

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

DECEMBER 2025

What's Inside

Holiday Party and Social!

Fishing Tips: Speckled Trout Fishing with Keith Nuttall

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Tautog
- Virginia Offshore/Triangle Reef: Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Black Drum
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- James River/JRB: Rockfish
- Lafayette River: Speckled Trout, Red Drum
- Chuckatuck Creek: Rockfish

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Welcome to our new club members; David Condrón, William McCormick, Justin Andress, Loc Tran, and Jimmy Kipper & Family. We're very glad you joined up with us and look forward to fishing with you!

November marks the closeout for the Member's Speckled Trout Tournament. Anglers who entered the tournament are reminded to get your entries to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com by December 5th. The winner will be announced at the Holiday Party.

Interested in participating in the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program? It's a great way to participate in fisheries science while fishing. See the flyer in this edition of the newsletter.

Will

Our next big Club event is the Holiday Party, which will take the place of our regular December meeting. Same place and time. We've got a gift exchange planned, which is always great fun.

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 a lot of fun. To participate bring along a wrapped gift in the \$20 range. We'll collect the gift and give you a raffle ticket. We'll then use the ticket to randomly select the order to select a gift.

Holiday Gift Exchange Rules

- Gifts range \$20
- 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.

Important:

December 15th, 2025 at 7:00pm

**NAC Member's Holiday Party at
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk,**

Publishers NOTES

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NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

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Will Bransom

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Contact us at;

NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

December

Tue, Dec 2nd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Wed, Dec 3rd; VMRC Crab Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting at 4:00pm, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA (Rescheduled)

Mon, Dec 15th; Norfolk Anglers Club Member's Holiday Party
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

January

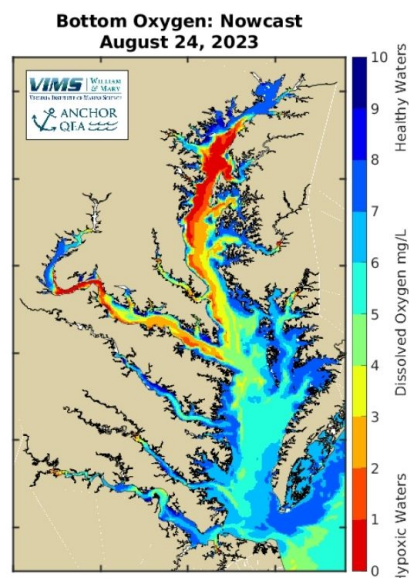
Mon, Jan 19th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

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

Fri-Sun, Jan 30th-Feb 1st; Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show,
Virginia Beach Convention Center

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/cbefs/>

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)
- 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.

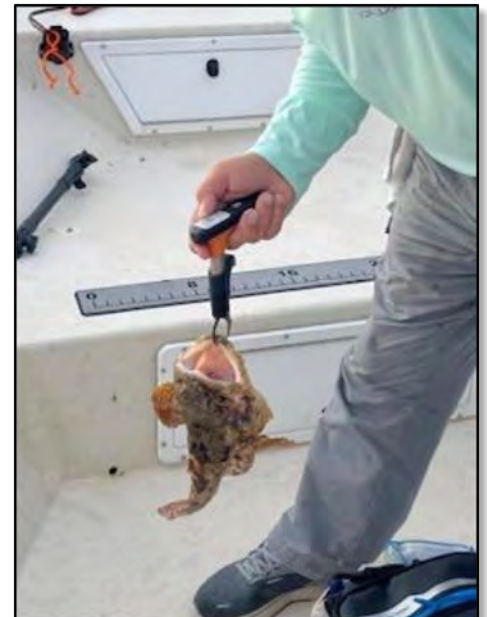
Entries to date: Alex Perez (1), Will Bransom (1), Mary Troutner (1)



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 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: Jere Humphrey (2), Mike Rheinhardt (1),
Mary Troutner (2), John Curry (1)



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Promo code: FCD30

Offer only valid through December 31, 2025. May not be combined with any other offer.

