

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

FEBRUARY 2020

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Fishing Reel Repair and Fishing the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel for Tautog & Sheepshead with Andrew Keisel

Fishing Tips: James River Rockfish with John Curry

Fishing Reports:

- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Striped Bass
- Lynnhaven: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- James River: Striped Bass, Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout

Angler Interest:

- February Recreational Black Sea Bass Season opens February 1st

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Don't forget the 67th Annual Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show on February 7-9th. Come by and visit our club's display and pick up a copy of the 2020 Fishing Tips Booklet. We're only printing 50 copies and your \$10 donation supports a great cause, the East Ocean View Community Center Children's fishing program. Check Sea Tow Hampton Roads' Facebook page for a discount admission coupon for the event.

Check out the Anglers Interest section for information on the February Recreational Black Sea Bass season. As done in prior years there's a permitting and reporting requirement to fish this short season.

Congratulations to Joe Miller for winning the Sea Tow Gift Basket and an Annual Sea Tow membership at the January meeting. For each toy donated to the Sea Tow Hampton Roads Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy Drive members received a ticket for the drawing and Joe is our lucky winner! Thanks again, to Ed & Karen Schrader with Sea Tow Hampton Roads for all their support to our local anglers clubs and community.



For those using Cove Marina on JEB Little Creek the Marine Sportfish Collections Project has placed a new freezer at the marina. After cleaning your catch consider donating targeted species to the project. Donation materials are provided in the freezer.



On the Cover: Thanks to Cap'n Alex Perez for taking this month's Cover photo while fishing one of the inshore wrecks.

If you've got photos you'd like to share with the club. Send them to the Wireline Editor.



Meeting

Guest Speaker: Andrew Keisel will be joining us at our February meeting to share his expertise in two areas. Andrew will be sharing his tips and techniques for maintaining and repairing your fishing reels. He'll also be giving away a Penn Fierce II 3000 Spinning Reel as a door prize at the meeting. An avid angler fishing the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel area, Andrew will also share his expertise targeting Tautog and Sheepshead around the bridge structure.

Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 10 February, 2020 at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Club Calendar

February

Fri-Sun, February 7-9th, Mid-Atlantic Boat Show
(Virginia Beach Convention Center)

Mon, February 10th, Club Meeting

March

Sat, March 7th, Members Annual Award Banquet
(Private Event)

Mon, March 9th, Club Meeting

Sat, March 14th, Fishing Flea Market

Sat, March 21st, Poquoson Nautical Flea Market

Annual Awards Banquet is quickly approaching. Each year the club gets together to celebrate our anglers' achievements. We're very fortunate to be hosted by the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club in their wonderful facilities for the third year. This is a private event for our membership and their invited guests (\$25 per person). We'll be holding the Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 7, 2020. The last chance to register is at the February Club meeting. For those who've submitted Prize Fish Entries, there's a list of what's been received.



Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#entries)
Black Crappie	Steve Harding (3)
	James Eisenhower (14)
	Russel Willoughby (7)

Saltwater	
Species	Name (# Entries)
Black Sea Bass	Wendy Bransom (1)
Golden Tilefish	Alex Perez, Sr (1)
White Marlin	Alex Perez, Sr (1)
Bluefin Tilefish	Mike Hubert (3)
	Angela Adams (1)
	Greg Rogers (2)
	AJ Perez (1)
King Mackerel	AJ Perez (1)
Flounder	James Eisenhower (1)
Speckled Trout	Jimmy Robinson (1)
	James Eisenhower (8)
	Ned Smith (1)
Red Drum	Henry Troutner (1)
	Alex Perez, Sr (1)
	AJ Perez (1)
Sheepshead	Henry Troutner (1)
Spadefish	Henry Troutner (1)



