith, Henry Troutner, and Paul Harris did a fantastic job sharing what our club is all about. Many thanks to each of you for spending your Saturday helping out.

At the April meeting we'll be drawing the winning ticket for the Cobia Charter with Captain Austin Hayne and FINAO Sport Fishing. This is a great opportunity to win a fishing charter with one of the best cobia charters in Hampton Roads.

We had another fantastic Club Banquet at the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. Thanks to Mike Hubert for setting it up and Tom Hubert for running the Awards Program, as he's done for 10 years! The Norfolk Yacht and Country Club treated us to a wonderful evening with delicious food and great service.

- Will

## Meeting



### Guest Speaker:

Largemouth Bass fishing and crossover lures for other species with Kenny Boulter, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*.

Kenny is a Virginia freshwater Master Angler and specializes targeting freshwater species around Hamton Roads. Kenny will be sharing his angling expertise with tips and techniques for largemouth bass as well as selecting lures that easily crossover to other species.

[www.fishoceanseast.com](http://www.fishoceanseast.com)



## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 8 April at 7pm

## Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

## Publishers NOTES

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Wendy Bransom

NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

## NAC OFFICERS

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## Club Calendar

### April

Mon, Apr 8th, Regular Club Meeting

Mon-Thu, Apr 8-11th, Mid-Atlantic Fishery  
Management Council Meeting

Tue, Apr 23rd, VMRC Meeting

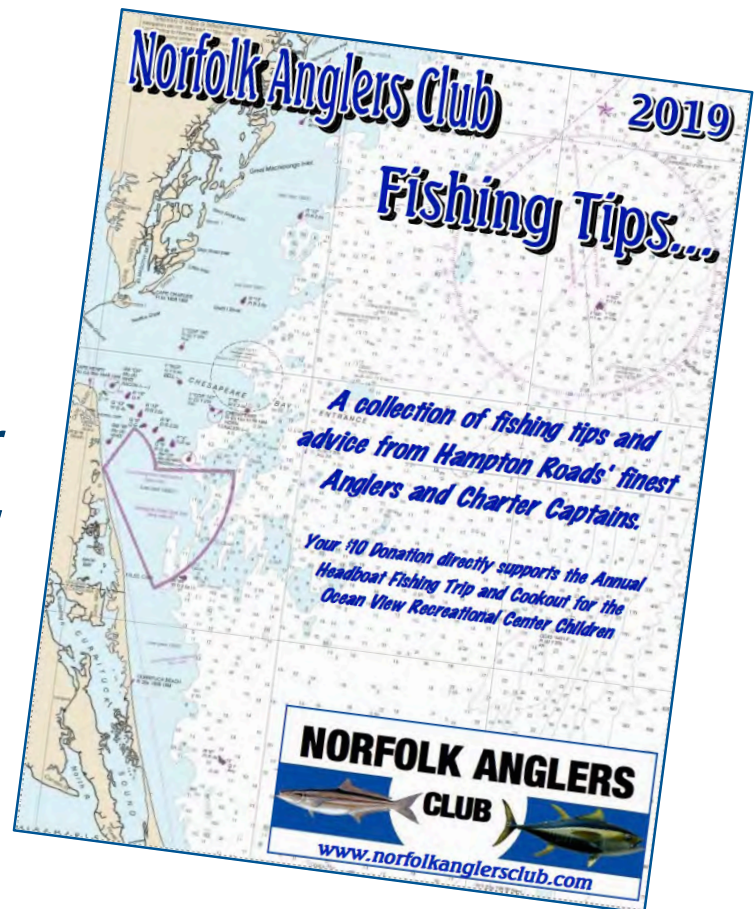
Mon-Thu, Apr 29th-May 2nd, Atlantic States  
Marine Fisheries Commission Spring  
Meeting.

