

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

FEBRUARY 2017



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Capt Neal Taylor, *Oceans East Sport Fishing Charters*, Tautog fishing

Fishing Tips: Northwest River Blue Catfish, with Josh Andrews, *Shoulder Hog Guide Service*

Fishing Reports:

- Yellow Perch and Crappie fishing
- Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum
- Striper fishing
- Blue Catfish

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

We've got a couple of big events this month. First the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show on Feb 10-12. We'll have a booth set up like last year and will be selling our new tee-shirts and hats. We'll also have raffle tickets on sale for a 2017 Cobia season Charter Trip with FINAO Sportfishing. We still need a few volunteers to help out on Friday and Saturday. If you're available send me a note.

Our annual Awards Banquet is on the Saturday, Feb 18th, at the Aberdeen Barn Steakhouse. Incredible food, great company, and lots of raffle items available. Let us know you're coming!

Thank You to Kevin Synowiec and Tom Hubert who served the club in a Board position over the past year. Without your involvement and support our club wouldn't be as successful as we are. Welcome to the Board to Beth Synowiec and Alex Perez, our new Board members for 2017.

Will



MEETING

Guest Speaker: Capt Neal Taylor, Oceans East Sport Fishing Charters, Tautog fishing

With winter weather keeping many boats inshore, Tautog is the fish to catch. It's possible to find Taugs on the CBBT pilings and any of the wrecks in our waters but those who have can tell you LOTS more is involved in the catching.

Join us on Monday, February 13th, and learn from one of Hampton Roads best Taug anglers.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, February 13th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Awards Banquet

Saturday February 18th

Aberdeen Barn Steakhouse
Saturday February 18th
Awards Presentations & Raffle
Social Hour: 6:30pm
Dinner: 7:30pm
Members: \$25
Guests: \$35





Blue Catfish Fishing with Josh Andrews, *Shoulder Hog Guide Service*

Blue Catfish, the largest species of catfish in North America and one non-native to Virginia, were introduced in the 1970's from the mid-west to enhance the Commonwealth's sportfishing. Most anglers know you can find these monster catfish in the James and Rappahannock Rivers, but they're also found in inland water of the Northwest River down to the North Landing River and Currituck Sound. Perhaps not quite the behemoth size you might find in the James River but the Blue Catfish in the Northwest River range 30-60 pounds. That's no small catfish!



Fishing for Blue Catfish requires that you understand the *What, When, and Where* they eat. Not all catfish feed the same. For example, Channel Catfish will feed on just about anything they can get. Flathead Catfish prefer live bait such as live shad or herring. Blue Catfish seem to be the happy medium. While they prefer live shad, they'll also hit on fresh cut bait fish. Fresh bait is important and while frozen shad works, Josh Andrews stresses fresh is best when it comes to catfish bait. He added that fishing with live eels will also work but he's found they catch a smaller class of Blue Catfish. So, save your eels for the Rockfish and use fresh cut shad on the Blue Cats.

Josh catches his shad around dawn or dusk near the mouth of creeks along the Northwest River. Shad seem to move in & out of the creeks around that time and it's the time to use a cast net. He prefers a 10ft diameter 3/4in mesh cast net but will sometimes throw a smaller net depending on conditions. The 10ft cast net weighs in about 15 pounds and sinks quickly to the bottom to prevent shad from escaping beneath the net. He's looking for shad in the 12-16 inch range.

Bait prep isn't too complicated. Josh likes trim off the bait's fins and cut the head off the shad just behind the gills. The head is the best bait you can use, he advises. The remainder of the bait is cut perpendicular to the spine in about 1 1/2-2 inch wide pieces. What you're looking for is *Guts, Blood, and Slim* on every bait, Blue Catfish can't resist it, he added. He fishes nearly all of the shad, except the tail. Place your hook through the side of the cut bait, under a portion of the spine. Make sure

you've got the circle hook exposed at least 1/4 inch through the opposite side for the hook to work properly.

