

**THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB**

# **WIRELINE**

**DECEMBER 2019**

## **What's Inside**

**Fishing Tips: Speckled Trout fishing with Ed Cromwell**

### **Fishing Reports:**

- Little Creek: Speckled Trout, Striped Bass
- Lynnhaven: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Grey Trout
- Offshore/Triangle Reef: Black Sea Bass
- James River: Striped Bass, Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout
- Chesapeake Bay/HRBT: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Tautog, Sea Bass
- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Tautog
- Chesapeake Bay/Ocean View Reef: Tautog, Puppy Drum

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Don't forget! The December meeting is the last opportunity we have to collect for the Sea Tow Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy drive. The toys collected go to the USMCR Toys-for-Tots program and then distributed to local Hampton Roads children.



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting.

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.

Thank you for another fantastic year for the Norfolk Anglers Club. Your spirit of volunteerism and support is the heart of our organization and you should be very proud of all we've given back to our community. I hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday! - Will

## Meeting

The December meeting is reserved for our Holiday Party. It's a time for us to get together for the evening, catch up on the past year, and exchange gifts. We'll meet at the regular time and place. We've got a gift exchange planned, which was great fun at last year's party. I hope to see you there.



## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 9 December 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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Henry Troutner

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Norfolk Anglers Club  
P.O. Box 8422  
Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



# Club Calendar

## December

Mon, December 9th, Club Meeting/Holiday Party  
Mon-Wed, December 9-11th, MAFMC Meeting  
(Annapolis, MD)  
Tues, December 17th, VMRC Meeting

In lieu of a guest speaker at our December meeting we'll be holding our Holiday Gift Exchange. Some call it a Yankee Gift Swap or White Elephant Gift Exchange, whatever you want to call it, it can be great fun. To participate bring along a *wrapped* gift in the \$15 range. We'll collect the gift and give you a raffle ticket. We'll then use the ticket to randomly set the order to select a gift. We will also have trays of food for everyone to enjoy like we do every year!

### Gift Exchange Rules

- Gifts range around \$15
- When you're selected you can pick a wrapped gift or select one that's already been opened.
- Gifts must be opened once selected.
- If the gift you opened is selected by someone else you can then select a wrapped gift or grab someone else's unwrapped gift. but you can't take back the one you just had.
- Gifts can only be swiped twice. Meaning, the gift once opened can be taken by someone else and then taken a second time. After that the gift isn't available to change ownership again.
- There can be only three gift "swipes" during a turn. After the third gift "swipe" the next person draws an unwrapped gift...and we begin again.

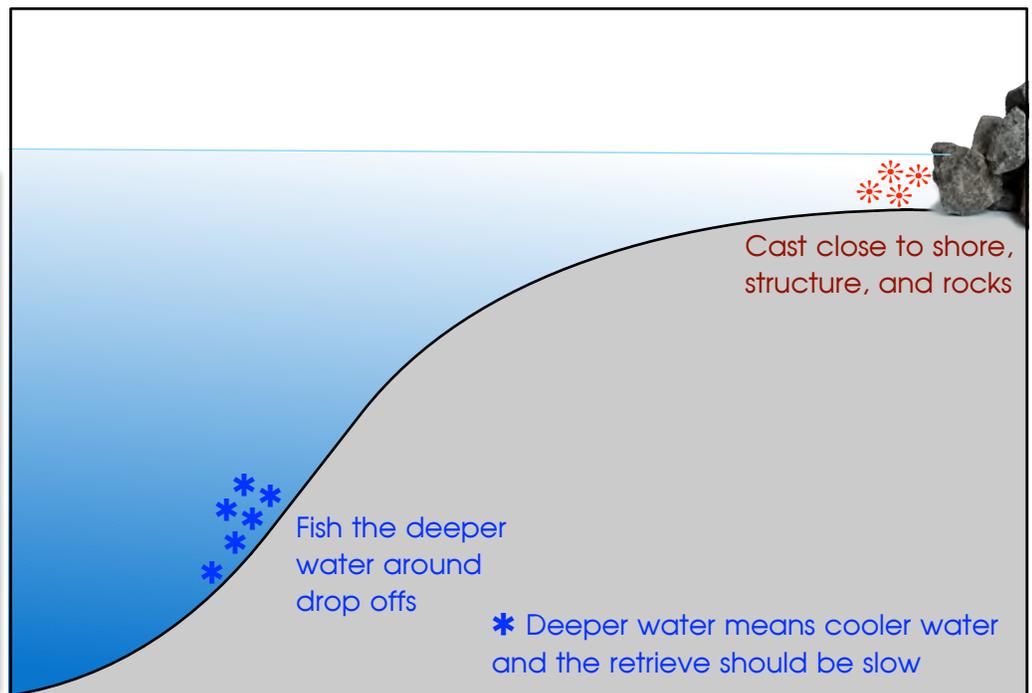
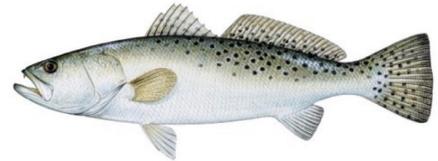


