

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

DECEMBER 2016

## What's Inside

Fishing Tips: Eeling and Reeling with Captain Max King

### Fishing Reports:

- Speckled Trout, Rockfish, Puppy Drum fishing in Little Creek and Lynnhaven
- Pompano in Rudee Inlet
- Deep Dropping for Golden Tilefish & Black Sea Bass at the Norfolk Canyon
- Tautog, Bluefish, Sheepshead, Red Drum along the CBBT
- Murrells Inlet, South Carolina Speckled Trout fishing

### Angler Interests:

- VMRC Meeting: Permitting and Reporting requirements for Tilefish, Rockfish, and Cobia
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Blue Planet Forum: Menhaden Matter
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission News Release: Cobia
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Mgmt Council MTG: Summer Flounder

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Our next 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 was great fun at last year's party. I hope to see you there.



We've got just one more meeting to collect toys for the Sea Tow Hampton Roads "Stuff-A-Boat" Holiday Toy Drive. New and unwrapped toys are needed to complete this year's event that supports the USMCR Toys for Tots campaign and benefits local children.

*Will*

## 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 \$10-15 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. The Gift Exchange Rules are as follows;

- Gifts range \$10-15
- 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.



## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, December 12th at 7pm

## Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill  
7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

## Publishers NOTES

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# Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive

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## Donate Today!



Sea Tow Hampton Roads and The Local Angler Clubs will be collecting toys this year for the "Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive". We will be collecting toys that are new and un-giftwrapped. Last year we were able to collect over 700 toys due to the Angler Clubs tremendous participation. The only thing we are asking of club members is to bring a toy to your monthly Angler's Club meeting in the months of October, November, and early December. Sea Tow Hampton Roads will attend your meeting and collect the toys. If for some reason you don't make the monthly meetings, you can visit [www.facebook.com/SeaTowHamptonRoads](http://www.facebook.com/SeaTowHamptonRoads) for locations where drop off boxes are available.



In December, we will invite all Clubs to our office for pizza and to fill the Sea Tow Boat with toys that we collected. We'll have The Marines from Toys for Tots come to the Sea Tow office to receive the toys. We would like to get a group shot of all clubs surrounding the Sea Tow boat stuffed with toys. This date will be determined when the time gets closer. *Every little bit helps and will make someone's holiday a little brighter.*



Thank-you again for your support.

If you have any questions you may contact Ed or Karen Schrader at 757-496-1999.

## *Eeling and Reeling Stripers, Captain Max King*

Captain Max King's known for years of success landing big Stripers in the Chesapeake Bay. With the weather and bay temperatures cooling down, late November through January is the time to target Rockfish in the bay using Max King's most successful method - Eeling and Reeling.

**Equipment Setup:** Rod & Reel setup can vary with Angler's preference. Captain Max King recommends whatever gear you select go with a quality rod & reel. Max uses both Spinning Reel and Conventional Reel setups fishing for Rockfish, namely the Penn Conflict 6000 spinning reel and Shimano Tekota 600 conventional reel. The mainline line is 20# braided fishing line and finished with a 30# Fluorocarbon leader.

**When to go?:** Max King advises if you're looking for monster stripers fish the Chesapeake Bay from around Thanksgiving to mid-January. Look for water temperature ranging from 56 degrees to 42 degrees. Weather can affect Rockfish behavior as well as other environmental conditions. He shared, rockfish are looking for a food source and seem to feed more heavily before a weather front passes. Don't look to tides but pay attention to current and the direction it flows.



**Setting up the drift:** Set your drift line, the course you want to cover over the bottom so that you drift over the bottom contour, from shallow to deep or deep to shallow. Keep your drift slow and your planer board spread controlled. Use the planer boards to increase the area you're fishing up to 75-100 feet off the sides of the boat. Have your rods organized and know which planer board/bait they go to. Adjust your Egg Sinker (3/8-1/2 ounce) to keep your eels relatively shallow {5-6ft} as Stripers tend to look up to feed. Eels should be about 15-25 ft behind the planer board. When everything goes right and you find yourself on the rockfish, remember to have the right size net. These can be large and powerful fish and a good net is the only way you'll get them in the boat (no gaffing permitted in Virginia).