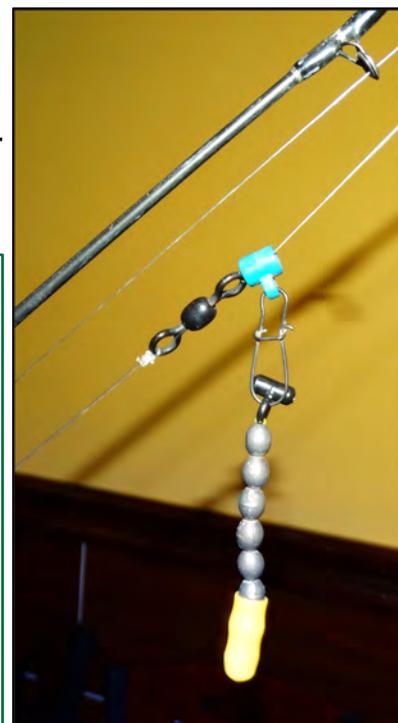
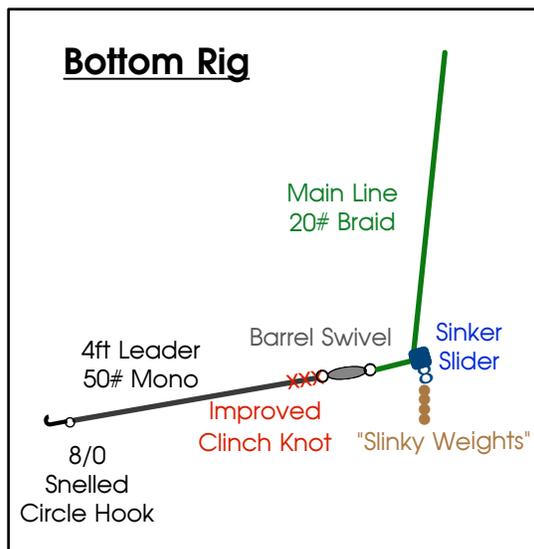


Where and when you're finding and catching bait is also the place and time you want target Blue Catfish. They'll follow the bait so when you find it the Blue Catfish won't be far away. Shoulder Hog Guide Service targets Blue Catfish with Bottom Rigs and Drift fishing.

Once you've located an area to fish Josh uses six bottom rigs and likes to drop two bottom rigs in the deeper water while moving closer to shore. Two more bottom rigs mid-way to the shore and two more at the mouth of a creek. This deep, mid-water, and shallow approach covers the bottom as you move to the shore. Anglers can either anchor close to shore or tie off to the shore while awaiting a bite.

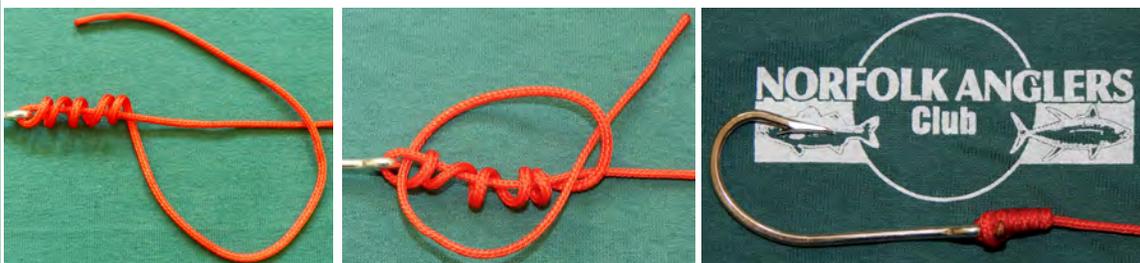
Though most catfish anglers use baitcasting reels, Josh prefers spinning reels. He shared, spinning reels will retrieve more line per crank and they're easy to leave the bail open while awaiting a strike. His Bottom Rig starts with a sinker slider with optional "slinky weights" attached on the main line (20# Braid) to a barrel swivel. The leader is 4-5ft of 50# mono with a snelled 8/0 Circle Hook (Gamakatsu or Eagle Claw). Josh likes to use the Improved Clinch Knot to tie off to the swivel. The use of weights for bottom fishing is optional, most often no weight is needed as the bait will sink to the bottom.

Drift fishing is another method that covers more ground albeit slowly. How slow is slow? About 1/2 mph is the speed you're looking for. Most boats without a trolling motor might have a problem keeping that slow without a drift sock especially if the wind is blowing. Bobbers are used to drift lines behind the boat while planer boards are used while drifting to get lines out away from the boat on each side. Drift your bait about 2-3 feet off the bottom, generally some weight is required but usually no more than 1 oz. "Slinky Weights" are an ideal method to add a nearly snag-free weighting system to your rig. They can be homemade rigs tying egg sinkers to the sinker slider or made with parachute cord (550 cord) or other methods to provide a small amount of lead to the rig. Josh cautioned about using pyramid or bank sinkers as they will snag everything.