## Speckled Trout fishing with Ed Cromwell

Knowing the area you're fishing is the first bit of advice Ed will give you when fishing any area but even more important when fishing for Speckled Trout. Know where the drop offs are and where any holes might be. Try to locate where the bait seek shelter from the predatory Specs and Puppy Drum. Grass beds, oyster beds, and bulkheads/docks all represent protection for the baitfish.

Ed will first set up on an area so that he can cast in close to the shore and also to a drop off in deeper water. Placing the lure close to the shore and retrieving it back toward deeper water is one of the most tried and true methods. Sometimes the fish will be favoring the drop off just a bit further out. So, don't forget about the fish hiding in the deeper water. As we get cold weather fronts through our area the trout will often seek deeper water to protect themselves from a sudden change in water temperature. Speckled Trout can handle cold water but what they can't handle well is a sudden drop in water temperature. Usually called a "cold stun event," anglers will see the slowly moving and floating trout. Those are the fish that couldn't get away from the quickly changing water temp. Fishing the deeper and cooler water will require you to slow your retrieve down. The trout will slow their swimming and you'll need to put the lure in front of them and swim it slow to get a strike.

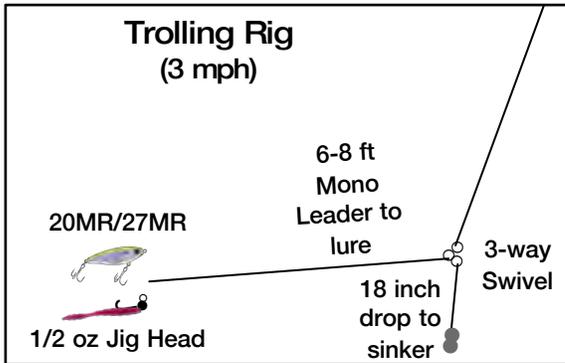
Ed fishes plastic tails on jig heads, MirrOlures®, and Popping Corks. The jig heads he'll use are 1/2 - 3/4 ounce and paired with a straight tail much like the original finesse bead tail soft plastics or a tapered tail. While many select a lighter weight jig head, Ed explained, the larger Speckled Trout will be closer to the bottom than the smaller ones. You want to get your lure past the smaller Specs and drop it in the zone for the larger fish. Using a heavier jig head will increase your casting distance while sinking faster and staying closer to the bigger fish during the retrieve. The length of the soft tail is an angler's choice. Ed will use 4 inch and up to 8 inch tails on Specs. He also recommends going with bright colors like pink or chartreuse. It's always a good idea to experiment with the length of your soft pastic tails, style, and colors to determine what the fish in your area seem to strike best on.



Another lure Ed recommends is the D.O.A.™ "Deadly Combo" Popping Cork. (pictured right) It's a complete fishing lure setup with a 3" shrimp tied with 18 inch flourocarbon leader to a popping cork. Popping corks vary in design but all have the same characteristic incorporating a rattle system, which, when "popped" sends out a distinct clicking or clacking noise while the lure jumps vertically. This combination of attention-generating sound created by the plastic & metal beads sliding on the metal wire and striking the cork mimics shrimp, crabs, and other fish.