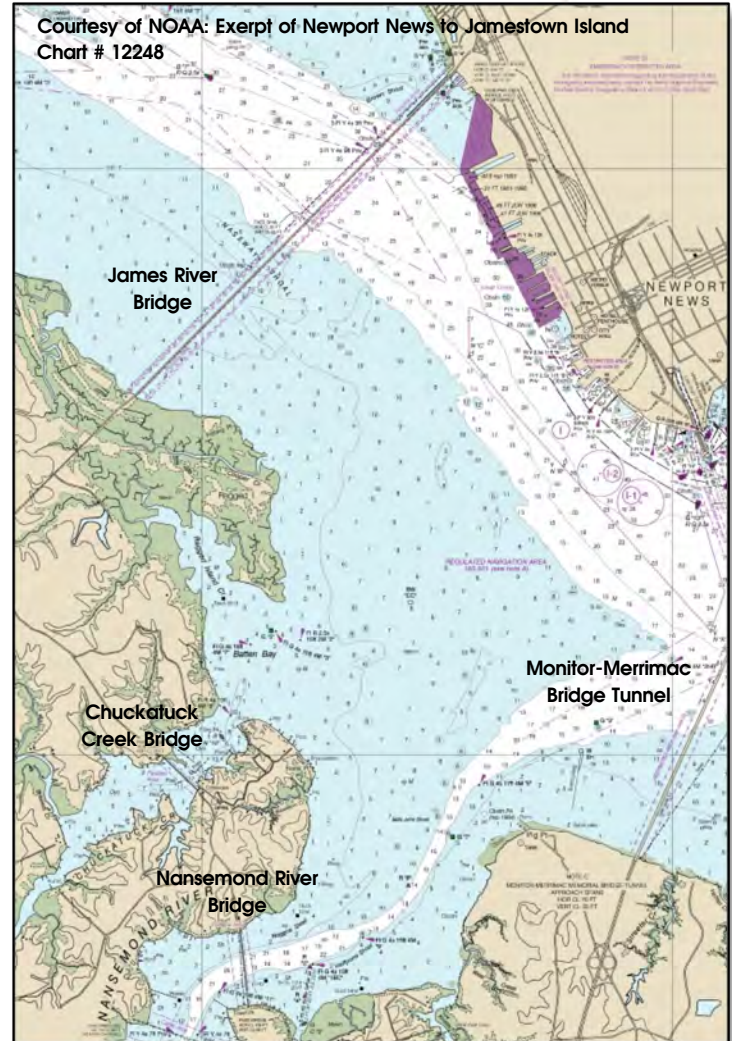
James River Rockfish with John Curry

John Curry, fishing from his 20ft Key West Cuddy Cabin primarily targets four areas of the James River for Rockfish, the James River Bridge, Nansemond River Bridge, Chuckatuck Creek Bridge, and the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge Tunnel. When targeting rockfish John fishes the structures around the bridges and then only when the current is running. For John, time of day, weather, rise or fall of the tide, sunny or overcast matter less than having current around the bridge structures.

"Current is your friend!" John will setup with his boat on the up-current side of the bridge pilings at the James River Bridge (JRB) and Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel (MMBT). He'll use the current flowing toward the pilings to position his lures in front of the pilings as he slowly trolls along the bridge. How far away from the pilings depends on how far back you set your lures, how they swim, and your boat speed. The objective is to have the lures troll right in front of the pilings where the rockfish can see and strike on them. John advised that if you don't occasionally bump a piling with one of the lures you're probably too far away. He added, the rockfish are swimming near the pilings waiting for baitfish to swim by. They'll strike at a lure moving past the pilings but only if it's close. Your trolling speed will vary but 2-3 knots is typical to maintain control of the boat and work the lures in close. Just remember when you hook up on a fish that the current is trying to drive you toward the pilings so, be alert when everyone is focusing on landing a fish to keep from contacting the bridge structure. John recommends turning the boat into the current (away from the bridge) during the retrieve

Trolling parallel to the bridge is standard practice for the JRB and MMBT but not so for the Nansemond River and Chuckatuck Creek Bridges. The water depth, trolling distance available, and location of snags will force most boats to troll perpendicular to the bridge. Target a set of pilings to troll through and maintain your speed as you pass under the bridge, then make a wide turn while keeping your trailing lures clear to pass through another set of pilings.

If you're fishing at night using the light lines from the bridge lights can also pay off. Position your lures to trail in/out of the light lines. The light from the bridge will help illuminate your lures and entice strikes from the rockfish hiding in the shadows.



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Fishing Tips...