Improved Clinch Knot

1. Pass the working end through the eye
2. Make 5 wraps around main line
3. Pass the working end through the first loop and then the bigger loop
4. Pull on both ends to cinch it tight, then trim the working end



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

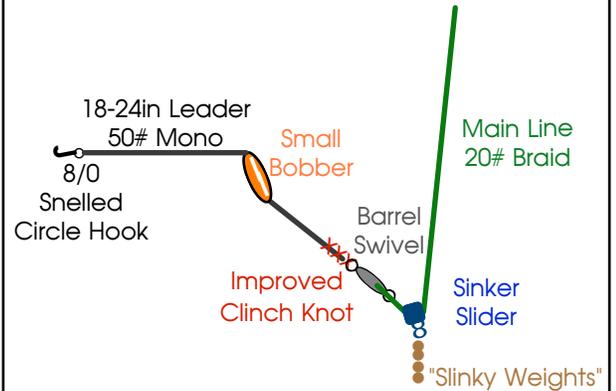
Drifting Rigs are similar to the bottom rig with two exceptions; the leader isn't as long and it employs a small bobber. The bobber's purpose is to float the leader and bait off the bottom to avoid snags as you drift. To counter the bobber you'll add weight to the sinker slider.

Planer Boards can be a challenge fishing the river. Watch for other boat traffic when deciding to use them. Setting planer boards out with a 1/2 mph drift isn't a quick setup. With such slow movement, it's going to take a while to get the board (and bait) away from the boat.

"Slinky Weights"; making your own is pretty simple. Use a light weight test line to string a few small egg sinkers or split-shot and then attach to the sinker slider. You can also fill a small piece of para cord with steel or lead shot and secure it by melting the ends and including a hole at one end.



Drifting Rig



Shoulder Hog Guide Service

Josh Andrews
757-232-4441
ShoulderHogGuideService@yahoo.com

Catch Big Blue Cats Right Here In Chesapeake!



Anglers: Remember you'll need a North Carolina Fishing License to fish the Northwest River south of the state line.

Information and your Temporary License is available online at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Licenses-and-Regulations>

Map Image courtesy of Google Maps

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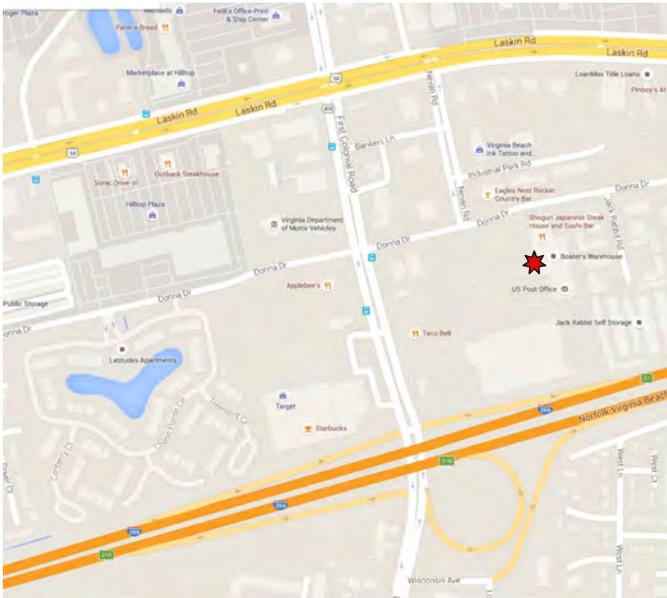
STOREWIDE

FEB 1-12

Boater's Warehouse

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Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Ph. (757) 425-2628

Sale period February 1st through February 12th. Sale applies for in stock items only. Sale excludes clearance marked items.



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



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Fishing Reports...

21 January: I took a friend out fishing out of Bob's Fishing Hole in Chesapeake, Virginia. I figured the Yellow Perch spawning run will pick up soon and we might get lucky. Plus, the Northwest River is known for having a strong Crappie bite. We rented one of their aluminum boats and paddled around the shoreline, dropping bobber/live minnow rigs along downed trees. At one spot, we were getting on a steady Yellow Perch bite.

Most of the Perch were too small for us to eat; however, we did get 5 big enough to be worth keeping. At one point, my friend lands a 23.75 inch Pickerel. This is his personal best fish and almost citation size. I proceeded to land a smaller 20 inch Pickerel on the following cast. Then, we could not get a Perch for the next 15 minutes.