# Norfolk Anglers Club

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

## Tips for drifting Eels:

- Bring enough Eels! Lots of other species will feed on your bait, don't get caught short when then Strippers are biting!
- Keep bait shallow; 5-6 ft down and 15-25 ft behind the planer board
- Cover a wider area with Planer Boards working 75-100 ft away from the boat
- Drift from Shallow to Deep Water or Deep to Shallow. Drift over the contour
- Keep drift speed slow; around 2kts
- Organize Rods on the boat, know which rod is working which planer board
- Write your name and phone number on your Planer Boards



Cover the area 75-100ft out from the boat

Planer Board  
"The  
Walleye  
Board"

15-25ft Behind Planer Board

20#  
Braided  
Mainline

3/8-1/2oz  
Egg Sinker

Barrel Swivel

30#  
Flourocarbon  
Leader  
3-4ft

Gamakatsu  
Octopus  
7/0 Hook



Eel size  
12-16 inches  
{14 1/4"}



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Photos courtesy of Captain Max King

# Fishing Reports...



1 November: I had a good trip in Lynnhaven River! I found a nice class of fish. Double limit on Speckled Trout. Culled out some 17 inches and released a undersize Striper and Puppy Drum. One released Trout had a tag in it. I am waiting for the report on who, when and where it was tagged. It swam away strong.  
- Jimmy Robinson



1-3 November: I went fishing with Nick Wright in the Lynnhaven River. We fished 8 to 10 places in the front part of the river. We caught over 150 Specks (20 to 25 Specks running between 14 1/2 and 17 1/2 inches). Generally when we caught Specks we saw bait fish in the area. Paddle tails and bass assassins was the favorite bait, but mirrolures (17s, 27s, and 52s) worked well also. We caught fish on both incoming and outgoing tides. Water temp ranged from 59 to 61; winds were 10-15 mph.  
- Ned Smith



2 November: Jerry Gaines and I went into Little Creek and caught a lot of small trout. Decided to go into Pretty Lake and caught four decent Speckled Trout. - Louis Glaser



26 September: I was fishing out of Rudee Inlet and caught this nearly 2 pound Pompano off the Rudee Inlet Jetty while fishing for Croakers. It is always good to be prepared with more than a few different baits and rigs!  
- Steve Harding



25 November: I had a blast catching small Strippers on top water (super spook) in the Lynnhaven River. I had only one keeper Trout.  
- Jimmy Robinson



23 November: Nick and I were in the Lynnhaven River for about 7 hours fishing mostly on the incoming tide. Winds were generally low with 49 to 52 degree water. We caught a some throw backs and a couple of nice Speckled Trout keepers and a Puppy Drum. We also caught a few small Strippers. Bait of choice was Chartreuse MR27s. - Ned Smith



25 November: Kevin and I had a late start heading to the Norfolk Canyon. After a few hours, we were both greeted with a very nice class of Black Sea Bass that primarily hit on cut bait. After catching several nice bass, we decided to go to a deeper location. We only had time to do four drops but still managed three nice sized Golden Tilefish and some nice Rosie's too.

I only wished we could have stayed for another hour or two to fish because two thirds of the bait we brought was still in the cooler sealed and untouched due to lack of time. (rare moment) . The Sea Bass Rig used was double bottom rig with 5/0 j hooks and golden rig with 6/0 circle hook. Fish were caught on cut bait.  
- Beth Synowiec





23 November: We've had wind for the past week, followed by rain. Wednesday was the only good day and it was a beauty. Mary said she wanted to go to the 4th Island and try for Tautog. Since it was just the two of us, we were in no hurry. We arrived at 10AM and fished to 2:45PM. The Tautog and Toad fish were both very active. We caught a dozen Tautog (keeping our limit of 6, one Black Drum (released) and at least 50 Toad fish. The Tautog ranged from 17 to 20 inches. As usual Mary caught all the bigger ones. We used blue crabs for bait. Fished the last half of the outgoing and 1st half of incoming tides. Caught fish on both tides.  
- Henry Troutner



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19 & 23 November: Launched at the 1st Landing State Park (64th Street) and fished Rainey Gut, Crystal Lake and the southern end of Linkhorn Bay on the 19th. Caught quite a few Speckled Trout 12-14 inch size. On the 23rd, I fished Crystal lake and fished Puppy Drum around the docks and bulkheads with jigheads with soft tails. As the sun was setting and with the water calm I worked the top water and had the Puppy Drum hitting my lure as I walked it in. Unfortunately, Puppy Drum are a challenge to hook up on a top water lure. Great fun though. - Will Bransom