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries

1 January - 30 November 2025

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (8) Bill Seemueller (1)
Largemouth Bass	Bill Seemueller (3) Mike Rheinhart (11)
Chain Pickerel	Bill Seemueller (1) Henry Troutner (1)
Gar	Bill Seemueller (1)
White Perch	Bill Seemueller (5)
Yellow Perch	Bill Seemueller (3)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Red Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Black Drum	Henry Troutner (3) John Curry (1) George Langdon (1) Mary Troutner (1)
Sheepshead	Henry Troutner (2) Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
Wahoo	Greg Rogers (1)
Blueline Tilefish	Mike Hubert (3)
Flounder	Bert Sainz (2)
Triggerfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
Golden Tilefish	Wes Waters (1)
Speckled Trout	Will Bransom (1) Bert Sainz (1) Chris Harris (1)

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form must be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com



Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament May 1st - November 30th 2025

**For those who entered the Tournament
We need your entries by
December 5th**



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$10 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$50 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$25 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com) and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

We ♥ our Volunteers

Do you practice careful catch and release fishing and have great fish handling skills? Do you want to share data to help us learn more about our recreational species and improve your fishing? JOIN US!

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) has been a cooperative project of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) since 1995. We train experienced recreational anglers who volunteer their time to tag and release fishes and share data with fishery managers. We tag black drum, black sea bass, cobia, summer flounder, red drum, sheepshead, spadefish, speckled trout, tautog and grey triggerfish. Interested in learning more? Visit www.vims.edu/vgftp/. Interested in joining the waitlist for our next class of volunteers? Send an email with your name, mailing address, email and phone number to : susanna@vims.edu



Mary Troutner



Henry Troutner



Alex Perez



Chris Harris



Will Bransom

Speckled Trout fishing with Keith Nuttall

Keith's a native of the Ware Neck River northwest of Mobjack Bay, Virginia who began fishing for rockfish along the banks in the late 1960's. Sometime around 1968 he began catching small speckled trout bank fishing with each year the fish returning and larger than before. Early 1970's brought out a lot of interest bait fishing speckled trout from the banks. In the mid-1970's anglers noticed very large speckled trout being caught and on May 28, 1977 the current Virginia State Record was certified for Bill Katko weighing in at 16 pounds 0 ounces caught at Mason's Beach, Virginia. Bill Katko's "Gator Trout" also claimed the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) All Tackle World Record until it was retired by a 17 pound 7 ounce Speckled Trout caught at Ft Pierce, FL in May 1995.

"Haven't been speckled trout fish'n since this morning" is quite often the answer you'll hear from Keith when asked about the trout bite. He's a lifelong angler who's passionate about speckled trout, promoting the sport, and protecting the species. As a 33 year Veteran of the Virginia Marine Police, Keith is witness to the growth of speckled trout fishing in the commonwealth and the risk to the species if not managed conservatively. He explained the cold stun events seen in recent years have really had an impact on the fish. Cold stun events occur when a rapidly developing cold weather system takes over an area and cools the surface water quickly. Speckled trout that don't leave the area or seek more stable deeper water are susceptible to this quickly changing water temp. The fish become slow moving and will attempt to warm themselves in sunny locations in shallow water. However, that quickly becomes a cold water death trap as they become more lethargic, slower moving, and eventually die off. The Southside of Hampton Roads experienced back to back cold stun events in 2016 and 2017 in nearly all the tributaries and possession limits were changed to what we currently have (14" minimum, 5 fish per person with only a single fish over 24").

Keith shared, he exclusively fishes artificial lures for speckled trout. He explained there's a wide variety of lures on the market and lure types, sizes, colors, rattles, all of the variations make a difference depending on the season and fishing technique.