I came to the theory that these Pickerel were feeding on the schools of small Yellow Perch. We moved on to another spot and starting catching fliers. These fliers were averaging at 8.5 inches/big enough to be desirable.

They would start hitting the minnow as soon as it hit the water, but often took half a minute or longer to actually swallow the bait. Nevertheless, we learned the pattern and landed well over 2 dozen. We also managed to land 4 Crappie at about 10-11 inches.

After three trips, I finally succeeded at landing a Crappie!

- Brian Tsai



21 January: Henry Troutner and I went Striper fishing at Cape Henry. I'd gotten the idea from the birds and bait we saw as we crossed the Cape on our 16 JAN trip to the Triangles.

The fog was thick as we left Bay Point Marina and the mist collected on the curtains making navigation difficult even with radar and a two chart plotters. The conditions were not so bad that we had to scrub the trip.

On the way out of the channel we saw a large piling floating and nearly submerged. We called in the hazard into Jayhawk tower who said they'd relay it to the Army Corps of Engineers. Once we gave the Lat/Lon to Jayhawk we proceeded to sea.

Once over open water the fog became much more dense and we decided to turn back. Henry and I stopped at the piling and decided to call Jayhawk and get the hazard out of the channel. We tied the log up to the overnight pier at Little Creek dry storage and went back out.

The fog had lifted enough that we deemed it safe to fish so we put out 2 mojos with tomic plug trailers and a stretch 25. There was plenty of bait and a few birds but few fish marks and none of the birds were active.

It was fun to get out anyway. Maybe we'll have better luck next time.

- Mike Hubert



3 January: Captured and released this Puppy on the 3rd. It grew almost two inches in just under 2 Months. A friend fishing nearby got a 18" and a 15 1/2" Trout after I left. I went back again on the 4th and got a 18" Striper. Only bites for me both days.

- Jimmy Robinson



Game Fish Tagging Program
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Tag Number: 340267

Tagger: AL BUNNELL

Hometown: VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Date Tagged: 2016-11-08
Species: 1070 - Red Drum
Location: 1270 - Lynnhaven River
Fork Length: 0.00
Total Length: 15.75
Release Weight: 0.00
Bait Type: Dead
Bait Other:
Fish Condition: Excellent
Hook: Removed
Double Tag No.:
Remark: Caught in Keeling's Drain.

Recapture Information

Date	Release Location	Length	Fate
1. JIM ROBINSON - VIRGINIA BEACH VA			
2017-01-03	Linkhorn Bay	TL 17.50 in.	RELEASED
Remark: Removed distal end of tag-ID and phone number still attached			
Species: Red Drum Days Out(340267): 56			

12 January: I fished Linkhorn and picked up these little guys floating. Brown and white pelicans feeding on them along with a pair of eagles and lots of gulls. Fished over three hours and never had a bite. Water temp ranged from 39 to 47 degrees. The average is 42 to 44 degrees. The southwest winds were 15 to 25 and gusting which made the day difficult. - Jimmy Robinson