29 October: Ray Sexton, Gregg Rogers and I met up at my boat at about 7am. We'd planned to go Tautog fishing and catch some Bluefish too. Ray had stopped by Oceans East on Northampton Blvd and picked up some green crab and fiddlers for bait. I had gone to Ocean View the day before to get mole crab (sand fleas) from the surf and had about 3 or 4 dozen. As always we had some trolling rods with planers for catching bait too. We decided to go to the 4th Island and anchor over the tube to Tautog fish which is one of our favorite spots. As we were crossing and approaching the 3rd Island, we noticed an oil slick. We loitered just southwest of the third and saw some Menhaden splashing-some of which looked like they were fleeing from predators- so we put the planers down. We had a #1 Old Salty planer with a silver 0 Drone spoon with gold flash on the back on one rig and the other had a #2 Old Salty with a #1 silver Clark spoon on it. We put Ray at the helm and Gregg and I worked the rods. We had many double hook ups and after about 1/2 hour we had 12 or 15 Bluefish which we thought were enough to use for bait and some for Ray (he loves grilled Bluefish).

We then wireline'd the tubes at the 3rd and 4th to see if there were any Striper or Flounder there (no joy) while we waited for the current to slow. We anchored at the 4th in 15' of water and put the baits down. I was using the mole crab and Ray and

Gregg were using the green crab and fiddlers. We had a bunch of oyster toads and some small Black Sea Bass with a few tog mixed in while the current was flooding. As the water slowed, we began catching more Taug. We kept one heavy 17" fish and released a lot of thin 16" and 17" males. When the tide shifted, we swung out to about 22 to 26 feet where the bite picked up significantly. The bite was hot for about 45 minutes. We caught a lot of barely keeper fish that we let go because they were not as fat as the ones we kept. After the tide got too swift we went to Flounder fishing the 4th Island. We caught a variety of fish there but didn't keep any even though some were legal. We stopped at the 1st Island to Croaker and Flounder fish on the way home. We caught some Croaker and Sea Bass then went to the Norfolk Anglers Club's 5 fish Tournament. All in all, we had a very successful day and had some big fun too!

On 25 November, Mark Hasket and I went Tautog fishing. We caught a lot of Tautog but only two keepers. As darkness fell the Tautog bite turned off but there was a good flood tide so we tried casting lead heads for Rockfish. Mark caught a 19" Rockfish on the first cast and another short behind the 2nd island. I managed one 21" fish there too. It was a great day to be on the water.

26 November: Magic Carpet has been fishing several times at the CBBT in the last 2 weeks. We've had success but not great success. There has been a surprising variety of species caught for this late in the season. Maybe the most surprising is the low numbers of keeper Rockfish and Bluefish. Red and Black Drum are still regularly caught (which is a surprise to me) while Tautog fishing around the pilings and over the tubes. A few Grey Trigger fish have been caught too which is an even bigger surprise. We have only caught one keeper Rockfish so far this year. Admittedly I have not targeted them with any vigor though.  
- Mike Hubert

