

**THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB**

# **WIRELINE**

**APRIL 2025**

## **What's Inside**

**Guest Speaker: Bluefin Tuna and Swordfishing; Captain James Carroll  
with *Goin' Anyways Sportfishing***

**Fishing Reports;**

- Rudee Inlet: Puppy Drum
- Freshwater/Nottoway River: Hickory Shad
- Freshwater/Lake Smith: Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Congratulations to our Anglers of the Year for 2024! Dr James Eisenhower and Bert Sainz were recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet for the Freshwater and Saltwater Anglers of the Year, respectively.

The weather is steadily improving and the water warming. That means more fishing opportunities. Remember to take your photos and send in your reports for the newsletter. We get lots of compliments from people who appreciate the information shared in the Wireline and your reports. Keep up the great work!

Check the Club Calendar, June is going to be a busy month for us. We'll be calling on your volunteerism to assist with the Children's fishing program events. Sign up at the next meeting.

Will



On The Cover: An early morning on the Nottoway River. The foliage is just starting to bloom, the river is running fast, the water is murky, and the shad run is about to start.

## Meeting

Guest Speaker: Bluefin Tuna and Swordfishing; Captain James Carroll with *Goin' Anyways Sportfishing*.

We're very pleased to welcome Captain James Carroll to our April meeting. Captain James has been fishing the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding areas his entire life. At a young age he realized there is nothing more he wanted than to be a captain on the same waters he grew up fishing. Join us on Monday, April 21st at 7:00pm and learn from the best on catching Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish.



**Important:**

**April 21, 2025 at 7:00pm**

**NAC Meeting at Boil Bay  
Seafood City, Norfolk, VA**

## Publishers NOTES

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Henry Troutner

Treasurer:

Ned Smith

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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**NORFOLK ANGLERS**



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

## Club Calendar

### April

Sat, Apr 21st; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Apr 22nd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

### May

Mon, May 19th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, May 27th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

### June

Tues, Jun 10th; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

Mon, Jun 16th; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

Mon, Jun 16th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

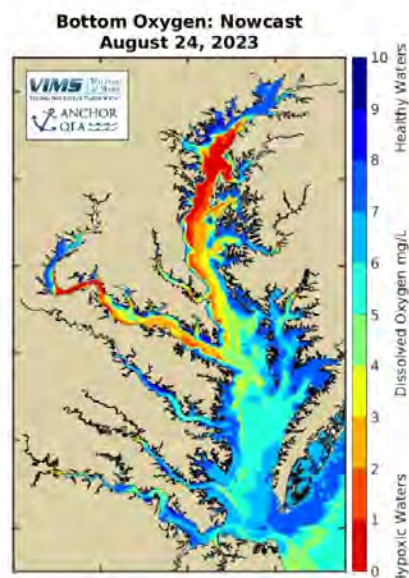
Tue, Jun 24th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Thur, Jun 26th; NPS Children's Surf Fishing Clinic, Back Bay WB

Mon, Jun 30th; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

## 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!

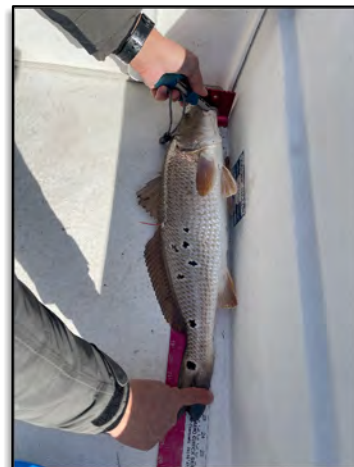


<https://www.vims.edu/cbefsf/>

# Club Members Tournament for 2025

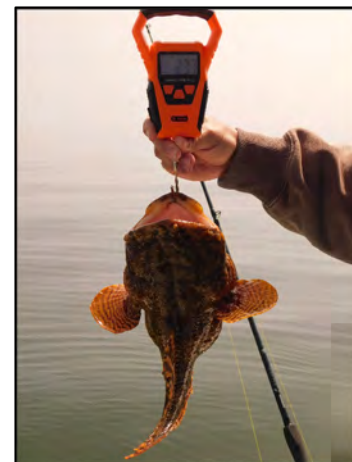


## Redfish "Spots" Tournament Rules



- 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](mailto: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 \(1\)](#)



## 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](mailto: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: [None...yet!](#)





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# Awards Banquet



Congratulations! to all our Awardees at the Annual Awards Banquet. We recognized Dr James Eisenhower as our Freshwater Angler of the Year and Bert Sainz as our Saltwater Angler of the Year. We also recognized two Club Expert Anglers; Dr "Ike" Eisenhower for Black Crappie and Russell Willoughby for Black Crappie.

Special thanks to Wendy Bransom, Mike Hubert, Tom Hubert, Karen Schrader, Henry & Mary Troutner, Wesley Waters, Terry Waters, Michel & Ned Smith, and the Staff of the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club all of which helped with planning, hosting, or setting up the Awards Banquet that we all enjoyed.