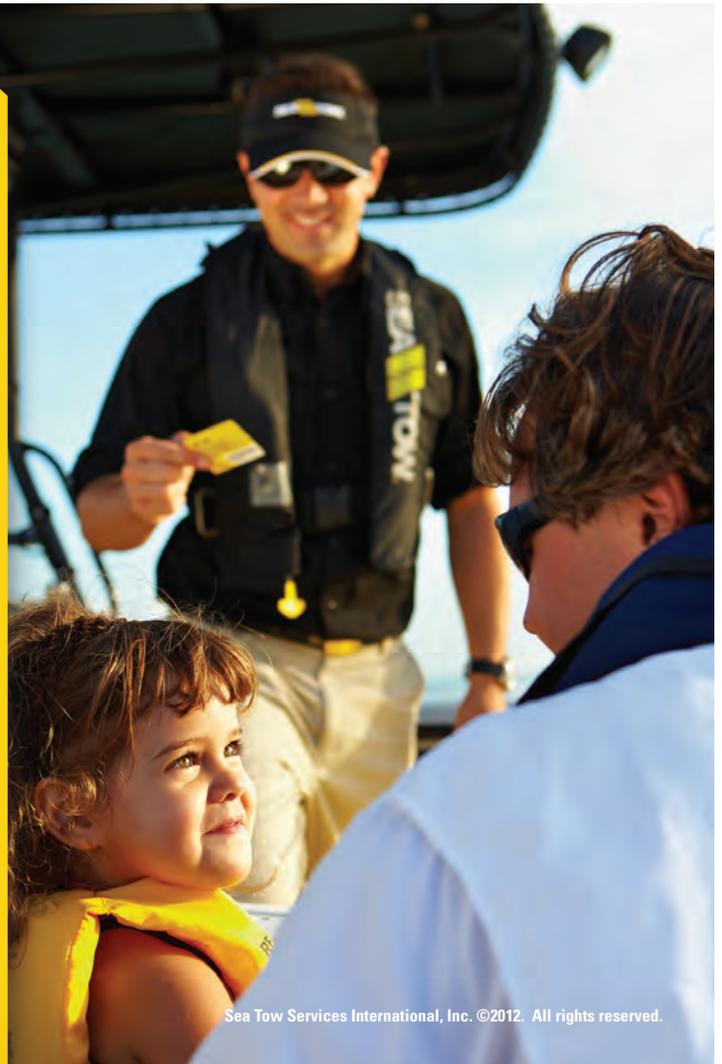
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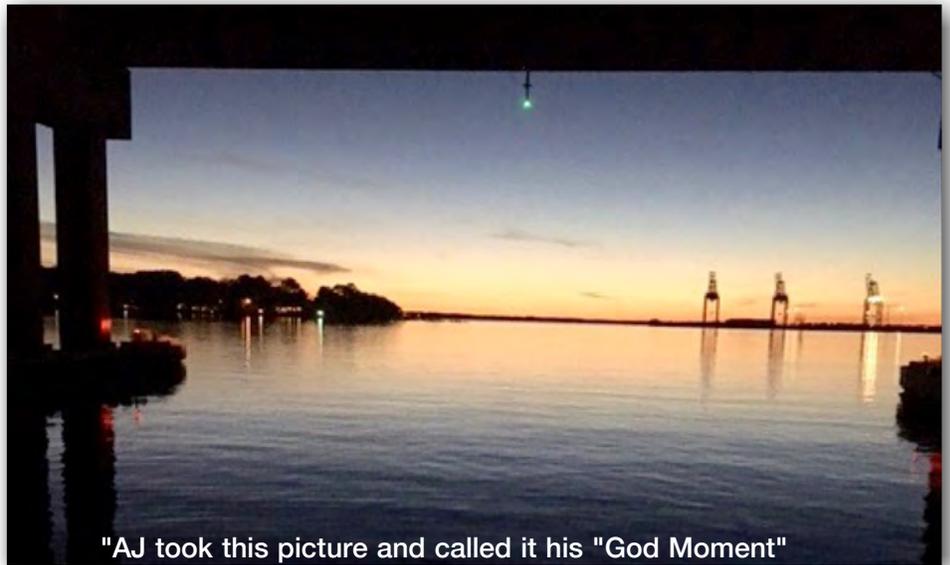
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25 January: I got off work early and picked up AJ from school. Since they cancelled his Basketball practice, we had nothing to do on the almost 70 degree afternoon. The tide looked right, so we hooked up the boat and headed for the Elizabeth River. We fished from 4:30 - 7:00 PM using grubs and Gulp Shrimp looking for Speckled Trout. The tide was slack and beginning to flood. Water temp was 47 degrees and no bites were to be had. Water color was a darker brown than usual; I'm thinking that was from the rain. We got our first 2017 skunk out of the way and we're ready for what this year brings us in tight lines and bent rods!

- Alex Perez



"AJ took this picture and called it his "God Moment"

27 January: I chartered with Josh Andrews, who spoke at the last Norfolk Anglers Club meeting regarding fishing the Northwest River for Blue Catfish. We had a very windy day, with a significant drop in temperature, which made the day a little challenging. We caught several fish on rod and reel and a few on some floats we set out on the way to our fishing location, up to 30lbs in size. On a couple of occasions, our floats were swimming by our boat requiring our attention.