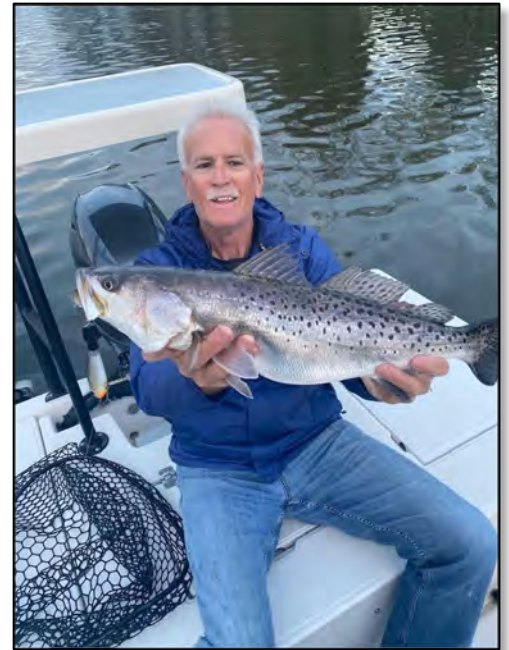


Photo Keith Nuttall

One of his favored lures comes from Steve's Lures in Texas called the Broken Back Corky (photo left). It's an adaptation from the Paul Brown's Fat Boy by MirrOlure® and has similar features such as the soft texture, a variety of colors, but includes a jointed tail section. The Broken Back Cory is a favorite late fall/winter bait and the orange color with the spots is a favorite. Keith added that the small black spots resemble the marking on juvenile speckled trout and MirrOlure® uses the designation of "TT" on some of their hard plastic lures to denote "Tiny Trout" to represent a trout fingerling. Anglers may also see a model with "TTR", this denotes the trout fingerling spots as well as a "R" rattle incorporated in the lure. Another popular color combination in hard and soft baits is "Mardis Gras" (pictured right)



"Mardis Gras"



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



In addition to the MirrOlure® and StevesLures line of suspending and topwater lures, Badonk-A-Donk makes a topwater lure favored by Keith and that's the Bomber 4" 3/4 ounce lure with a low frequency rattle (photo right). Keith explains that when selecting a lure with a rattle to listen to the differences in the rattle sound, some have a low deeper sound and other a higher pitched rattle. He prefers using the higher frequency rattle in choppy water and the lower frequency in calmer water.

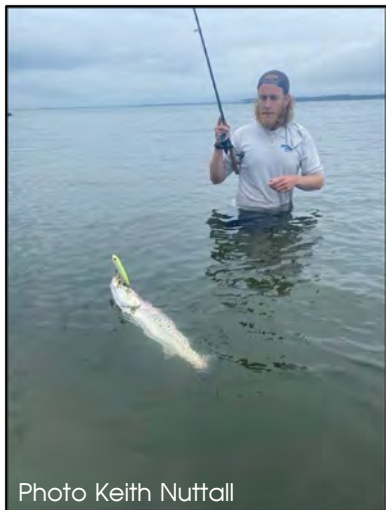


Another topwater lure Keith uses is what many manufactures dubbed as a "Peanut" lure (photo left). There are many styles and knockoffs of the Mansfield Knocker lure on the market but they share a common look, shaped like a peanut, rigged with treble or in-line hooks, usually incorporate both high & low pitched rattles. Keith prefers using topwater lures in low light conditions using a "walk-the-dog" retrieve.

Wade fishing is one of his preferred techniques in late spring and throughout the summer for topwater fishing. He advises to exercise caution when out wade fishing. Many times boaters can't see an angler until they've passed or too close for comfort. Both boaters and anglers on/in the water need to remain vigilant to each other, especially in low light conditions.

When not wade fishing you can find Keith fishing from the bank or most often from a boat. He stressed it's important to remember trout can easily get spooked. Making noise in the boat, deploying an anchor or shifting gear around can drive the fish away. He adds, the trout know you're there, they're very aware of the area and are targeting bait above them especially in the cool clear water in the fall and winter. Their camouflage coloring makes it perfect for them to remain low in the water column near the bottom and strike at prey above. He recommends making long casts away from the boat. Once

hooked apply a steady pressure all the way back to the net. Hard hook sets aren't necessary and any slack in the line will work against you. Trout will often jump, head shake, and make hard runs during the fight and especially near the boat.