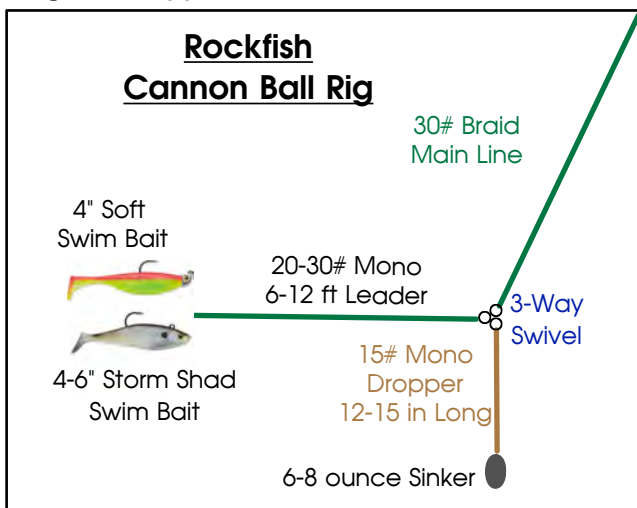
John will troll with the Mann's® Bait Company's Stretch Lures, Stretch 15, 20, and 25 size lures all work well. He favors the Red/White, Purple, and natural Blues & Blacks as good choices but added to change up the colors from day to day as you figure out what the rockfish are striking on. Tie your lure directly to the braided mainline or to a monofilament leader, if desired. If you find you're bouncing the lure off the bridge piling, be sure to occasionally check the rig for line frays and nicks, and make sure the lure is still swimming straight.

The Mann's® Bait Company's Stretch Lures come in various sizes and colors. They incorporate a rigid plastic lip and a pair of treble hooks. The number, i.e. Stretch 15, corresponds to the intended trolling depth at speed.

Another lure used for trolling is the Storm line of Swim Shads. They're a weighted soft rubber body with sharp VMC hooks (upward facing), and a paddle tail. John rigs 4-6 inch size baits and will troll them along the bridge structures. He adds, that around shallow water and areas with snags trolling the Storm Swim Shad is less likely to hang up. Other soft bodied swim baits can be used as well. Berkley's® GULP!® and Z-Man® make a large variety of soft baits that will work equally well. The trolling technique is a little different than using stretch lures. John rigs them on a Cannon Ball Rig, which is to a 3-way swivel with a short drop to the weight. His leader length will vary depending on the strength of the current. For swift moving water he'll rig a longer leader up to 12 ft and for a slower current he rigs as short as 6 ft. He keeps the rig close to the bottom but not dragging. As he approaches a piling he'll bounce it off the bottom a few times until he passes the piling then brings it up to clear of the bottom. He'll repeat bouncing the weight on the bottom for each piling as he approaches.



Pictured (Top to Bottom)
Storm 6" Shad with 7/8oz weight
Storm 5" SHad with 5/8oz weight
Storm 4" Shad with 7/16oz weight



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Fishing Tips...

Fishing for rockfish in the James River doesn't require expensive setup for rods & reels. John recommends rods be 6-6.5 ft Medium-Action rods with enough backbone to handle the resistance of the larger Stretch lures and cannon ball rig will provide. Fish generally will be in the 18-30 inch class and provide a great fight. Occasionally you'll hook into a larger class of fish (photo lower right).

For reels, John uses both spinning and conventional reels on his 20ft Key West. While conventional reels can take more of a strain and seem to be a favored over the years by rockfish anglers, don't leave the spinning reels at the dock. Spinning reels (2000-4000 class) can handle James River rockfish fine. They also come in handy when casting jigs between pilings to target the stubborn stripers that don't seem to want hit on the trolled lures. He'll spool both reel types with 20-30# braided line.

John shared there's a variety of weather and current websites he uses to plan a day on the river. Not surprising, three out of four are focused on current predictions and the forth provides weather (and tidal info as well). WillyWeather is John's site for weather and the remaining three; FishCurrents, NOAA Tides and Currents, and Tides4Fishing are his primary source for tidal information. None require a membership to access and display information. Each have their strengths and provide an angler with valuable information to plan their day on the water.

Note: All of these sites use data provided from NOAA that's shared from various data collection inputs.