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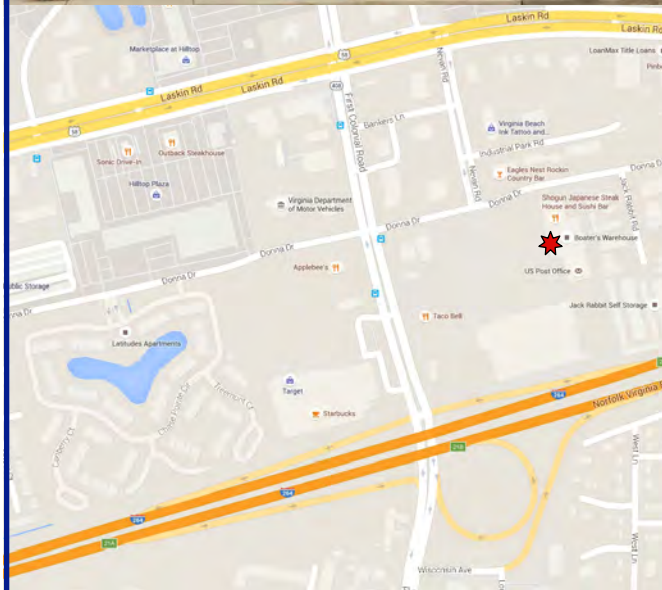
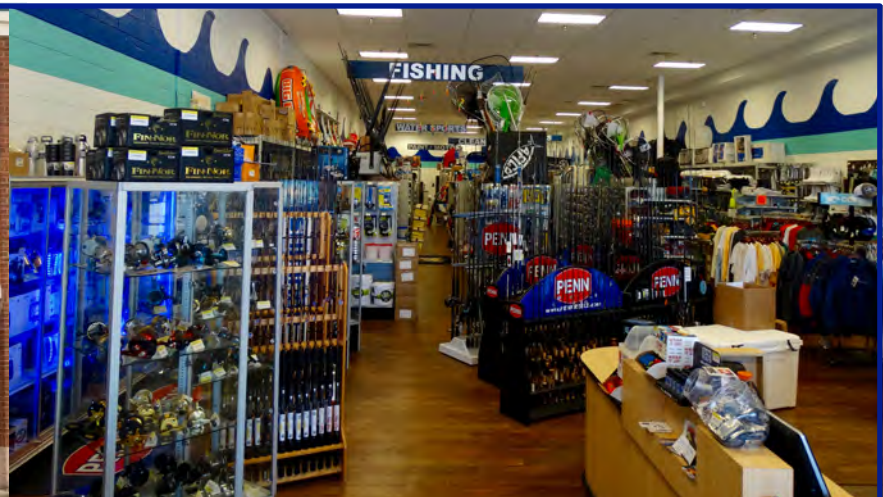
12 November: It was kind of slow in the Lynnhaven River for my buddy Al and I. We had three nice keepers and one that broke off at the net. All were 18 to 20 inches. We also



released a couple small ones. Missed the best part of the tide.



15 November: The day started off slow for my buddy Al Gaselle and I. Lots of small ones plus two little Stripers. Finished the day with 13 tag and release and three nice keepers.  
- Jimmy Robinson



Mon - Sat: 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm



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My fish weight was a citation at 32 lb 2 oz and Kevin's fish was 27 lb.  
- Beth Synowiec



2 November: Kevin and I decided to go deep dropping on our boat, the Classicrockfish. Our first drop yielded two nice Rosie's. The second drop was a bit more exciting and took a while longer to fight. My rod hooked up first with a Golden Tilefish, then within a minute, Kevin's did the same. These fish were a lot heavier and mine took serious drag on multiple occasions. Both fish bit on cut bait using Golden Tile bottom rigs with 6/0 circle hooks while fishing in the Norfolk Canyon.

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# position:

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I went home to South Carolina for Thanksgiving. I heard about a solid Bull Red run and some quality Speckled Trout going on for weeks. I missed the Bull Reds by a few days, but got into some quality Speckled Trout inside Murells Inlet, SC. I grew up fishing the piers and jetty in that area, but never had boat access. I am well aware of what is there and what gear to use. However, I have very little working knowledge of the marsh area.

Day 1- Thanksgiving: I made it onto the water around 10 AM. The marsh was relatively uncrowded with just a dozen or so trailers parked. I started off trolling a Mirrolure 52MR in hot pink on one rod and DOA shrimp on the other. Within the first 10 minutes of paddling, I landed 3 trout. The first was a solid 18 incher, which was my new PB. When my DOA Shrimp was just sitting on the bottom during the fight on my other rod, a dink trout hit the shrimp. I made another pass along that ledge and heard my Shimano Stradic singing. I got a 20.5 incher! A new PB.