Once an angler has the fish boatside be quick with the net, handle the fish with care if you plan on releasing them. This includes not handling them by the gills, supporting their body, particularly with large trout, and reviving them if needed before releasing them gently back into the water. Taking these steps will help preserve our fishery for others to enjoy. Being a life-long speckled trout angler Keith has seen the fishery develop, witnessed the impact of weather events on trout, and practices releasing fish over 20 inches and encourages others to do the same.



Photo Keith Nuttall

Keith fishes with a collection of custom rods but will be the first to tell a new angler over time they will get a feel for what works for them with regard to rod length, rod strength, and action. He uses the 2500 series reels and has been impressed with the Florida Fishing Products (www.floridafishingproducts.com) reels. The FFP Bahia reel he uses is described as well built, sturdy, and smooth. He recommends having your reels spooled at a local tackle shop because there's technique involved getting line on the spool that will minimize wind knots. He uses Diamond Braid 15# test for most lure application but will sometimes use 20# Diamond Braid with larger MirrOlure® lures. He also uses an 18-20 inch length leader of 20# Daiwa Fluorocarbon and ties off the lures with the improved clinch knot. His drag settings are not overly tight nor

are they very loose, he shared, it really depends on what an angler wants. Caring for your gear is important when you get off the water. He recommends rinsing reels with a light freshwater spray and hang the reel upside down until it dries. Hanging it upside down will allow any water to drain completely and once dry store the rod/reel anyway you desire.

Keith reflected on what he called the 4 P's of Speckled Trout Fishing; Proximity, Presentation, Persistence, and Patience.

- ▷ **Proximity:** Fish the channel edges, around the oyster bars and marshes. Trout are ambush predators that will position themselves where marsh outflow and channels drain. In clear water they'll be lower in the water column to avoid being an easy meal for a fish hawk or eagle and where they can look up and find their next meal. Look for birds diving/feeding on minnows, where there's bait there is usually speckled trout.
- ▷ **Presentation:** Lures need to be presented as an irresistible and easy meal for a trout. In warmer water trout are more actively feeding and many techniques work. In colder water trout are looking for an easy meal without expending a lot of energy. Lure presentation is much slower in cold water, almost painfully slow.
- ▷ **Persistence:** It might seem frustrating when first starting out but you need to stick with it and make a lot of casts. Each day's fishing will be different than the next. With each fishing trip more experience is gained and will make for a better trout angler. You'll never stop learning about fishing for speckled trout!
- ▷ **Patience:** Start off with a common lure style and color and build confidence with what you're using. Sometimes the trout will barely hit or tap a lure without eating it. It takes patience to wait out this behavior until the trout decide to attack the lure. Keith shared that if you had to select only three lure color combinations they would be; 808 (Black/Silver/Orange), Electric Chicken (Pink/Silver/Yellow), and Mardis Gras (Purple/Silver/Yellow).



Keith recommends using Solar/Lunar tables to determine the tidal conditions and best times for major/minor feeding cycles by the numbers of

fish clustered (image right). Tides4Fishing (<https://tides4fishing.com/>) has exceptional coverage and information for our area. This site not only provides tidal information but also information like temperature, humidity, visibility, wind direction and speed. Their information is displayed without having to select additional options and also includes easily understood descriptions of their information and how it applies to fishing.

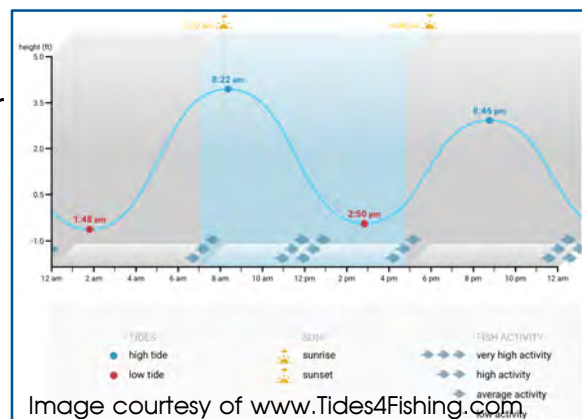


Image courtesy of www.Tides4Fishing.com



Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show

January 30th to February 1st, 2026

Virginia Beach Convention Center





20 Nov: A few days of nice fishing...Seabass at the triangles, big blues and after losing about a dozen jigs we got 2 nice Black drums that were released safely.