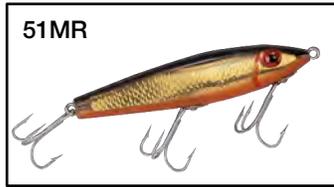
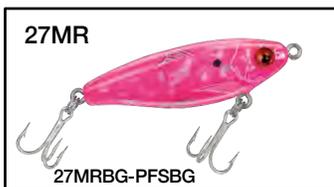
Ed will typically setup his popping corks in water 1-10 feet in depth. After casting it far from the boat he'll occasionally "pop" the lure with a quick jerk of the rod tip and let the lure drop back down. He'll also replace the D.O.A.™ shrimp with a 1/4 ounce jig head rigged with a plastic tail and use the same action.



Trolling is another technique Ed will employ using a 3-way swivel rig. He'll tie one leg of the 3-way to an 18 inch drop to a sinker and the other 6-8 feet to the lure. Lures he uses are MirrOlure® 20MR and 27MR as well as a 1/2 oz. jig head. The 20MR and 27MR are both suspending hard lures. They're designed to slowly sink and suspend approximately 24 inches below the surface. As Ed rigs them on his 3-way trolling rig, the lures remain off the bottom and clear of getting snagged. He keeps his trolling speed down to about 3 mph.

MirrOlure® makes a large variety of hard plastic casting lures and are the favorite of many anglers. Lures include floating surface walkers and poppers, suspending, and sinking lures. All work on speckled trout in the right set of conditions. Ed prefers using the 20MR and the 27MR, both are suspending lures and for his sinking lure the 52MR.

MirrOlure's standard are the 27MR (pictured left) and the 17MR. Both are suspending lures designed to suspend down to 24 inches. The 27MR is the larger of the two at 3 1/8 inches long, the 17MR comes in at 2 5/8 inches. With a twitching motion during the retrieve the lure is designed to dart back and forth and mimic an injured baitfish.



The 20MR is another suspending lure more narrow than the 27MR and longer at 3 1/2 inches. MirrOlure® designed this lure to be neutrally buoyant and suspend in the 10-16 inch depth range. For best results work this twitch-bait with a quick twitching motion and get it darting around like a wounded baitfish.

The 52MR and 51MR are 3 5/8 inch sinking lures by MirrOlure®. Although they're similar in appearance (size and triple treble hooks) their eyelet rigging and depth ratings vary. The 52MR eyelet is on the top of the lure and its depth rating is 3-8+ feet. The 51MR rigs from the nose and is depth rated to 1-4+ feet.

Ed explained when the water is warmer and the Specs are more aggressive on the flats the 52MR is a good lure to use. Because of its deeper depth rating it's also a good lure to get down to the deeper holding Specs in cold water.

(Lure images courtesy of MirrOlure®)