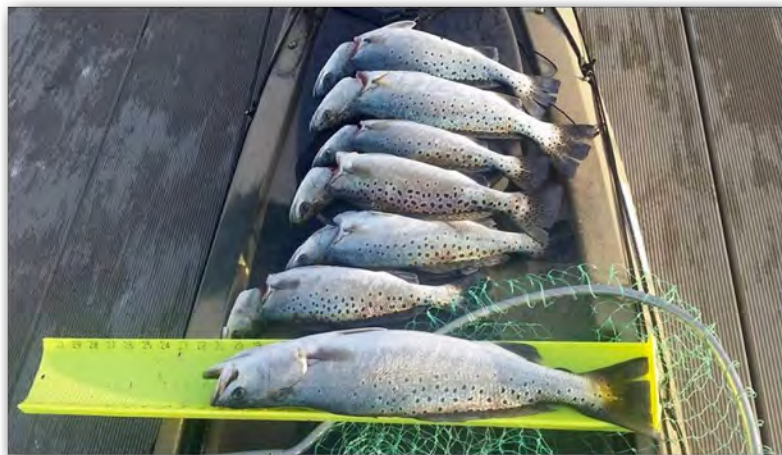


I continued my paddling and was rewarded with 2 more trout on my way to the jetty. These trout were my next PB's- 22.5 and 22 inches. At the jetty, I made 3 drifts bottom fishing with shrimp and had 1 slot size Puppy Red at 17 inches, 2 Black Sea Bass, and an Oyster Toad. The Oyster Toad was nowhere near the trophy specimens of CBBT. On my way back and slow trolling along marsh lines, I landed 3 more keeper trout. I paddled and drifted 7.4 miles.



Cleaning table at Myrtle Beach State Park Pier- slow day at the pier, entertained the local crowd. I had six trout 18 inch plus, four 20 inch+, South Carolina limit is 10 per person per day and must be 14 inches or greater.

Day 2- Black Friday: I did the same thing the following day, but worked a new creek and put even more distance paddling. It was a slower start with no fish at my first hot spot and 2 dinks to begin the day. I did strike a 21.5 incher as my third fish. My luck changed when I explored this creek that was no more than 15 yards across at low tide. I paddled in a zig zag fashion and hit the ditch mouths and oyster bar flats. In just 12 minutes, I caught 3 Trout in the 16-18 inch range.. On my way back towards the launch, I landed 2 more Trout. One was caught along this rip formed by a shell bank point and the strong incoming current. This was the hotspot of Day 1. I explored the other side of the main creek with no luck. At the end of the day, I logged 11.4 miles of paddling and drifting.





Murrells  
Inlet, South  
Carolina:

- 2 days of  
kayak fishing
- 15 out of  
19 trout were  
keepers and
- 6 were 20  
inch+  
including my  
new personal  
best of 22.5  
inches.



A few things noted: Most of my fish were hooked when I slowed down my paddling-suspending to sinking triggered hits. Most fish were hooked when I worked against the current- contradicts my experience with piling stripers. I concluded that either the bite shut off in higher water, or the fish moved into shallow flats and I failed to find them. The low water bite was great; there seems to be current at all times in the tidal marsh. I hope to be back at it around Christmas and find another kayak buddy with some local experience. Considering I have landed just 2 keepers out of 150+ Specks in VA, this was a phenomenal trip! *Thanks to the Norfolk Anglers Club for hosting the Speckled Trout Master, Louis Glaser. I took his advice on Mirrolures to use and had a blast!* - Brian Tsai



3 November: My buddy Al and I got more Stripers on a nice Thursday. Double limit of Speckled Trout, plus a feisty Striper. Also tagged 14 smaller ones up to 15". Gotta love those Mirror Lures. - Jimmy Robinson



On 2 Nov Mark Hasket, Gregg Rogers and I planned a Striper and Tog fishing trip to the the CBBT. We first casted to the rocks of the 2nd Island prior to Tautog fishing while waiting on the current to slow. There wasn't much moving water to begin with but we casted anyway. We had a few schoolie striper chase our baits but had nothing but short strikes. As it turned out we should have taken advantage of the slow water to start toggin. We anchored up at the 2nd Island and caught 4 keeper Tautog and a nice Sheephead right away. Fishing was good for about a 1/2 hour. The incoming tide moved us off our spot and the bite slowed so we moved. We piling hopped for while until we found a hot spot between the 2nd and 3rd Islands. The bite was hot near the 7 mile marker. We caught a 14 1/2' bsb a couple keeper black drum and a few more tog.



Mark then hooked a Red Drum that he couldn't control so we weighed anchor and chased it for 15 minutes or so. Gregg netted the fish and after a short photo shoot we put her back in the water and revived her. We went back to fishing the piling but the bite was off. We then anchored at the 3rd Island and caught another Tautog but ran out of bait.