The big bonuses were the multiple Whales at the Cape Henry wreck coming in! The first Whale sighting for my Wife

- Jay Faszczewski

25 Nov: I invited Dave Steal and his son Danny and dog Bentley to go Tog fishing. The weather was supposed to be good with slack current at about 0845 and SE wind at 5 to 10. The SE part was right, the wind wasn't.

We left the dock around 0745 and fished till about 1230 stopping because of Thanksgiving tasking later in the day for both of us. We anchored on the 2nd island with the Rhodan. The tide was flooding and it was fairly rough over the tube. The wind and seas were slowly but steadily building all morning. Fishing was slow until the sun broke through the clouds and the bite picked up. We caught 10 or 12 short tog between the three of us before the bait ran out.

Once the bait ran out we casted to the rocks at the east side of the island with no luck. The ride back in was slow and wet but we caught fish and had a good time!

- Mike Hubert

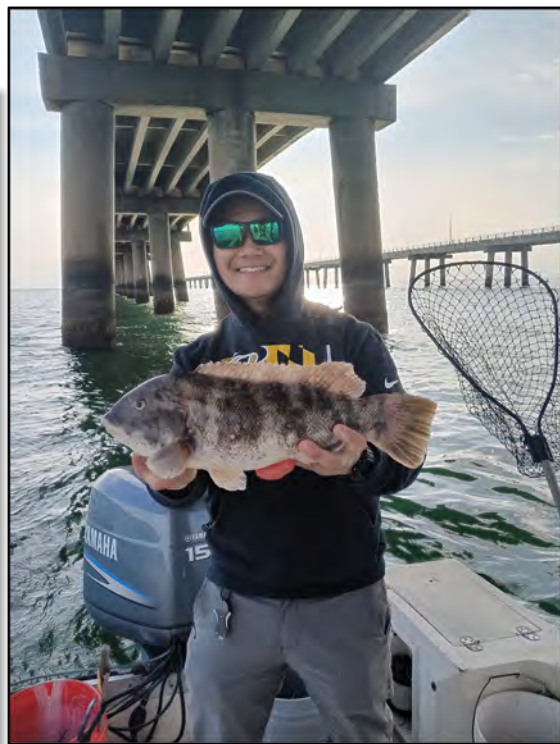
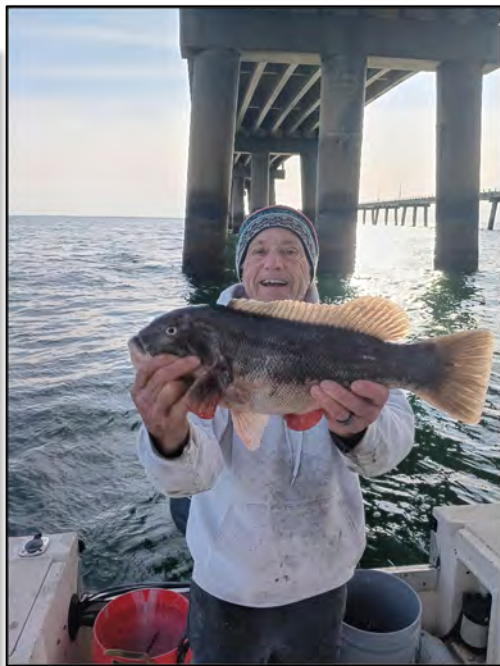


18 Nov: My wife and I took a ride out to the JRB today to see if there have been any improvements. Surprisingly it briefly came alive. Wind was calm, tide was going out at nearly max ebb, used red and white bandit. Missed a couple additional hits. Had to release the 33" but the 24" came home for the table.