I would highly recommend going out with Josh if you have not fished the Northwest River for Catfish. He knows the area well! *He is an excellent Captain and spent additional time on the river to ensure we all caught fish.* - Joe Miller



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Capt. Mike Griffith
 USCG Licensed
 757-687-9093



25 January: Not bad for late January inshore Fishing. We caught lots of Strippers and Pups in the Elizabeth River, well over a dozen each. I did not keep proper count but I estimate around 2 dozen each. Five Reds were keepers. Thanks Capt. Eric for the invite! - Jimmy Robinson



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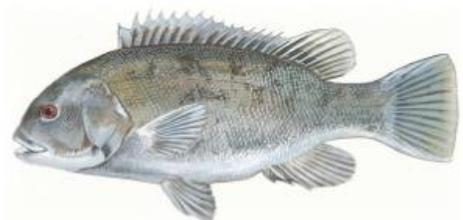


16 January: Mike Hubert and a friend from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, along with my wife, daughter and I made a run to the Triangle Reef for Tautog.

The weather was overcast but the seas were calm. Water temperature was 43. We had a slow day fishing the Morgan and Webster. We only caught 3 Tautog all of which were short. Mike Hubert caught a tagged Tautog.

We also caught some very nice Black Sea Bass which of course had to go back. I believe we only caught one Dog Shark.

- Henry Troutner



11 January: I went out twice this month fishing Indiantown Creek (NC) with my friend Billy. We fished mini-jigs and minnows with six rods out. One trip we caught about 23 Crappie and 4-5 Yellow Perch. The second trip just the opposite happened, we caught about 35 Yellow Perch and 4-5 Crappie. Soon the Yellow Perch bite will slow after the spawn, it's best to get on them in the short time left. - Steve Harding



Boating & Fishing Flea Market

Spring Event

With help from **Bull Island Anglers**
Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:00am – 1:00pm
Rain or Shine
(Vendor spots inside & outside)

Poquoson High School
51 Odd Road
Poquoson, VA 23662

Admission \$3 age 13 & up
New & Used Boats
Boating Gear
New & Used Fishing Gear
Nautical Arts & Crafts
Refreshments & Food



or email us at boat-fish-art@poquosonkiwanis.org

Download Vendor Agreement: [Boat and Flea Market Application.pdf](#)



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB WIRELINE!



We deliver the Wireline to more than 150 Direct Emails, Club Webpage, Regional Fishing Forums, several Hampton Road Marina Offices, Bait & Tackle Shops, and Marine Supply Stores. We also highlight the Wireline on our Facebook page that has 894 Likes and our Post Reach is over 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.

Wireline for 12 months:

- Full Page = \$200.00
- Half Page = \$150.00
- Quarter Page = \$100.00
- Business Card = \$50.00

You can change your ad month to month or just keep it the same for 12 months. If you are interested contact the Wireline Editor, you can find the POC information on page 2 of this Wireline edition.



Member's Fishing Board

*Have a boat and looking for crew to fish with?
Or looking to go fishing with another member?
Send your name and info to the Wireline Editor*

*Always lookin for people to fish with.
31' Cabo Express (Diesel)
- Henry
jckranch@epix.net*

*Available to fish most weekdays (some weekends)
Parker 2820XL &
16 JUX Carolina Skiff
- Will
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Rules: *Member's Fishing Board* is for Norfolk Anglers Club Members to communicate with other Members for recreational fishing opportunities. Email addresses are provided to facilitate contact between members and are not to be used for any other purpose.

New NAC Shirts/Jackets for Sale

These shirts will only be available to order until 13 FEB 2017, orders stop after our February Meeting. All the shirts in this Wireline will be done with embroidery except for the Wicking Shirt. You can order any of these shirts or jackets by emailing the Wireline Editor or at the Norfolk Anglers Group FEB 2017 Meeting.

Here are the embroidery designs to choose from:



Speckled Trout



Flounder



Tautog



Sheepshead



Rockfish



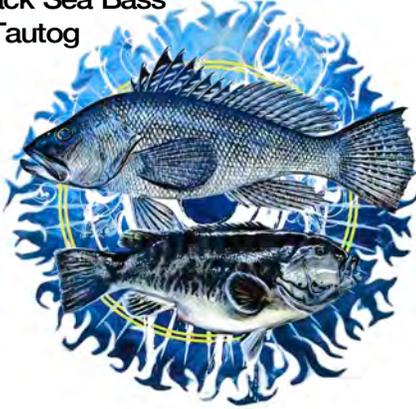
Cobia



Drum

Below are the Graphic Designs for Wicking Shirts:

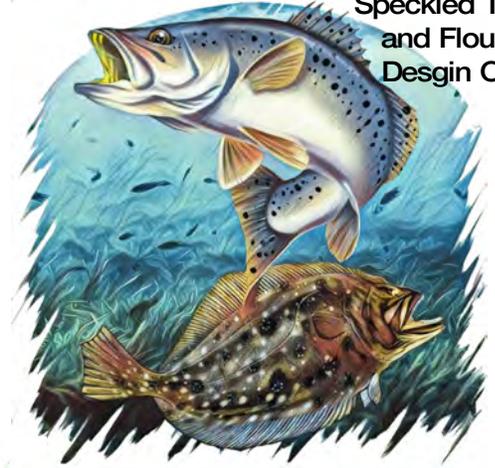
Black Sea Bass & Tautog



Sheepshead & Spadefish



Speckled Trout and Flounder Design One



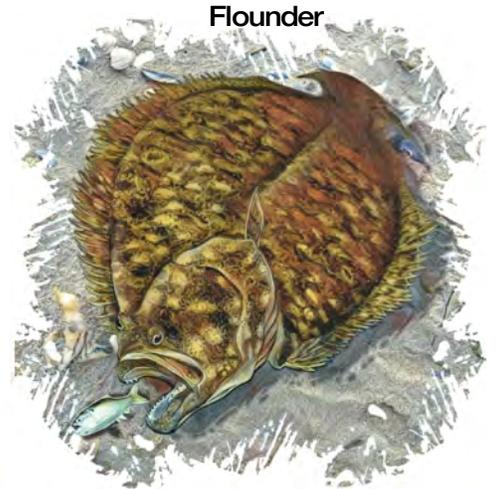
Blue Crab



Cobia



Flounder



Speckled Trout and Flounder Design Two



Rockfish

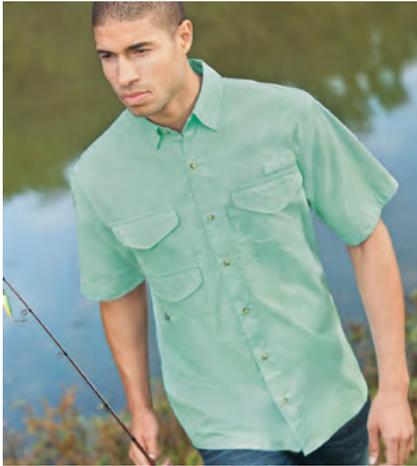


Design for the left pocket area



UNISEX Fish Outdoor Shirts by Hilton: Cotton and UPF Available

Cotton



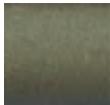
Cotton



UNISEX Cotton FISH OUTDOOR BY HILTON
SHORT & LONG SLEEVE FISHING SHIRT
- 3.3 oz, 60% cotton/40% polyester soft
lightweight poplin. Sizes: S - 2X

PRICE: \$35.00 for Short Sleeve
Long Sleeve is \$40.00

Colors Available

		Baby Blue	Khaki
			
Moss	Surf	White	Yellow
			



UNISEX SSBAJA OUTDOOR BY HILTON
SHORT & LONG SLEEVE PERFORMANCE
FISHING SHIRT

100% polyester ripstop
Modern Classic fit
*UPF 40 provides maximum protection for
long hours in the sun*
Moisture free technology actively breathes
and pulls moisture away from the skin
Anti-microbial treatment protects this
product from bacterial growth
Sizes: S - 2X

PRICE: \$40.00 for Short Sleeve
Long Sleeve is \$43.00

Colors Available: UPF UPF

				
Papaya	Sand	Sea Green	Tropical Blue	White

PRICE: \$45.00

Sport-Tek® Sport-Wick® Stretch 1/2-Zip Colorblock Pullover. ST851.
This soft-brushed pullover is stretchy and moisture-wicking with color splices and subtle texture.

- 90/10 poly/spandex jersey
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 - Cadet collar
 - Contrast color reverse coil zipper
 - Open cuffs and hem
- Adult Sizes: M - 2XL



		
Black/ Charcoal Grey	Navy/ Char Grey	Char Grey/ True Royal

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This budget-friendly, active-inspired pullover performs with moisture wicking and snag resistance. Easy to layer, the closed-hole pinpoint mesh adds subtle texture, while front and back seams streamline the look.

- 4.3-ounce, 100% polyester
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Adult Sizes: M-2XL

PRICE: \$30.00

			
Royal	True Navy	Black	Grey



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An extremely flexible layer with a soft-brushed backing and moisture control for year-round comfort.