No idea what was the name of this ship. It was sailing up the Baltimore channel as we were pulling anchor. It looked like it had Spanish Flag. [Editor: It's the El Galeon]  
- Mike Hubert



19 November: Nick and I went into the Lynnhaven River for some Speckled Trout fishing fun. We picked up 25 - 35 small Specks, but Nick showed me up with a 19' and 21.5'. Most were caught on chartreuse bass assassins. There was a lot of bait in river; the water temp. was around 56 degrees. - Ned Smith



23 November: Lynnhaven slam today, small Rockfish, Puppy Drum, and Speckled Trout. I tagged a bunch of them, but we had only 3 keeper Trout to 19" thanks to Al.  
- Jimmy Robinson



Tautog fishing at the CBBT 4th Island continued to be excellent in November on the Ocean Side in 10' - 20' of water using Blue Crab for bait. We made it out on 30 OCT, and NOV 2nd, 3rd, 13th, 23rd and the 25th.



We easily limited out except for the last trip when we ran out of bait, 1 short of our limit.



While fishing shallow was producing the best earlier, we are now finding increasing action in deeper water. We also made one trip to the 2nd Island on 19 NOV when the big ocean swells made it



impossible to fish the 4th fourth safely. Fishing was not hot but was steady and we stopped at 5 keepers when the shackle broke on our wreck anchor! - Mike Griffith



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We deliver the Wireline to more than 150 Direct Emails, Webpage and Regional Fishing Forums, several Hampton Road Marina Offices and Tackle Shops. We also highlight the Wireline many times on our Facebook page that has 884 Likes and our Post Reach is over 1,000 to 2,000 weekly. Our Wireline gets read by many Anglers in the Hampton Roads area; if you go to one of the local Tackle Shops you'll see the Wireline at the end of the month, it will resemble a well read paperback.

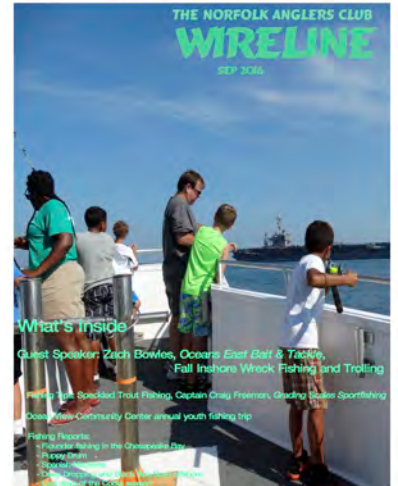
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Check out our past Wirelines for several years at our website:

<http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com/index.html>



29  
November:  
Lots of  
little fish, I  
tagged 26  
plus  
released 5  
small  
Stripers. I  
managed  
2 keepers.  
Fun on top  
water  
lures. -  
Jimmy  
Robinson



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# Angler Interests

## Norfolk Anglers Club Canned 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.

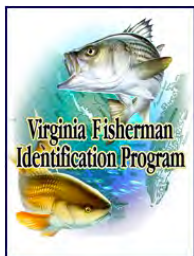
## VMRC Meeting Tuesday December 13th:



Dec 13, 2016: The Virginia Marine Resource Commission will hold a public Hearing on two changes to regulations. The first relates to Permitting required and Reporting Requirements for the taking Striped Bass, Tilefish/Grouper, and Cobia. The second is a proposed increase in Commercial Licensing and and Permitting fees.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting will be held at their Newport News office, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia. Public comments on the proposals should be provided to Robert L. O'Reilly, VMRC Fisheries Management Division, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, by 12:00 p.m., Monday, December 12, 2016.

## Toll Free Operator Assisted FIP Registration Service Discontinued



Nov 17, 2016: Notice: the toll free operator assisted FIP registration service has been discontinued due to budget constraints. All anglers required to register in FIP must register for themselves online, or have someone do their FIP registration for them using the "Register Online" button at the following web link: <http://mrc.virginia.gov/FIP/>

## Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Blue Planet Forum: Menhaden Matter



Dec 6, 2016: The Blue Planet Forum is a free environmental lecture series. Its mission is to educate and engage the public on important environmental issues affecting Hampton Roads and the nation. Admission is Free but please register at [www.cbf.org/blueplanet](http://www.cbf.org/blueplanet)

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Slover Library, 235 Plume Street, Norfolk, Virginia