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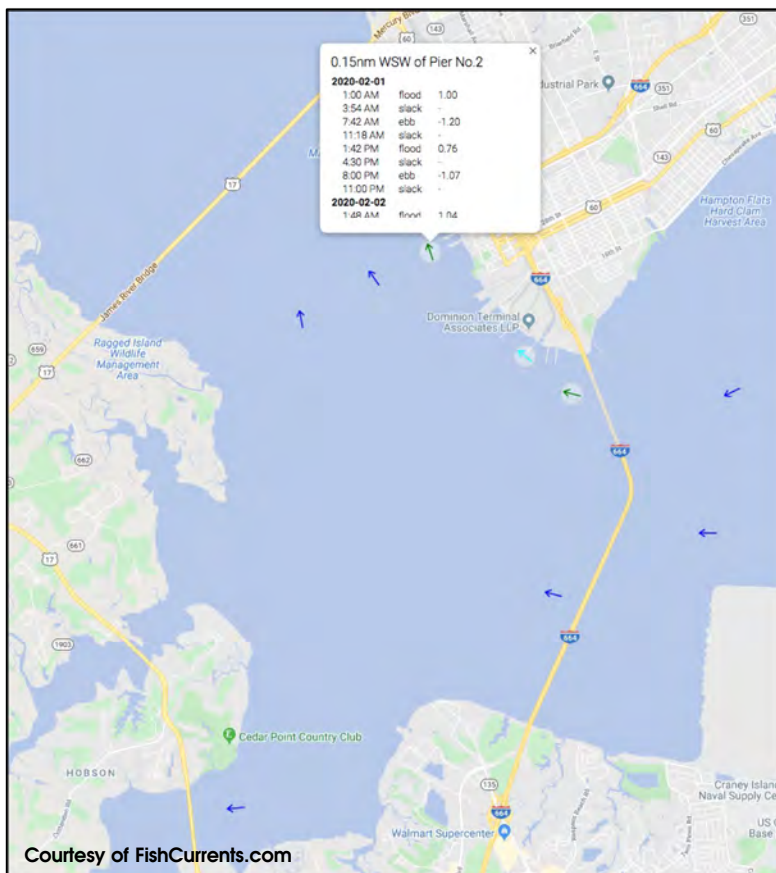
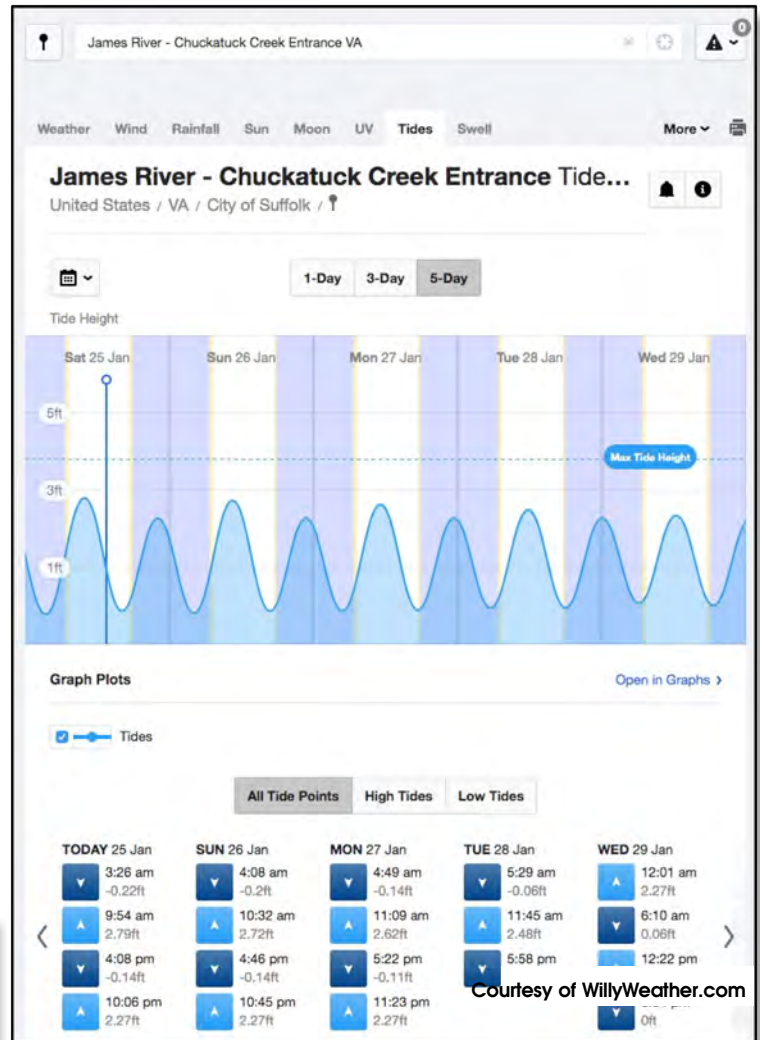
Fishing Tips...



(<https://www.willyweather.com/>)

WillyWeather provides a lot of information for the angler. Weather information such as forecasts, radar, and weather warnings are easily accessed and displayed. Current information for a selected area includes the high and low tide times in table and graph display. Weather and tidal information is selectable for a single day, three days or five day periods and users may select a future date and review predictions for that period.

Weather information used in the WillyWeather site is derived from weather information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



(<https://www.fishcurrents.com/>)

FishCurrents provides hourly water current predictions for the coastal areas using NOAA provided tidal current data. Users have the option to adjust the map area, select a date and then scroll through a time period to review how the current direction and speed change. Or a user may select an individual position arrow and review an information table reflecting the flood, ebb, and slack times for the selected area.