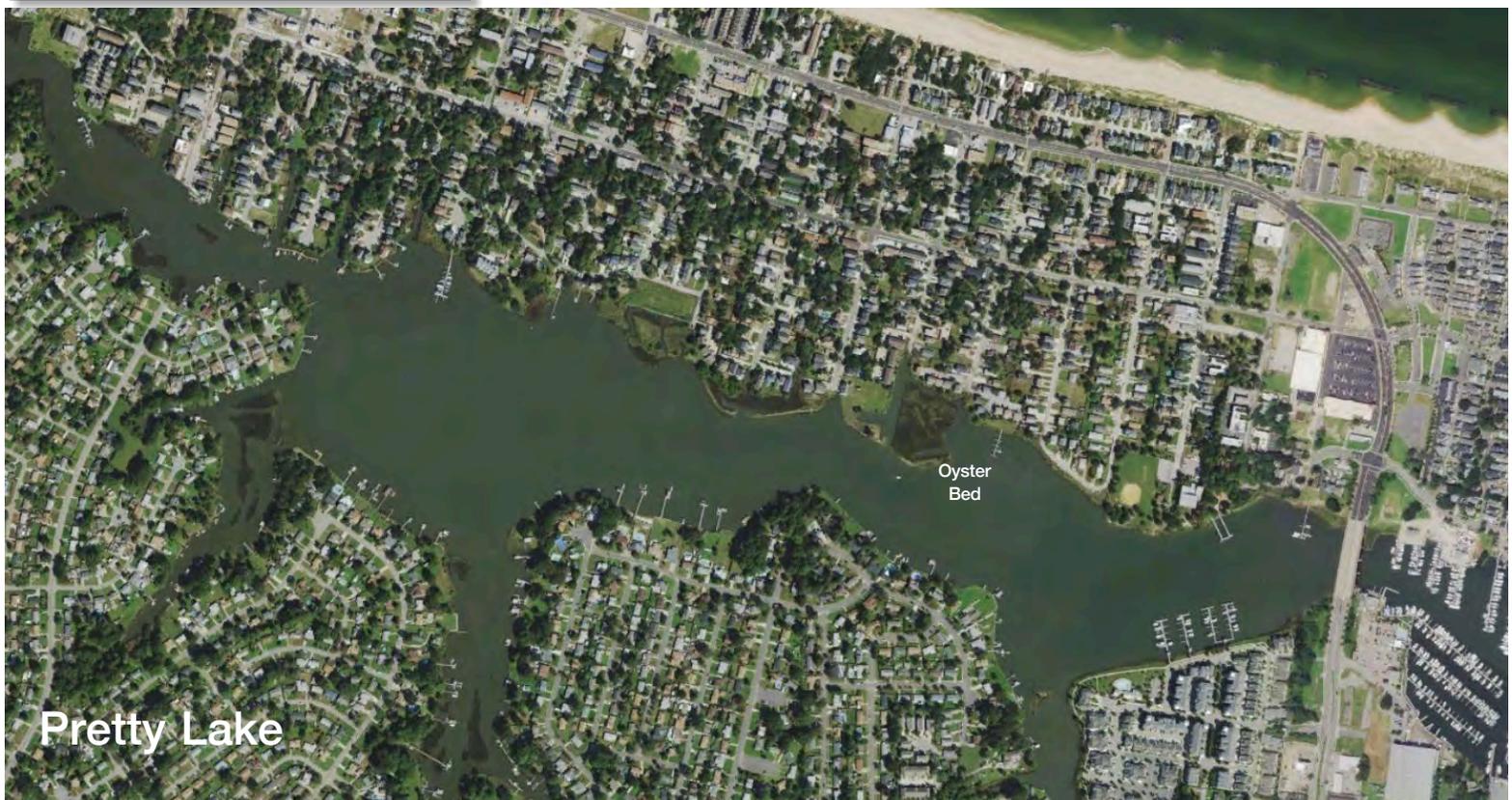
# Norfolk Anglers Club

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

## Fishing Tips...

Whichever lure or method you choose for speckled trout it's important to remember how to fish the lure. During the summer and early fall when waters are warm trout are more aggressively feeding and an aggressive lure presentation works fine. Once the water turns colder trout will seek out deeper waters before they migrate out of the area. These trout aren't looking to expend lots of energy to chase down a fast moving or aggressive lure presentation. Anglers will need to slow their presentation and make it an easy meal for the trout. Try fishing along the inside of the Rock Jetty to past the Old Wooden Bulkhead. Don't forget about the grass beds on the flats. Pretty Lake represents another fantastic fishing area, especially when the N/NE winds make fishing the inlet difficult. Try out new spots looking for drop offs, docks, drainage sluices for areas holding bait.

Night fishing for Speckled Trout! Who does that?! Well, Ed Cromwell does! Along with catching Striped Bass, Speckled Trout fishing at night can be fantastic, he added. You'll need a good headlamp to light up what your rigging and he prefers the kind with a remote sensing On/Off switch (hands free). He recommends fishing any of the light lines you find. He's caught plenty of Speckled Trout at night working the light lines. He added you don't need to change up your lure selection or technique, the trout will hit it just the same as in daylight. Just be safe while fishing at night, wear your PFD and keep an eye on other boating traffic.



# Fishing Reports...



19 NOV: I fished with Louis and Jesse at sunup at the Little Creek jetties for stripers and found them hitting our ChugBugs top water lures.

It was calm on the water and when we positioned ourselves to cast parallel with the jetty and close to the rocks, we found them.

We caught 7 but only kept our limit of one per person 21 - 23 inches. It was great fun on top water lures, totally visual and explosive.

Louis and I had tried the night before at dusk but only found one striper lost at the boat and one puppy drum so this was a great relief to catch on this morning. We tried for specks in the area and Pretty Lake but nothing but small ones.

Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



14 NOV: I got very lucky on a Thursday. I caught a 25 inch, 6 lb. 5 oz. speckled trout that was tagged and released after weigh in. Al caught a nice 22 inch. We also tagged 15 more specks, of which 10 were the legal size.

- James Robinson



29 OCT: I fished with Mike Hubert. Prior to that, I stopped at my boat to check on a few things and had some time to fish off the end of my dock. In 1/2 hour, I had caught and released 1/2 dozen speckled trout up to 21 inches. Mike stopped by before we went to his boat and he caught several more from the dock. All nice fish over 18 inches.

30 OCT: Mary, Mike, Greg and Kim took my boat to the Triangles. Although we met at 6:30am a problem with my Red/Green running lights (now corrected) delayed our departure to 7:15am. We fished 4 wrecks, the Morgan debris field and the Brass Spike on the way in. The results were a slow pick of mostly small sea bass. We only kept those over 14 inches and only had a dozen.

It seems to me we are going to have a problem with the sea bass fishery this year. I commercially fished for sea bass with a guy the past 2 Saturdays. We fished deep wrecks South the first and North the second. Although we caught plenty of fish, it was no where the numbers we are use to. The northern wrecks were covered with bluefish.

1 NOV: Mary was out of town so I fished the Chuckatuck in my little skiff. While jigging I caught stripers, drum and specks all mixed together.

The fishing got so hot, with a fish on every cast, I called George from the C.G. AUX and picked him up at his house on the creek. We returned to catching a mix of fish for another hour.

Stripers were all short, specks and drum were up to 19 inches. All were released.

- Henry Troutner

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Lazy Puffer, working on a tan (released unharmed)!



Puppy Drum choice of hues!



Happy Speck



14 inch, healthy Tautog

4 NOV: I snuck out on a Monday to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) for three hours. Fishing the incoming tide, I anchored up on the up current side of the island.

Using Gulp Swimming Mullet on a quarter ounce jig head, I caught a 20 inch speckled trout and three small trout right after. I also used a half-alive Blue Crab I found at the ramp that helped me invite two Puppy Drum up to 17.5 inches, a Pufferfish, and a 14 inch Tautog into the boat.

The two Drum were caught within minutes of each other but one had a much darker gold color to it. They are beautiful fish. All fish were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



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5 Nov: Hardly enough time in a day to get in all the fishing. On a Tuesday morning, I fished the CBBT with Mike Hubert and caught 3 tautog, including one 20 inch keeper. We just finished up, about 12:30pm, and I got a call from John Curry to go out striper fishing on the James.



I was at his house by 1:20pm. We started by trolling Stretch's at the Chuckatuck Bridge and landed 2 shorts. We then headed to the JRB and after running the length of the bridge with Stretch's and not getting anything we started cannon balling with Storms. In no time we had our 2 fish limit, 21 inch and 22 inch. - Henry Troutner



7 NOV: Mary and I spent a couple hours on the Chuckatuck on a Thursday. The tide and wind were not what I had hoped for but we managed a 21 inch striper trolling stretch's and a 17 inch speckled trout on a jig. - Henry Troutner



11 NOV: I caught some nice size trout on Veterans Day plus some puppy drum!

- James Robinson



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25 NOV: Mary and I fished the James River for striper with John Curry the "Striper King." Thanks to Mary's "Lucky Sea Tow" hat, we had a great day and as usual she caught the biggest fish. We caught 10 from 18 inch to 27 inch, keeping our three fish limit, a 22 inch, 26 inch and 27 inch. All were caught trolling Stretch's. Color didn't seem to matter as we caught fish on a natural blue/silver and on a red/white. The first picture is 2 throw backs we caught simultaneously on our first pass.  
- Henry Troutner



8 NOV: I had a mixed bag yesterday. We had lots of trout and finally some keeper puppy drum. We also had a couple of surprise grey trout!

- James Robinson

21 NOV: We had a double limit of nice fish on this day for Al and I. We released a bunch too! - James Robinson





Danny and a Tautog.