### May

Sat, May 18th, Hunt for the Hardheads Club  
Tournament

***We've rolled out the 2019 Fishing Tips booklets! It's an information packed booklet with fishing tips from the areas best Charter Captains and Anglers. New for this year are pages of GPS locations for many of the areas fishing hot spots.***

***Best of all, your \$10 donation goes toward supporting the East Ocean View Community Center Annual Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout.***

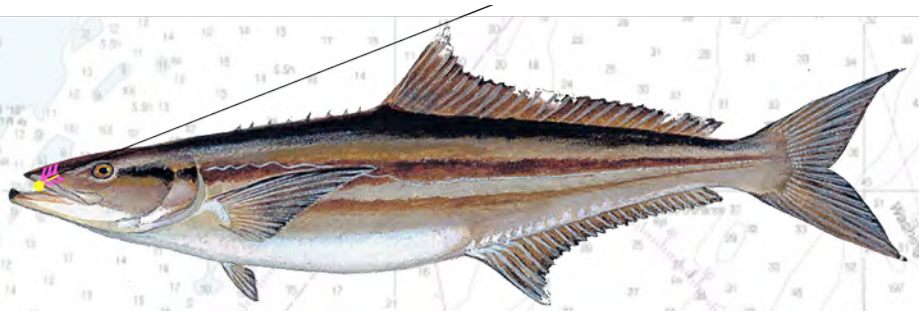




**NORFOLK ANGLERS**

**CLUB**

[www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com](http://www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com)



## 2019 Season Cobia Charter Raffle

**\$5**

**LAST CHANCE TO  
GET A TICKET AT  
THE APRIL MEETING!**

**Four Person – Full Day Charter with  
FINAO Sportfishing**  
(includes Mate's Tip)

Single winner drawn at April 2019  
Norfolk Anglers Club meeting.  
Don't have to be present to win.





# Norfolk Anglers Club

[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

## Fishing Tips...



### Black Sea Bass Fishing with Captain Jake Hiles



Black Sea Bass can be found along the entire eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico. They grow up to about 24 inches and about 10 pounds. The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) world record catch for Black Sea Bass was caught off Virginia Beach in 2000 by Allan Paschall. That fish weighed in at 10 lb 4 oz. The IGFA record for largest length is 22 inches (55cm) caught off Montauk Shoal, NY in 2013 by Wesley C. Winter, Jr.

In our area Sea Bass can be caught off the fishing piers, the rocks, and any of the wrecks inshore or offshore. Captain Hiles explained Sea Bass like structure and other Sea Bass. They generally hang together and if a piece of structure doesn't have a lot of other Sea Bass on it, they move to one that does. Over the winter Sea Bass will generally migrate offshore and can be found on the deeper wrecks. Small fish can still be caught close to shore but the larger fish won't migrate back inshore until it's time to spawn and that's around mid-May to the end of June.



Sea Bass eat just about anything but Capt Hile advised with any fishing "fresh bait is best." Artificial baits work too, like Gulp. Even with the tails bit off Gulp still stay on the hook and attract bites. Probably the most common bait is the squid you find at the bait & tackle shops or the Asian markets. Anglers can cut it up in strips or chunks, the Sea Bass will eat it all. Often you'll catch a Bluefish or two while fishing the structure and that makes a great bait for Sea Bass. Whichever bait you prefer, Sea Bass can be quite successful at stealing it off your hook. Capt Hiles likes using the Gamakatsu 5/0 Baitholder hooks (pictured left) for Sea Bass fishing. The Baitholder hooks have a long shank and upward barbs on the shank to help keep the bait from being easily stolen.



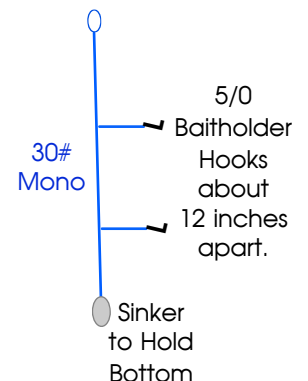
Rigging for Sea Bass fishing is straightforward with a double or triple bottom rig. Capt Hiles likes using 30# monofilament for rigging if drifting across the structure and even lighter line class if anchored. A technique he uses is to make a few runs over the structure and mark where the largest concentration of fish are located and then position the boat at anchor directly over them. He explained, when the Sea Bass are stacked up on a piece of structure you'll see it on the fishfinder. Anchoring on top of them will result in less hangups and lost rigs while allowing you to use lighter weight and line class. Another very effective technique is vertical jigging.