- George Langdon



18 Nov: Headed out to the CBBT with Eddie for some Taug action and we sure had fun! Using cut blue crab and working the pilings we brought home 4 for dinner and released the rest. All the filleted carcasses were donated to VMRC's Ageing Lab in the freezer in Crab Creek. - Jere Humphrey





7-8 Nov: For the 3rd year, John Curry, Mary & I fished the Deep Creek James River Striper Tournament. What a fantastic event raising \$15,000 for the YWCA. Tournament kicks off with a great captain/crew party on Friday evening then fishing starts at 6AM Saturday. We started at the Chuckatuck bridge landing a 23" and losing one at the boat in the 1st. half hour, but it was all down hill from there. We moved to the JRB and made several passes with no luck. We eventually made it back to the Chuckatuck where we released a short 17" to end the day. We trolled hard stick baits, dual jig combos and live eels. A local celebrity, Jet Ski Brian, won 1st. Place.

- Henry Troutner

18 Nov: Mary & I launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point/Wallaces and headed for the CBBT to check on the Tog bite. We arrived at the 3rd island just as the current was starting out. We fished some pilings near the island and had a pretty good bite but, all undersize fish. After tagging 10 we moved looking for something bigger but didn't get another bite.

- Henry Troutner

22 Nov: A rainy day with moderate winds. Mary & I got a call from the "Gordon Fisherman", John Curry, to see if we wanted to hit the Chuckatuck for a couple hours. We headed out about 1:30PM. We made several passes at the Rt. 17 bridge for stripers and only caught 1 short. We then tried a couple spots for Specks but that was a bust. The water has been exceptionally clear with visibility at 6' which I have not found good for fishing on the Chuckatuck.

- George Langdon



14 Nov: John Curry invited Mary & I to try for some bigger Specks on the Lafayette River. We left his house/dock at 6:30AM with 32* temperatures. Since we have to pass the Chuckatuck Bridge we made a couple passes trolling for Stripers. We connected with 2 shorts then moved on to the Lafayette. The tide was low and still going out. We were greeted with a steady catch of 11" to 13" Specks but no Gators. John had the catch of the day with a 24" Red he caught on an ultralight outfit. We ended up tagging 30 before we headed home about. Man transparent purple Paddletails and live minnows caught the fish.

- Henry Troutner



20 Nov: I took an afternoon trip to Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) and fished off Tanner Point during the end of the outgoing tide. I started with a Paul Brown Fat Boy lure and caught a couple of small Speckled Trout up to 12 inches. I decided to switch over to a dark gray and sparkles three inch grub on a 1/8 ounce jig head and caught a few more specks up to 18 inches.

I went back out Monday the 24th and returned to a very quiet NIT. I decided to try the Lamberts Point coal piers and found only one Speckled Trout at 16 inches using a grub during the middle of the incoming tide. The water temperature was 55 degrees.



- Alex Perez



In Christmas past, Capitán Alex has been known to fish with the Grinch!



15 Nov: Mary & I met John Curry at 6:30AM to make a couple quick passes at the Chuckatuck bridge. First pass Mary connected with a keeper Striper. A couple more passes with no luck and back to John's house. Fish caught on red/white Bandit.

- Henry Troutner



28 Nov: Chris Harris out on a speckled trout mission and while no Gator Trout were caught on Friday, he sure showed those Young of the Year Speckled Trout who's Boss! The location has not been disclosed and we haven't confirmed if any were tagged but ALL were released unharmed and healthy.

Apparently, not all of them were Young of the Year!



20 Nov: John Curry and I went out to the JRB to see if it was still alive. Unfortunately we were either too early or too something because it did not produce.

However, on the way home we stopped at the Chuckatuck bridge where John caught this 19" as well as an 18" to save the day. The red and white Bandit worked at the Chuckatuck but only got knocked down once at the JRB.

- George Langdon



30 Nov: When the boat ramp trash can liner becomes your very own wind sock indicating North-NorthEast at 12kts with gusts to 14kts, you know it's going to be fun fishing the Lafayette River. Underway from Haven Creek after checking conditions with the Trash Can Wind Sock and water clarity

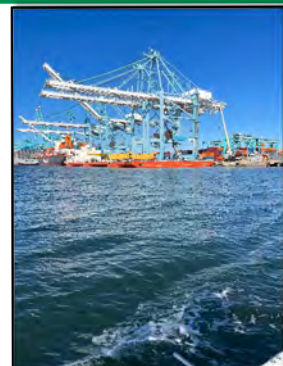
with the derelict bow rider and off I went, geared up, PFD on, and rock'n the SeaTow swag.