Along with recognizing the angling expertise of many of our members, renewing the fellowship of our fishing families, we enjoyed a raffle with donations from local businesses, friends, and families. Our raffle wouldn't have been possible without the generous support from the following;

Sea Tow Hampton Roads, NAPA Auto Parts Green Cove Springs, Princess Anne Distributing Co, Oceans East Bait & Tackle, USA Fuel Service, Bass Pro Shops, Sportsman's Warehouse, ACE Hardware, Capt CA Richardson's Fishing Lures, Aberdeen Barn Steakhouse, Bayside Artisan Shoppes, Academy Sporting Goods, Penn Reels, Wendy & Will Bransom, Mary & Henry Troutner, Terry Waters, Wes Waters, Mike Mancini, Bert Sainz, Greg Rogers & Kim Rote, Alex Perez, Rich Califf, Jere & Jennifer Humphrey. Tom Hubert, Mike Hubert, BJ Karwatt, Marty Schriebl, Bill Seemueller, and Tom Scibek with TinmanLures

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# Fishing Reports

Mar 19: I got an invite from Henry & Mary Troutner to fish the Nottoway River for Hickory Shad. This was my big freshwater fishing adventure to tame the shad run! It was a beautiful morning, wind calm, with the river flowing pretty healthy. The water was quite murky, more than usual according to Henry. He set us up in a favored spot and we went at it, rigged with TinnmanLure Shad Darts and 0000 spoons. Henry was first, second, and third to catch hickory shad, Mary had a few bumps, and I caught a tree! It was great fun and a learning experience for me. Thank you Henry & Mary, I had a wonderful time and look forward to a rematch with the shad.

- Will Bransom



Mar 3: I anchored on the flat across from the Virginia Beach Aquarium in Owls Creek. Fishing the falling tide and using cut frozen shrimp or a three inch curly tail grub on an 1/8 ounce jig head, I caught a total of five Red Drum up to 22 inches. Fishing was slow and they alternated on what they were eating. Three were caught on shrimp where the other two ate the grub fished slowly on the bottom. Water temperature was 39 to 41 degrees throughout the day and the fish were loaded with sea lice and small leeches.

- Alex Perez



Mar 28: I tried my luck in Rudee Inlet for puppy drum. Reports have been pretty good that the puppy drum are active. Initially I set up across from the Virginia Aquarium and made a few drifts with another boat. Neither one of us had any hits so I moved on to Lake Wesley. The crowds were gathering along both sides of Lake Rudee and I wanted to see what the other side had to offer. I was able to tag and release a dozen under slot size fish, including three recaptures from another Tagger. Water temp was consistent throughout the inlet at 54.3 degrees. - Will Bransom



# 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](mailto:susanna@vims.edu)



Mar 13: With the Shad run on at the Nottoway River, Mary, John Curry & I launched the skiff at the Hercules Ramp and headed up stream. Cloudy and a little cooler than forecasted but still a good day for fishing. My second cast was a double header and we picked at the fish for about 2 1/2 hours catching a couple dozen. We kept some for crab/catfish bait and released the rest. Fish were caught on tandem spoon/shad dart rigs and spoons fished 18" below a 1/4 oz bead sinker. Color didn't seem to matter: gold or silver spoons and bright Shad darts.

- Henry Troutner



Mar 9: I returned to Owls Creek again using frozen shrimp on one rod while casting a 1/8 ounce curly tail grub on the other rod. I fished the beginning of the incoming tide and caught six Red Drum up to 23 inches. The water was holding at 45 degrees all day and you could see Speckled Trout and Red Drum basking in the sun near the surface, all around the creek. The reds I was catching were part of a school you could see flashing in the shallow water as they ate off the bottom. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez





Mar 4: Finally had a calmer day with sun after too many windy ones. We headed to Lake Smith to get a preliminary sense of what the lake could produce for the Tournament on 3/15. The first location produced only 12-inch crappies. Russell got a 12.5-inch, and a 12-inch released. I only got one 12-incher. Moving on to another spot was the ticket. Russell released a 14-inch and a 14.5-inch crappie, and I released a 12.25-inch, 13-inch and 13.5-inch crappie and one 15.25-inch bass. Over-all a great day fishing and catching on shiners under bobbers. The fish were still pre-spawn but turning darker.

Mar 13: Ronnie Willoughby and I decided to get my boat out on the lake a few days before the Tournament despite it being overcast, windy and cold at 4pm. Water temperature was still 54 degrees, so we hoped to also catch a few as well. We were not disappointed. Ronnie hooked and released a 15.5-inch state citation crappie and a 12.5-inch crappie as I released a 13.5 inch. This was Ronnie's first citation crappie. Not bad for one hour of fishing. But it was too cold and we weren't dressed for it.