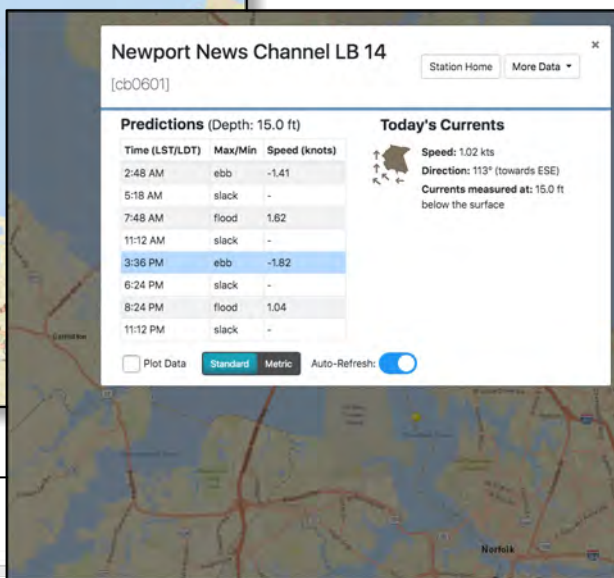
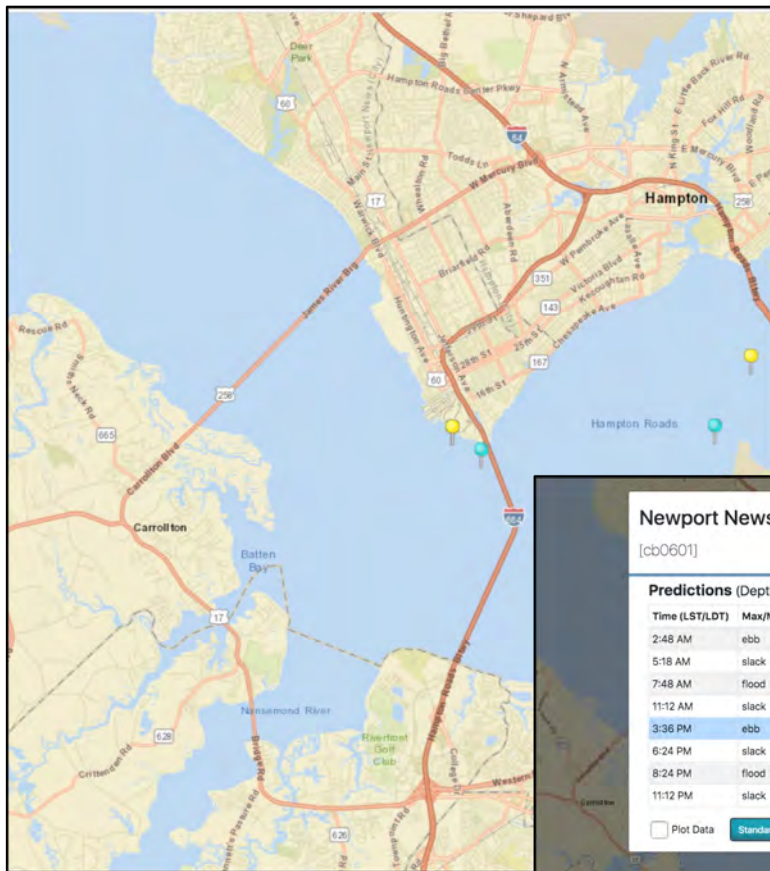
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Fishing Tips...

NOAA Tides and Currents
(<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/>)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides a limited amount of locations for the lower James River. The data available to users includes tidal information (slack tide, flood, ebb, and the current speed). Users may also view latest recorded wind speed and direction, water and air temperature by selecting those interest items from the legend on the right. Images courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

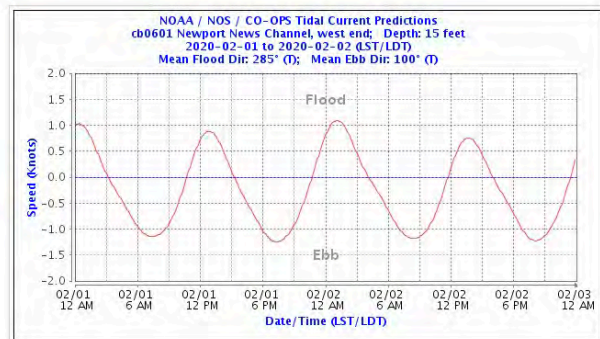


Home / Products / Current Predictions / Newport News Channel, west end (cb0601) Depth: 15 feet

Stations Help FAQ Prediction Plots Annual Prediction Tables

Newport News Channel, west end (cb0601) Depth: 15 feet
LAT/LON: 36.9560° N 76.4145° W

Note: Depth is measured below surface.