Menhaden Matter: An Expert Panel Exploring Key Virginia Fisheries;  
Louis Daniel, Former Director, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
Dick Russel, Author, "Striper Wars"  
Jack Travelstead, Former Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Moderated by Donald Luzzatto Editorial Page Editor, Virginian-Pilot

# Angler Interests

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## Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission News Releases: Cobia:



Nov 18, 2016: Arlington, VA – The Commission’s South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Plan releases for public comment the Public Information Document (PID) for the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cobia. As the first step in the FMP development process, the PID provides stakeholders with an opportunity to inform the Commission about changes observed in the fishery and provide feedback on potential management measures as well as any additional issues that should be included in the Draft FMP. Specifically, the PID seeks comment on the management unit; goals and objectives of the plan; commercial and recreational measures; coastwide, regional or state by state measures; and other issues.

This action responds to a request by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) for the Commission to consider joint or complementary management of the resource in light of the significant overage of the 2015 recreational annual catch limit (ACL) and the impact of those overages to state management. Further, during most recent years, a majority of recreational landings of cobia along the Atlantic coast occurs in state waters. The Commission considered this request in August and agreed to move forward with the development of a complementary FMP.

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The South Atlantic states of North Carolina through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cobia. The details of the scheduled hearing in our area follows.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
December 6, 2016; 6 PM  
2600 Washington Ave, 4th Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607  
Contact: Joe Cimino at 757.247.2236

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/CobiaPID\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/CobiaPID_PublicComment.pdf) or via the Commission’s website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under Public Input. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on January 6, 2017 and should be forwarded to Dr. Louis Daniel, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [ldaniel@asmfc.org](mailto:ldaniel@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Cobia PID).

# Angler Interests

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## Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda: Summer Flounder



Dec 12-15, 2016: The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's December 2016 meeting to be held December 12-15, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting will be held at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court, 550 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21202. Webinar: For online access to the meeting, enter as a guest at: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/december2016>.



**Summer Flounder summary:** Recent stock assessment information for summer flounder suggests a continuation of the negative stock trends described in last year's assessment update. The most recent stock assessment update for summer flounder indicates that the stock has been experiencing overfishing for the past

several years. Although the stock is not overfished at this time, the estimated biomass continues to trend downward, closer to the overfished threshold.

Fishery managers are required to set catch and landings limits that will prevent overfishing. Last year, based on the results of the 2015 assessment update, managers were faced with possible cuts in catch of approximately 45%. Because this would have had severe economic impacts, the Council requested that the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended multi-year catch limits that phased in the required catch reduction over a period of three years. The Council recommended, and the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented, 2016-2018 catch limits that followed this phased-in approach. The implemented 2016 catch limit represented a 29% reduction from 2015 levels.

Due to the most recent assessment results and revised Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendations from the SSC, summarized below, the currently implemented specifications for 2017 and 2018 will need to be revised. Commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits, which were reduced in 2016 as the result of the 2015 assessment update, will need to be further reduced.

## Mariners' Museum and Park Fall Lecture Series



Dec 8, 2016: The Mariners' Museum Fall Lecture Series: *Infamy - The Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor* presented by Dr. Craig Symonds, Professor Emeritus at the United States Naval Academy from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Cost \$5 for Adults and Children, Free for Mariners' Museum Members.

The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. For more information on the Fall Lecture Series and the Museum visit their website at <http://www.marinersmuseum.org>

# BLUE PLANET FORUM

EXPLORING THE BAY  AND BEYOND

## Menhaden Matter

An Expert Panel Exploring Key Virginia Fisheries

### Speakers include:

**Dick Russell**

Author of *Striper Wars*

**Jack Travelstead**

Former Virginia Marine  
Resources Commissioner

### Moderated by:

**Will Baker**

President, Chesapeake  
Bay Foundation



**Tuesday, December 6 • 6:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**Slover Library**  
**235 Plume Street • Norfolk, VA 23510**

Blue Planet Forum's mission is to educate and engage citizens on important environmental issues affecting Hampton Roads and the region.

**Admission is free, but please register at**  
**[cbf.org/blueplanet](http://cbf.org/blueplanet)**

Questions? Contact CBF at [blueplanet@cbf.org](mailto:blueplanet@cbf.org) or 757/622-1964

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