9 NOV: We attempted to take a dozen Blue Crabs to the Cape Henry wreck in hopes of finding Tautog. With the wind continuing to blow over 15 knots, we decided to go to our back up plan of fishing the Ocean View wreck in Norfolk. Once anchoring on the wreck, the bite was slow but we managed to catch two tautogs



Billy with his Released Red.



Tagged and released Speckled Trout.

up to 15 inches and two puppy drum up to 19.5 inches. We decided on running to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) and try the rocks around Fort Wool. We caught five small black sea bass and four tautog up to 16 inches. We also used three inch Gulp Swimming Mullet to catch and release 14 speckled trout in the 10 to 13 inch size range.



Tagged and released Tautog.

10 NOV: Danny Moore and I returned to HRBT to catch four more tautog up to 19 inches using crabs and approximately 35 speckled trout up to 20 inches using artificials. All fish were tagged and released healthy for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

19 inch Tautog tagged and released.



Danny and a Speckled Trout =>>

- Alex Perez



26 NOV: Son-in-law Tim is here for Thanksgiving. John "The Striper King" asked Tim and I to accompany him for another day on the James River Striper fishing.



Mary was staying home with our Granddaughter so she said I could catch "Her" usual biggest fish and as luck would have it I did.

We caught about 8 fish. I lost track because we lost quite a few at the boat.



We kept our 3 man limit of a 21 inches, 25 inches and 26 inches. The biggest was caught trolling a stretch as were the numerous throw backs.

As the bite slowed, we switched to cannon balling and caught 2 fish right away.

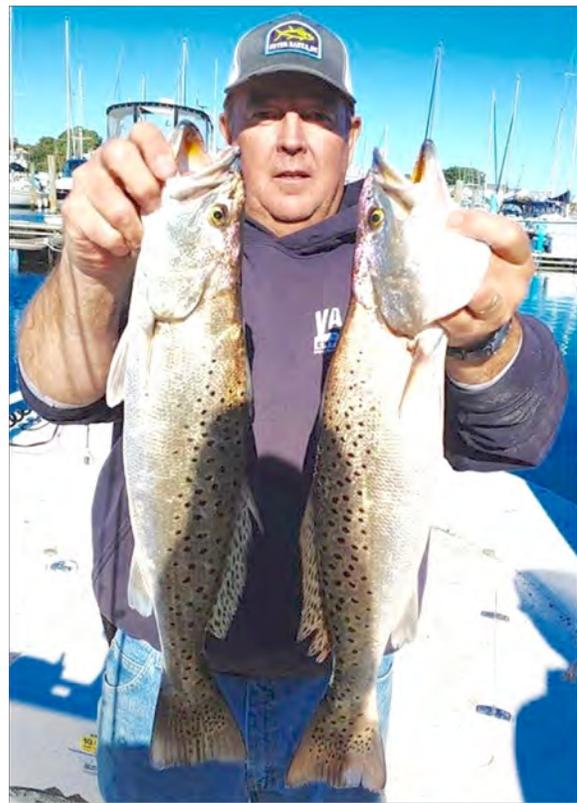


One was the 25 inches we kept and the other one was about the same size got off as we manhandled it over the side.

*Note: always use the net!*

- Henry Troutner





31 Oct: I left dock for Little Creek with Jerry Gaines and James "Ike" Eisenhower. It was slow in Little Creek so we decided to go into Pretty Lake. We saw Jeremiah Van Zile and his crew and decided to work together to find fish. Both of us had limits of 15. Jeremy had a 27 1/4 inch 7lbs. Ike had a 22 inch; it was a little over 3lbs. All fish were caught on Mirror Lures.

1 NOV: I fished with Douglas Wilburn and we had no choice but to fish Pretty Lake because of the cold North wind. It was tough fishing in the beginning because the tide and wind were in opposite directions. We had only 6 in the morning but when the tide changed direction, it was game on. Within 2 hours, we had 20 nice trout. It is never too windy or cold for fishing Pretty Lake.

2 NOV: I fished with Scott Mangan and Burt Whitt in Pretty Lake because of the wind. We ended up with our limit using MirrorOlures.

The largest was 24 1/4 inches and weighed 5.4 lbs. We had to struggle but the change of tide turned them on.