Disclaimer: These data are based upon the latest information available as of the date of your request, and may differ from the published tidal current tables.

Plot From:
Feb 1 2020

Range: 48 Hours
Time Units: AM/PM

Units:
knots

Time Zone:
LST/LDT

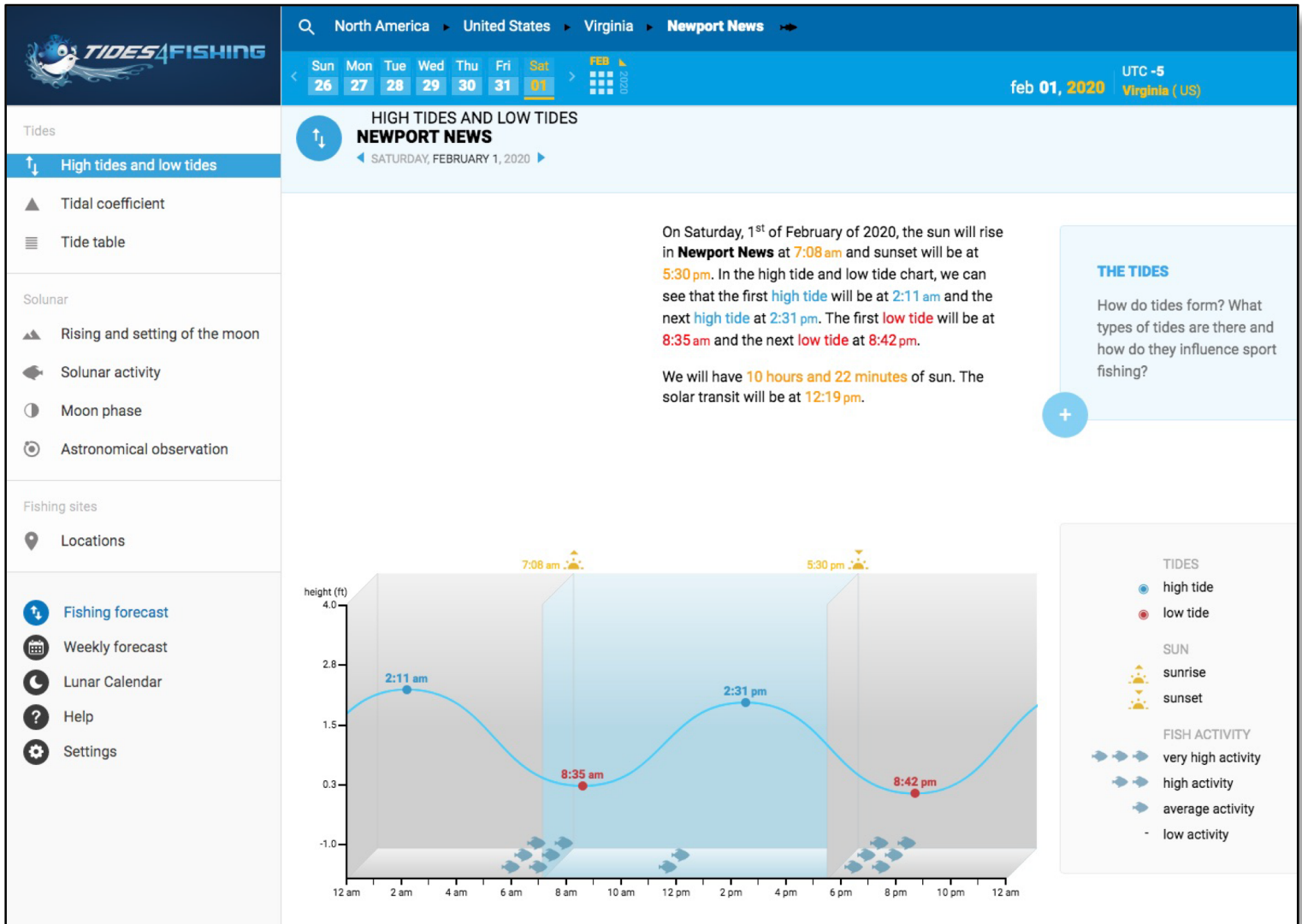
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Time (LST/LDT)	Event	Speed (knots)
2020-02-01 12:24 AM	flood	1.03
2020-02-01 03:12 AM	slack	-
2020-02-01 07:24 AM	ebb	-1.15
2020-02-01 10:42 AM	slack	-
2020-02-01 12:48 PM	flood	0.88
2020-02-01 03:12 PM	slack	-
2020-02-01 07:18 PM	ebb	-1.25
2020-02-01 10:42 PM	slack	-
2020-02-02 01:06 AM	flood	1.09
2020-02-02 04:06 AM	slack	-
2020-02-02 08:18 AM	ebb	-1.18
2020-02-02 11:42 AM	slack	-
2020-02-02 01:36 PM	flood	0.76