First stop the oyster beds east of Tanner Point and NIT, water's clear and cold and nothing to be had.

Decided to swing around to the other side of NIT and WHOAA! Thar be large winds and unfriendly waves and the Mighty Maycraft does not like this. Tucked around to Tanner Point and the specs don't like it here either.

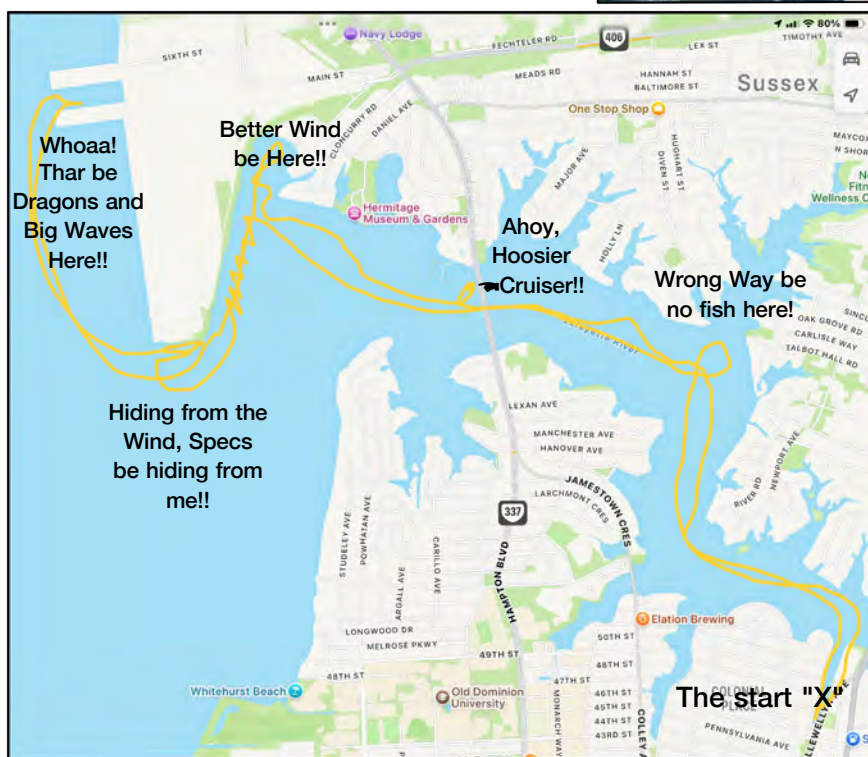
On the journey back stopped to fish the Hoosier Hole and see "Hoosier Cruiser" on the lift.

- Alex Perez



Boat Ramp Wind Sock

Indicates NNE 12kts gusting to 14kts
















THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION ***WANTS YOUR FISH.... TO MEASURE AND AGE.***



*You catch it, you fillet it,
but instead of throwing the remains in the trash,
please donate them to science.*

The Marine Sportfish Collection Project will focus on species of fish that are difficult to collect through the agency's normal sampling program. Anglers are asked to donate their filleted carcasses (head and tail intact) of legal and fresh-caught:

<u>BLUEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 36 INCHES) 	<u>TAUTOG</u> 	<u>COBIA</u> 	<u>RED DRUM</u> 
<u>SHEEPSHEAD</u> 	<u>SPADEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 12 INCHES) 	<u>SPANISH MACKEREL</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 	<u>SPECKLED TROUT</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 
<u>BLACK DRUM</u> 	<u>TILEFISH</u> (BLUELINE OR GOLDEN) 	<u>WRECKFISH, SNOWY GROUPEr, .</u> 	

**In return for participating in the project, the agency will provide
ONE FREE PROJECT TEE SHIRT, OR HAT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT,
PER MONTH of the DONATION.**



Please visit these merchants to participate:

Ocean's East-Eastern Shore (Capeville)
Port Messick Marina (Poquoson)
JEB Little Creek (Virginia Beach)
Long Bay Pointe Marina (Virginia Beach)
Lynnhaven Municipal Marina (Virginia Beach)
Mill's Marina (Seaford)



Angler Interests

North Carolina required recreational reporting begins December 1, 2025



Beginning December 1, 2025, all recreational fishermen in North Carolina are required to report the harvest of Summer Flounder, Red Drum, Spotted Sea Trout (Speckled Trout), Striped Bass (Rockfish), and Weakfish (Grey Trout) to the Division of Marine Fisheries as required by state law.