Rod/Reel selection is just about anything an angler desires. Fishing offshore at the Triangle Reef area is in less than 120' of water and most any setup will work. Spinning reels, like a Daiwa 3000, are perfect for the job because they're easy to use and less likely to tangle.

[www.matadorcharters.com](http://www.matadorcharters.com)

#### Double Bottom Rig





# Fishing Reports...

**Crappie in Lake Smith:** I went fishing with Russell on Lake Smith since we wanted to see if we could find some crappie before Saturday, 30 March 2019, the day of the VBAC Crappie Tournament. It was warm and sunny in the early part of the day but turned cloudy most of the day. Water temp was 56 - 58 degrees. Only a couple of bass anglers were also there. We checked out most of our favorite spots and only Russell hooked up two crappies. One was under 9 inches and the other was I would estimate about 1.5 and 2 lbs. But unfortunately, it got off right at the boat before we could net him.



We did catch several bass, the biggest were both 1.48 pounds, on my scale, 14.5 inch long, shown in pictures. It appeared to us that the fish were spawning and could only be triggered by moving spinner baits which also accounted for the frequent bass caught.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



**Catfishing on the James: 14 March:** Russell, Jerry Hughes and I went to the James River out of Jordan Point Yacht Haven to fish with Captain Petey for big blue catfish as we have for several years. The sun was shining but that wind was chilly in the morning so we had to look for places where there wasn't that much wind moving with the current.

We eventually found a good spot out of the wind and started bringing in several fish but no big ones. Over the time and several additional places anchored, we ended up with seven fish caught. The biggest was Jerry's at 16 pounds and 33 inches. We each kept one for the dinner table. Russell and I released one each for club minimums 28.5 and 27 inches.

We will just have to go back and get a big one, like we did last year. I'm all for that, great day regardless, fish in the fryer!

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower





30 March: Russell and I entered the VBAC Crappie Tournament along with 23 other participants at Lake Smith and Lawson. We found that four of us were both VBAC and NAC members, Steve Harding fishing with Will Bransom and Russell fishing with me, in Russell's 16 ft. Carolina Skiff. It was a really nice warm day even at the start of the day. Russell and I had scouted the Lakes on Monday and Friday and didn't find many fish but did locate a couple of possible promising coves to fish. We worked several before getting to one of the coves that Russell had caught a nice one. We were mostly fishing jigs in Beetle spinner rigs and tried a few colors without success. After several casts working the whole cove I had one on, it weighed .98 lbs. and so I tried that spot again and was not surprised to hook another fish, this time it was even bigger than the other one, 1.45 lbs on my new digital scale that I had found was accurate when compared to Ocean's East scales. At that point it looked like I had a real winner.

Nevertheless we continued to work the Smith Lake and Lake Lesner trying to find one for Russell and maybe a bigger one somewhere but found several other anglers in some of our choice spots so we moved on. We caught only two more crappie, none of them bigger than my biggest. At the weigh-in my weight on my scale was confirmed at 1.45 lbs. right after Steve Harding weighed his First Prize winning fish of 1.95 lbs. Will enjoyed his first crappie fishing and reported catching quite a few with Steve who told me they boated 20, trolling and drifting. In the end of weigh-in Steve had 1st with a prize of \$150 and I had 2nd place with a \$75 in the tournament. *Congrats Steve!*  
- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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**SEA TOW**



March 30th: I was lucky enough to be invited by Steve Harding to fish with him in Lake Smith during the VBAC Crappie Tournament. It was my first adventure fishing in freshwater since my childhood and I was looking forward to trying out all the great advice and techniques I've learned from our guest speakers.

Steve and I started out fishing away from many of the other anglers in the tournament with crappie rigs set on both sides of the boat while we drifted and very slowly trolled an area. We used jigheads with Bobby Garland artificial tails and live minnows.

Initially we were catching lots of smaller largemouth bass. We'd have 2-3 hooked up at a time and it took me a bit to get used to handling the very long (20 ft) telescoping crappie poles when bringing in fish or replacing lures and minnows but I soon got the hang of it. We also caught Yellow Perch, Bluegill, and a few small Crappie.