(<https://tides4fishing.com/>)

Tides4Fishing has exceptional coverage and information for our local 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. Images courtesy of Tides4Fishing.com



DAY			TIDES FOR NEWPORT NEWS					SOLUNAR ACTIVITY
			1 st TIDE	2 nd TIDE	3 rd TIDE	4 th TIDE	COEFFICIENT	
1 Sat	☾	☀ 7:08 am ☿ 5:30 pm	2:11 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:35 am ▼ 0.3 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:42 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	44 low	→ → →
2 Sun	☾	☀ 7:08 am ☿ 5:32 pm	3:03 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:32 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	40 low	→ → →
3 Mon	☾	☀ 7:07 am ☿ 5:33 pm	4:00 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:35 am ▼ 0.3 ft	4:23 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	10:30 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	40 low	→ → →

Fishing Reports...



2 Jan: I fished with Austin Glaser and Bert Sainz in the Elizabeth River on a cold day, the fishing was slow. Austin caught his first trout of the year using a 4 inch swim shad.

- Louis Glaser



10 Jan: I fished with Bert Sainz in the Elizabeth River. It was slow but we managed to catch 2 nice speckled trout. Both keepers were caught on rubber baits. *It was great to be on the water!*

- Louis Glaser

10 Jan: I had a slow bite in the morning. I did get one but it pulled one off when I had to maneuver the boat.

- Jame Robinson



16 Jan: Got a couple keeper trout and puppy drum today.

- James Robinson



**HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY!**

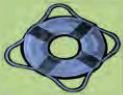


26 Jan: Fished the lower end of the Elizabeth River with the surface water temperature ranging 48-52 degrees and fishing 27MR MirrOlures. Caught 18 speckled trout up to 22 1/2 inches and a small puppy drum. Two colors stood out a Mardis Gras and a Custom MirrOdine.

- Wayne Seymour



Poquoson Kiwanis Club



Boat Sale, Nautical Art Show,
Fishing Flea Market



Saturday, March 21, 2020
8:00am – 1:00pm
Rain or Shine

Poquoson High School
51 Odd Road
Poquoson, VA 23662

Admission Fee: \$3 (Age 13 & up)



Activities

New & Used Boats
Boating Gear
New & Used Fishing Gear
Nautical Arts & Crafts
Refreshments & Food

For more information send e-mail:
boat-fish-art@poquosonkiwanis.com

or visit our website:

http://www.poquosonkiwanis.org/Kiwanis/Flea_Market.html

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PBFFM>



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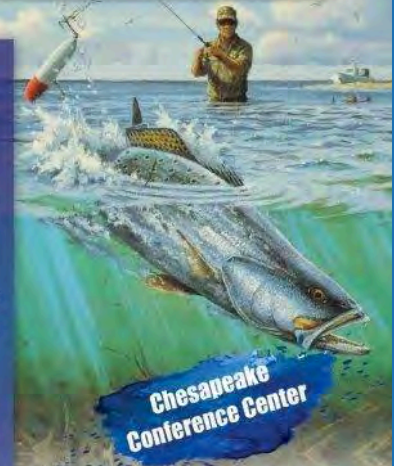
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Over 3,000 customers in the past year
March 14, 2020
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Chesapeake Conference Center
700 Conference Center Drive
Chesapeake VA 23320



Butch - lbpocean@aol.com 757-287-0330
George - geva1963@cox.net 757-421-7333
Joe - mysten2@cox.net 757-685-6823

You are invited to visit or join the best fishing club in Tidewater. Each month the club has a speaker to present an informative program on various local fishing topics. Check us out at www.fishgbfa.com

Or Visit [facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation)

Benefits include:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Annual Awards Banquet
- Fishing Tournaments (Boat & Surf)
- Special Events such as Oyster Roasts & Picnics
- Philanthropic Events to Benefit Organizations such as Hope House, Wish-A-Fish, & Sentara Nursing Home



6 Jan: I caught the first fish of the day. I limited out in the creek plus I had a nice Rockfish release.

- James Robinson




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2-4 Jan: I went Ice fishing in the North Woods of Wisconsin. It was the first time to have the opportunity to Ice fish and to ride a Snow Mobile.