5 NOV: I fished with James "Ike" Eisenhower and Jesse Paule in Little Creek. It took us till 3:00pm to get our limit. Most fish were caught on 52MR and 27MR MirrorOlures. Maybe this North wind will start turning them on again.  
- Louis Glaser



# Angler Interests

## Atlantic Menhaden Update



October 31st: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) unanimously approved a motion to recommend the ISFMP Policy Board find the Commonwealth of Virginia out of compliance for not fully and effectively implementing and enforcing Section 4.3.7 Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.

Virginia Governor Northam in his November 20th letter to the Secretary of Commerce endorsed implementing an immediate moratorium on the menhaden harvest.

The Secretary of Commerce now must make a finding on the non-compliance recommendation.



## Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission NEWS RELEASE

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 31, 2019

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Finds the Commonwealth of Virginia Out of Compliance with Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden Noncompliance Finding to be Forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce**

New Castle, NH – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has found the Commonwealth of Virginia out of compliance with a mandatory management measure contained in Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The Commission will notify the Secretary of Commerce of its finding. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993.

Specifically, the Commonwealth of Virginia has failed to effectively implement and enforce Section 4.3.7 *Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap* of Amendment 3. In order to come back into compliance, the Commonwealth must implement an annual total allowable harvest from the Chesapeake Bay by the reduction fishery of no more than 51,000 mt. The implementation of this measure is necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of Amendment 3 and maintain the Chesapeake Bay marine environment to assure the availability of the ecosystem's resources on a long-term basis.

Upon notification by the Commission, the Secretary of Commerce has 30 days to review the recommendation and determine appropriate action, which may include a federal moratorium on fishing for or possessing Atlantic menhaden in the Commonwealth's state waters.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at [kerns@asmfc.org](mailto:kerns@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

###

PR19-34

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Office of the Governor

Ralph S. Northam  
Governor

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) recently voted unanimously to find Virginia out of compliance with the interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic menhaden. The Commonwealth of Virginia voted in favor of this finding because the data show clearly that the harvest cap of 51,000 metric tons (more than 112 million pounds) for the industrial purse seine fishery in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay has been exceeded. Compliance with this cap is necessary to conserve menhaden and other fisheries that depend on this important forage fish for their survival. These fisheries are an important part of our nation's economy.

Only one company participates in the industrial purse seine fishery – Omega Protein Corporation, a subsidiary of the Canadian firm Cooke, Inc. Despite direct appeals by Virginia's Marine Resources Commissioner and myself that Omega and Cooke abide by the 51,000 metric ton limit, the company has continued over-harvesting menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay even after exceeding the cap. This has resulted in tens of millions of American fish being exported to feed farmed salmon in Canada, in violation of the ASMFC quota.

Given these actions by an international company, imposing a moratorium on the menhaden harvest is the most appropriate way to bring about a shift to responsible management of menhaden, consistent with Section 5106(a) of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. Imposing a moratorium immediately will prevent Omega and Cooke from pushing farther past the quota for 2019. A moratorium will also provide the motivation necessary to ensure that Virginia's General Assembly puts in place new measures to ensure future compliance with ASMFC fishery management plans, which are a shining example of the kind of

Wilbur L. Ross  
November 20, 2019  
Page Two

cooperative federalism your Administration supports. A moratorium is the appropriate next step after a formal finding of non-compliance, according to the Act.

Section 5106(a) of ACFCMA requires the Secretary of Commerce to make a finding on the non-compliance recommendation within 30 days of being notified by ASMFC. Therefore, pursuant to Sec. 5106(b) of ACFCMA, I am requesting a meeting between your office and Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler to discuss the Commonwealth's support for the ASMFC non-compliance finding, as well as our interest in the conservation of Atlantic menhaden, in advance of your making such a finding.

I have designated Katie Sallee in the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources to coordinate this meeting. She may be reached at (804) 692-2547 or [Katie.Sallee@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Katie.Sallee@governor.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Northam

Many THANKS to our anglers who've written letters to the VMRC Commissioner, Governor, and the Secretary of Commerce.