We'd slowly cover an area rigged with the long poles out on each side, often referred to as spider fishing or rigging. It places the baits well away from the boat and covers a large area. Once we started catching a bigger class of Crappie, Steve would maneuver the boat back over the area with a fresh minnow or a lure change.

By the end of the fishing Steve had landed a nice 1 pound 14 ounce Black Crappie to win the tournament. I weighed two fish 1 lb 5 oz and a 1 lb 1 oz fish that while nice sized landed me behind the second place finisher, Dr Ike. Ike took second place with his 1 pound 7.5 oz fish. In all, Steve and I caught some twenty Black Crappie an equal number of Largemouth Bass, and small Perch.

I had a great day fishing with Steve and the other Norfolk Anglers. I look forward to doing it again!

- Will Bransom



Norfolk Anglers (L to R): Steve Harding, Will Bransom, Russell Willoughby, and James Eisenhower



20ft Telescoping Crappie Pole



1 pound 14 ounce Black Crappie



Spider Rigging



1 pound 7.5 ounce Black Crappie





28 March: I went fishing for blue catfish with Captain Petey along with Bob Stuhlman and Russell Willoughby on a beautiful day with minimal winds. It started with fog on the James River around Jordan Point and Hopewell where we launched and netted shad for bait. Russell caught the first fish which weighed around 50 pounds and was 44 inches long which he released. I was next up and about 2 hours later hooked a fish that looked to be about 30 inches long but he started spinning and worked his way off the hook despite my pressure on him. But much later, I did hook up about a 10 - 12 pounds catfish. Unfortunately Bob didn't catch anything since the bite went cold on us. It was a nice day with minimal fish caught. - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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March 13th:  
 Steve  
 Harding  
 with his 2  
 pound 10  
 ounce  
 black  
 crappie  
 caught in  
 Lake Smith.



### Spring Break Fish'n:

12 March: From Louis Glaser; while fishing behind his nephew's house, a friend caught 5 largemouth bass during spring break!

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# Congratulations



Freshwater Angler of the Year  
Dr. James "Ike" Eisenhower



Saltwater Anglers of the Year  
Beth Synowiec and Alex Perez



Freshwater (Release)  
Angler of the Year  
Steve Harding



Young Angler Recognition  
Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr - Multiple Species

Congratulations to all our Norfolk Anglers Club awardees! Each year our Awards Chairman Tom Hubert receives more and more Saltwater Tournament Citations, Freshwater Trophy Fish Citations, and Club Prize Fish inputs. Taken together they represent an amazing collection of fishing talent for the club and well deserved recognition for all. Additional awards went to Mike Hubert for his Blueline and Golden Tilefish catches, Steve Harding's Yellow Perch catch, Bert Sainz's 6 lbs 5oz Flounder, and Phillip Mott's Blue Marlin release.



Exceptional Catch  
Kevin Synowiec  
IGFA World Record - Spotted Codling



# NAC 2019 Awards Banquet







**MICHELIN SMITH'S BIRTHDAY!**











**WHAT FUN!**





# Thank You!



*Our Annual Awards Banquet is not possible without the generous support from our members and our community. Thank you, for all that you've contributed to our event.*

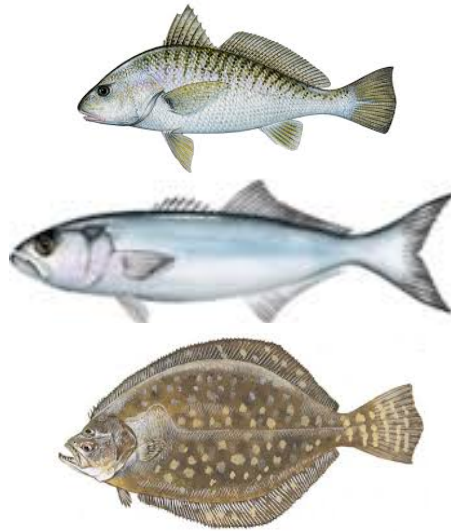


*Mike Hubert  
Beth Synowiec  
Wendy and Capt Will Bransom  
Karen and Capt Ed Schrader  
Steve Harding  
Tom Hubert  
Ben Capps  
Michelin Smith*





**"Hunt for the  
Hardheads"  
Challenge**



**Sign Up  
at the  
April 8th  
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"  
Saturday May 18, 2019**

Norfolk Anglers Club, Virginia Beach Anglers Club,  
Portsmouth Anglers Club, and Great Bridge Fishing Association

A Croaker, Bluefish, and Flounder  
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

**Tentative Date:** Saturday May 18, 2019

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

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

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

Picnic Only \$5.00

**Rules:**

1. Clubs are 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. Five Points awarded for longest fish, Four Points for second longest, etc. Up to five fish entries for each species. The Club with the most points wins!