We had 2 great days on the ice and had a nice Shanty with a propane heater to warm ourselves throughout the day. We ended up catching approximately 50 Ring Perch and 9 Walleye. The largest being 28.6". I was able to check off 2 items off of my bucket list: Ice fishing and Snowmobiling.

- Phil Mott

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11 Jan: I fished with Jackie my niece and 2 college kids who were leaving to go back to school. The young man on his second cast from the bank, using crank bait caught this nice bass in Lake Trant.

- Louis Glaser



15 Jan: I fished the Elizabeth River with Bert Sainz on a nice morning. We had our limit of speckled trout in 1.5 hours. We had some quality ones and they were caught on MR 52 Mirror Lures. The water temperature was 55 degrees.

- Louis Glaser

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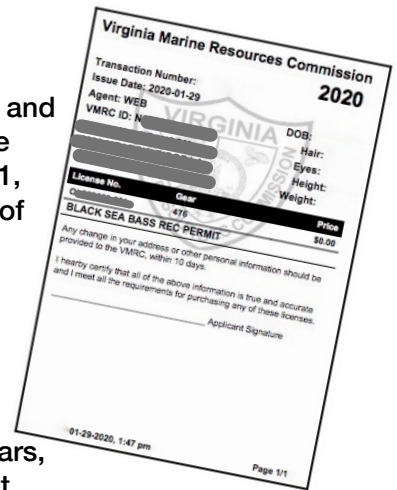
Angler Interests

VMRC establishes February Black Sea Bass Season for 2020



At their January meeting, the commission voted unanimously to Chapter 4 VAC 20-950-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," and establish a February 2020 recreational black sea bass fishery. The proposed 2020 season extends from May 15 through December 31, but any harvest from a February fishery would lessen the number of fishing days during the May 15 through December 31 period.

This will be the third year VMRC has opened February for Black Sea Bass and the season will require anglers desiring to participate in the February season to acquire a VMRC Black Sea Bass Recreational Permit (Only the Vessel Operator requires the Permit). This FREE and ONLINE permit is available from VMRC or a MRC licensing Agent and is required for the February Black Sea Bass season only. As in previous years, anglers are required to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operation Station at (800) 541-4646 before returning to shore at the end of the fishing trip during the February black sea bass season. The permittee shall provide the Operations Station with his name, VMRC ID number, the point of landing, a description of the vessel, and an estimated return to shore time.



During the 2019 February Sea Bass Season (28 Days), VMRC calculated that 4,398 sea bass were harvested totalling 10,082 pounds fish. This was done through dockside intercepts, interviews, and angler reporting. In 2019, the regular sea bass season (May 15-December 31) was modified to account for the February harvest. This resulted in a 21 day reduction in the May-Dec season. Anglers can expect the regular season to likewise be reduced to account for the recreational sea bass harvest this February.

MAFMC and ASMFC to hold scoping hearings for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment



MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Scoping Hearings for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries



Commission (Commission) have scheduled a series of scoping hearings to gather public input on the range of issues and information to be considered in the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. Hearings will be held February 13 – March 3. Written comments will be accepted through March 17, 2020.

This amendment will consider potential modifications to the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The commercial and recreational allocations for all three species were set in the mid-1990s based on historical proportions of landings (for summer flounder and black sea bass) or catch (for scup) from each sector. In July 2018, the Marine Recreational Information Program released revisions to its time series of catch (harvest and discards) estimates. These revisions resulted in much higher recreational catch estimates compared to previous estimates, affecting the entire time series of data going back to 1981. Some changes have also been made to commercial catch data since the allocations were established. The current commercial and recreational allocation percentages for all three species do not reflect the current understanding of the recent and historic proportions of catch and landings from the two sectors. This amendment will consider whether changes to these allocations are warranted.

A Public Hearing has been scheduled in our area on Monday, March 2, 2020, 5:00-6:00 PM
Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651
The VMRC Point of Contact is Mr. Patrick Geer 757-247-2078.