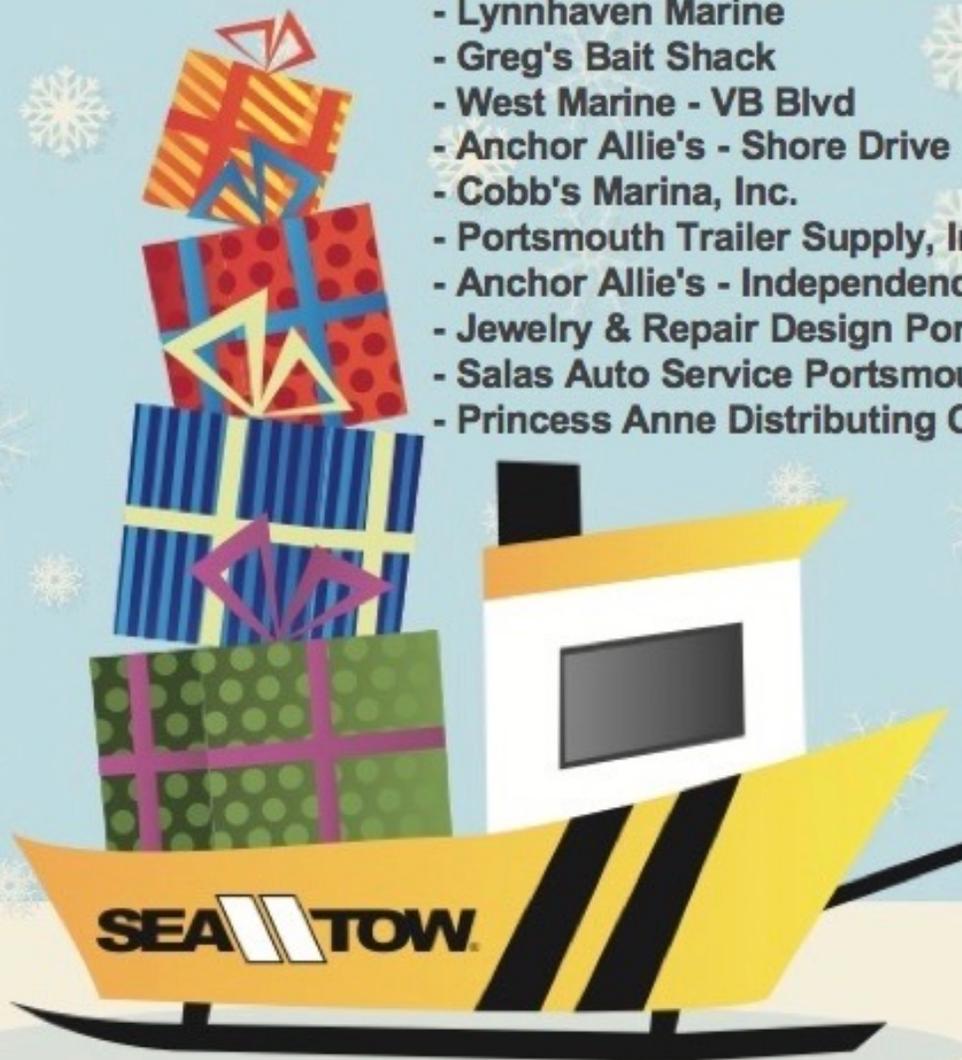


# Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive

A Sea Tow gift collection for the less fortunate in our community this holiday season.

Make a child's holiday a **little brighter**, bring your un-giftwrapped, new toy to: Your Monthly Anglers Club Meeting or the following locations;

- Sea Tow Hampton Roads
- Norfolk Marine Company
- Lynnhaven Marine
- Greg's Bait Shack
- West Marine - VB Blvd
- Anchor Allie's - Shore Drive
- Cobb's Marina, Inc.
- Portsmouth Trailer Supply, Inc.
- Anchor Allie's - Independence Blvd.
- Jewelry & Repair Design Portsmouth
- Salas Auto Service Portsmouth
- Princess Anne Distributing Co.
- Oceans East Bait and Tackle
- Surf Rider Cypress Point
- Surf Rider Greenbrier
- Surf Rider Oceana
- Surf Rider Western Branch
- Surf Rider Bluewater
- Bob's Boat Trailers, Inc.



## Donate Today!

Happy Holidays from your friendly elfish Captains!



For more information, you may contact;  
SeaTow Hampton Roads at 757-496-1999



For a complete list of Locations to donate visit:  
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