## Norfolk Anglers Club

# Angler Interests

### Norfolk Anglers Club Food Drive.....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.

### Commission Meeting from March 26, 2019:



The Commission took the following actions at their March 26th, 2019 meeting;

**Black Sea Bass:** Expect an April Commission meeting to consider the 2019 recreational Black Sea Bass regulations. The February early season closed on March 1st and final recreational catch has yet to be finalized. Sea Bass caught during the February season must be accounted for in the 2019 total recreational harvest allowance. This may require a shortening of the regular Sea Bass season.

**Grouper/Tilefish Permitting and Reporting:** Recreational Permitting and Reporting requirements for Grouper and Tilefish landed in Virginia were eliminated. Citing low reporting rates and the lack of the data being used for fisheries management VMRC removed the 2009 requirement for recreational landings. They reminded the Commercial fishing for these species it still requires reporting through the VTR/EVTR system.

**Towing of fish:** The Commission considered the regulations to minimize the towing of fish. Towing being defined as the practice of "Tethering a fish by any method behind a vessel while the engine is running and in-gear." This issue emerged from social media during a cash and prize money Rockfish tournament as a method to increase the overall weight of a fish by forcing water into the stomach of the fish. The commission implemented regulations to prohibiting the towing of Striped Bass (Rockfish) and Cobia.

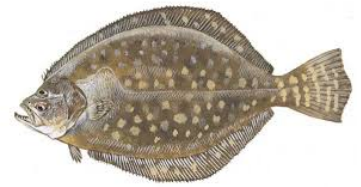
### Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting: April 29 - May 2, 2019:



The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will hold their spring meeting at the Westin Crystal City, 1800 S. Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202 on April 29th. Of interest to anglers in our area is their review of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment results for Atlantic Striped Bass. The ASFMC will consider accepting the Benchmark Stock Assessment and management response.



## **2018 Stock Assessment Results and Implications** **for** **Recreational and Commercial Management**



### **Summary**

The November 2018 benchmark stock assessment found that the summer flounder stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. Among other changes, the assessment incorporated a revised, higher time series of recreational catch (harvest and discards) that contributed to increased biomass estimates. The higher biomass projections result in a proposed 49% increase in the commercial quota and recreational harvest limit (RHL) for 2019. Although the RHL will increase by 49%, the new revised estimates of recreational landings also increased. As a result, recreational measures cannot be liberalized in 2019.

### **2018 Stock Assessment Results**

The assessment incorporated the revised time series of recreational catch from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which is 30% higher on average compared to the previous summer flounder estimates for 1981-2017. The MRIP estimate revisions account for changes in both the angler intercept survey and recreational effort survey methodologies. While fishing mortality rates were not strongly affected by incorporating these revisions, increased recreational catch resulted in increased estimates of stock size compared to past assessments.

As described in the assessment summary report, summer flounder spawning stock biomass was estimated at 78% of the revised biomass target in 2017 (not overfished), and the fishing mortality rate was estimated to be 25% below the revised overfishing threshold (not overfishing). Recruitment of juvenile summer flounder to the fishery has been below-average since about 2011, although the driving factors behind this trend have not been identified. Bottom trawl survey data also indicates a recent trend of decreasing length and weight at age, which implies slower growth and delayed maturity. These factors affected the change in biological reference points used to determine stock status.