How to Report: There's an online WebForm available at www.deq.nc.gov and for those who don't have the ability to report electronically, the Division has developed a paper report card (picture right). The paper report card must be completed at the time harvest is complete and submitted electronically to the Division by midnight the following day. When the day after harvest is complete is a Sunday or a federal holiday, electronic submission of a report card is due no later than midnight on the first day that is not a Sunday or a federal holiday.

When to Report: If reporting using the online webform, reporting is required at the time the fishing trip is completed.

- ▶ If fishing from a boat, this is when the fish reach the shore/dock.
- ▶ If shore based, this is once you are no longer actively fishing and your gear is stowed away.

If reporting using the paper report card, fishermen have until midnight the day following completion of the trip to report online.

What is Reported: Whether you choose to report electronically or use the paper report card, the information you must report is the same.

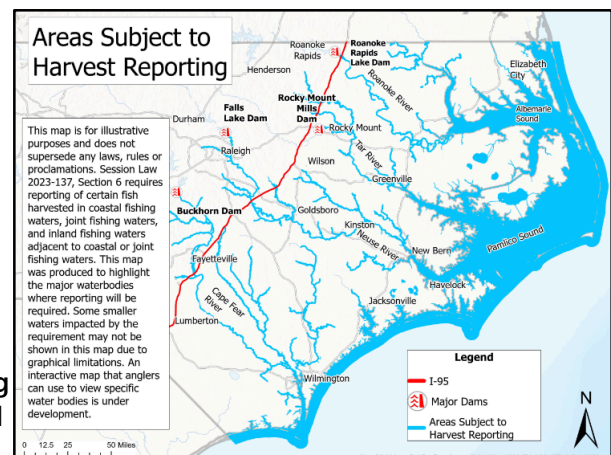
- Fishing license number or full name and zip code of residence
- Date of harvest
- Number of each of the five species caught and kept
- Area where the fish were harvested (see the Interactive Map to identify the waterbody you were fishing in)
- Type of gear used (e.g., hook and line or gig)

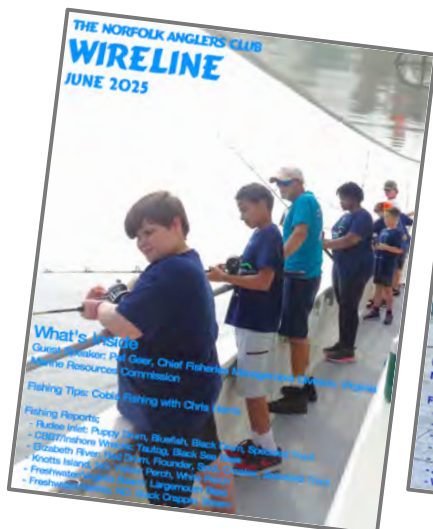
Please note: fish that are released should not be reported.

Where does this Apply: Recreational fishermen who harvest any of the five species from Coastal Fishing Waters, Joint Fishing Waters, or Inland Fishing Waters adjacent to Coastal or Joint Fishing Waters are required to report. Please see the Interactive Map for specific information about where reporting is required.

Enforcement: Phased-in approach for enforcement

- Dec 1, 2025 - Nov 30, 2026: Verbal warnings for non-reporting
- Dec 1, 2026 - Nov 30, 2027: Written warnings for non-reporting
- Dec 1, 2027 & Beyond: Infractions may result in a \$35 fine and associated Court Costs, and repeated violations may affect license eligibility.





2005 - 2025

Celebrating 20 Years serving Hampton Roads
Family - Fellowship - Fishing