Mar 15: VBAC Crappie Tournament with Ronnie: We launched about 8:30am in a misty but calm and cold day at Lake Smith. The first place we fished also had someone there also, but we tried it anyway. No Luck. So, we headed to a place we knew had fish two days before and wow, we hit the jackpot!!! We started catching about 10:45am when the Solunar tables said was the best time and didn't stop catching fish until 3:45pm. We kept 18 crappies between 12 and 13.75 inches. My biggest was 13.75-inch. Ronnie released 4 club minimums giving him the Expert status for crappie. We also released about 5 undersized crappie and two bass. Despite not catching the winner of the Tournament (Melanie did) we couldn't have been happier. Catching one after another in one place was awesome. Actually, a typical spawning day (it was a full month peak) and they all were black as can be.

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- James Eisenhower "Dr Ike"

Mar 25: After last weeks heavy rain, which caused flooding, strong current and muddy water that totally screwed up our Shad trip with Will (*I still caught a tree! - it's the tree over Marty's left shoulder!*), we gave it another chance today. Marty Schriebl, Mary and I arrived at the Hercules Ramp to much lower, cleaner and slower water. The bite started out slow but picked up as the morning progressed. We fished for 3 hours and caught & released about 30 Shad. Small spoons with Shad Darts about 12" above the spoon caught the fish. Once again color didn't seem to matter, silver or gold spoons, green/yellow or red/white shad darts. A beautiful day on the water.

- Henry Troutner



Mar 10: We usually start Shad fishing the last week in February but this year cold, wind & high water had kept us off the water. Today finally looked good so Mary & I took the skiff to the Nottoway for some late winter action. The water was very cloudy but at an average height with a strong current. Using our usually rig, Shad Dart 12" above a Nanagasser spoon, the fishing was slow with only a couple fish to show. About 10 minutes before we were going to leave Mary slowed down her retrieve and landed a couple. With this I realized we were not fishing deep enough so added a split shot to our rig, the bite was on. We stayed another 1/2 hour and caught fish steadily. Spoon color, gold or silver, didn't seem to mater but the pink/white Shad Darts did better than green/yellow, probably easier to see in the muddy water. On ultralight tackle this fishing is a blast.

- Henry Troutner



Mar 23: Omar fishing in Broad Creek with mullet landed two nice red drum. The first measured in at 14" and the second was a nice slot size red at 24". (Omar and his family are our newest members.) Well Done Omar!!!  
- Summer Aqel



# Angler Interests



## Cobia Regulations set for 2025

The 2025 Cobia season opens on June 15th until Sept 20th; 43-inch minimum size limit (measured Total Length); 1-fish daily possession limit per person or 2-fish daily vessel limit, whichever is more restrictive; gaffing fish is prohibited.

At their March 25th Commission Meeting, VMRC amended the cobia regulations in response to an Atlantic States Fisheries Management Commission (ASFCM) requirement for a 16% reduction. This reduction in recreational harvest was applied to the Northern Regional Management Area (Virginia and Northern states) and applies to all the states in the regional management area. The new regulation eliminates the 1 over 50" regulation Virginia had and extends the season an additional 5 days in September.



## Back Bay Wildlife Refuge Summer Children's Surf Fishing Clinic

Looking for a new beach fishing experience this summer? Back Bay Wildlife Refuge will be hosting their Summer Fishing Clinics beginning in June. No previous fishing experience is needed. All the fishing gear is provided and local angling clubs will be there to help out. This program is open to children 7-15 years old and runs from 9-noon. Pre-Registration is required as these events fill up fast. Register online at <https://forms.office.com/g/EPG1ZG7GTT> beginning April 15th. Or call (757)301-7329 ext 3106. 2025 Dates are; June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21.



## CVOW Program progress continues (March Update)

The installation (pile driving) operations of monopiles for the WTGs and pin piles for the OSSs will resume in May 2025, at the conclusion of the North Atlantic Right Whale migration period. To date, seventy-eight (78) of 176 monopile foundations for the WTG have been installed, twenty (20) of the 176 transition pieces, and four (4) of twelve pin pile foundations for the first of three (3) OSS have been installed. The first jacket foundation has been installed on the pin piles for OSS #2 (photo lower right).

The M/V FLINTSTONE returns to the project and resumes scour protection (rock) installation at the foundation bases. The fitting of Transition Pieces (TP) over the installed foundations will continue with the M/V ORION. The vessel will remain offshore in the lease area while a tug and barge will transport TPs from PMT to the lease area. Installation of TPs will continue in areas with monopile foundations installed

Access to the lease area for recreational activities is unrestricted unless construction activities are active.

- A 500-yard USCG enforced Safety Zone is in place when construction activities are occurring at the site of each WTG installation.
- If Mariners have questions about access, the onsite project safety vessels can provide direction via VHF Marine 16. Alternatively, mariners may reach out directly to the CVOW Marine Coordination Center (757-366-7000)

**\*\* Mariners are reminded not to touch or tie off to monopiles and to remain vigilant for other vessels, including operational Project vessels, in the area. \*\***



Photo: Dominion Energy



*Norfolk  
Anglers  
Club*