### **Proposed Changes to Catch and Landings Limits**

Based on the assessment biomass projections, the Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recommended new commercial quotas and RHLs for 2019-2021. The proposed commercial quota (prior to deductions for past overages) is 11.53 million pounds, an approximate 49% increase from the current 2019 interim limit of 7.72 million pounds. The proposed RHL is 7.69 million pounds, also a 49% increase from the current interim limit of 5.15 million pounds. Final implementation of these limits by NOAA Fisheries is expected in Spring 2019.

### **2019 Recreational Measures**

As in other recent years, the recreational fishery in 2019 is proposed to be managed under regional conservation equivalency, with state measures remaining mostly unchanged. States may consider minor modifications to their measures if these measures will keep harvest at the same level as 2018. Why can't recreational measures be liberalized in 2019 if the RHL is increasing? The completion of the stock assessment marks the full transition to using the revised estimates of recreational harvest in the management process. Each year, recent harvest must be evaluated relative to the following year's RHL to determine how measures can be modified. Under the new MRIP methodology, the preliminary 2018 harvest for summer flounder was 7.17 million pounds, about 7% below the revised RHL of 7.69 million pounds. Because the 2019 RHL is within the coastwide percent standard error (PSE, a measure of precision) of the 2018 estimate, no liberalization is proposed in order to account for uncertainty in the recreational harvest estimate. In other words, the 2019 RHL is increasing, but the estimates of recreational harvest have also substantially increased, leaving little room for changes in 2019. What will happen with recreational measures going forward? Recreational measures for 2020 will be considered in December 2019. Whether and how measures could be modified will depend on harvest levels through late summer/early fall 2019, and how projected 2019 harvest compares to the 2020 RHL. Alternative methods for setting recreational measures may be considered in 2020, based on ongoing work by Council contractors and the Monitoring/Technical Committees.

### **2019 Commercial Measures**

No changes are proposed to the commercial minimum fish size (14" inches), minimum mesh size (5.5" diamond or 6.0" square), minimum mesh size possession limit triggers or exemption programs, or other gear requirements for summer flounder in 2019.





## WORLDWIDE: NOTICE TO ALL MARINERS WHO USE GPS EQUIPMENT

### LNМ Special Notice 2019 Use GPS Equipment Indefinite:

On 6-7 April, a parameter in the GPS system will “roll over” to zero, which may affect older GPS equipment, or equipment that has not received firmware or software updates recently.

Background: The GPS satellite constellation transmits the exact time to all GPS receivers. The format for this information includes a parameter that represents the week, called the GPS week number. The week number has been counting incrementally by 1 since January 5th, 1980, and is an integral part of the navigation message received by all GPS receivers. When the week number reaches 1024 at 18 seconds before midnight (UTC) on April 6th, 2019, it will reset to zero as it keeps counting. This has happened once before - in August of 1999.

Older GPS receivers, or receivers that have not been provided manufacturer updates, may be impacted by the rollover. The impact might occur in April, or could affect such equipment at a later date. On these receivers the date might revert back to August 1999, or may revert to another date. Since this issue does not affect the other parts of the GPS navigation message, (it only affects the date), the receiver’s ability to calculate the position and to display the exact time of day should not be impacted.

If you are operating a relatively recently-made piece of GPS equipment, it has likely been designed to handle this rollover event. If you regularly update your equipment’s software/firmware with manufacturer updates, it has likely been prepared to handle it. If you are unsure, check with your manufacturer. If the equipment was built to the following published specification, it will handle the rollover without problem: Global Positioning Systems Directorate Systems Engineering and Integration Interface Specification, IS-GPS-200.

If your receiver shows symptoms similar to those describes above, it is recommended that you contact your equipment manufacturer for further assistance.

To best prepare for this rollover event, users of GPS equipment who are concerned should update their firmware, or contact their equipment manufacturer to ensure their equipment is ready for this event.

Find additional information about GPS and the GPS Week Number Rollover here:

- ☐ GPS.gov [<https://www.gps.gov/>]
- ☐ Department of Homeland Security Memorandum for U.S. Owners and Operators Using GPS to Obtain UTC Time [<https://ics-cert.us-cert.gov/Memorandum-US-Owners-and-Operators-Using-GPS-Obtain-UTC-Time>]

Civil GPS users are encouraged to report disruptions or anomalies to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24 hours a day.





Norfolk  
Anglers  
Club