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- Raglan sleeves
- Thumbholes to keep hands warm
- Hidden front pouch pocket
- Open cuffs and hem
- Ladies Sizes: XS - 2XL

PRICE:
\$35.00



Hot/Coral



Iris/Purple



True Royal



True Red



Sport-Tek® Ladies Sport-Wick® Stretch Contrast Full-Zip Jacket. LST853.

Keep moving in this moisture-wicking, soft-brushed jacket that's flexible and features hits of contrast color throughout.

- 90/10 poly/spandex jersey
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- Cadet collar with contrast piping
- Taped neck
- Contrast reverse coil zipper
- Set-in sleeves
- Contrast cuff binding
- Thumbholes to keep hands warm
- Contrast trim at front pockets and thumbholes

Ladies Sizes: XS - 2XL

PRICE:
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Heather/ Pink Rush



Heather/ Char Grey



Black/ Char Grey



Heather Charge Green



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Black



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Navy



White



Kelly Blue



Purple



Gold



Gold



Gold



Gold



Gold

PRICE: \$28.00

May go down if sell more



PRICE:
\$30.00

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- Flat knit collar
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- Left chest pocket
- Pearlized white buttons, dyed-to-match buttons on Black and Navy
- Open hem sleeves
- Side vents

Sizes S - 2XL Mens Colors Below



Cobalt



Black



Maroon



Iron Grey



Navy



Ladies Polo has same style, the only differences is a 5 button placket and no pocket.

Sizes XS - 2XL

PRICE: \$30.00



Cobalt



Green



Red



Oyster



8th ANNUAL Fishing Flea Market

Free Raffles!

50/50

Best Locations Go Fast. Register Now!

Come buy, meet, greet, and eat !!

- New & Used Rod & Reels
- Fresh & Saltwater Gear
- Custom Lures
- A Variety of Boats & Trailers
- Hot Food & Cold Refreshments
- Admission \$3 (Children 12 & Under Are Free)
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Over 3,000 customers in the past year

March 11, 2017
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Chesapeake Conference Center
700 Conference Center Drive
Chesapeake VA 23320



**Chesapeake
Conference Center**

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George - geva1963@cox.net 757-421-7333
Joe - mysteri2@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

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.

Fishing Flea Market; Saturday, March 11, 2017



Saturday March 11, 2017: The Great Bridge Fishing Association is holding their 8th Annual Fishing Flea Market at the Chesapeake Conference Center, 700 Conference Center Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320 from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Admission is \$3 (children 12 and under are free) and free parking.

Poquoson Kiwanis Boating and Fishing Flea Market; Saturday, March 18, 2017



Saturday March 18, 2017: The Poquoson Kiwanis Club with help from the Bull Island Anglers is holding their annual Fishing Flea Market and Nautical Art Show at the Poquoson High School, 51 Odd Rd, Poquoson, VA 23662 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Admission is \$3 (children 12 and under are free) and free parking.



VMRC to hold February Public Hearing to establish 2017 Summer Flounder Regulations



January 24, 2017: The Virginia Marine Resource Commission at their January meeting unanimously approved a Staff recommendation to hold a Public Hearing in February to establish the 2017 Summer Flounder recreational regulations.



64th Mid-Atlantic Sport & Boat Show, February 10-12, 2017

Wanting to go to the Boat Show? Check out Sea Tow Hampton Roads Facebook page and get a coupon for \$2.00 off the full priced adult admission. Kids 12 and under are free.

Friday Feb 10 (noon-8:00pm), Sat Feb 11 (10:00am-10:00pm), and Sun Feb 12 (10:00am-5:00pm)
Virginia Beach Convention Center

Angler Interests

Atlantic Cobia Recreational Fishing Season Closed in Federal Waters for 2017

January 25, 2017: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued notice of closure to recreational Cobia fishery in Federal waters for all of 2017. This closure applies only to Federal waters from Georgia to New York.



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

South Atlantic Fishery Bulletin
Bringing Fishing News to You

FB17-004

Fishery Bulletin Issue Date: January 25, 2017

Contact: Sustainable Fisheries (727) 824-5305

Atlantic Cobia (Georgia through New York) Recreational Fishing Season is Closed in Federal Waters

WHAT/WHEN:

Recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group cobia (from Georgia through New York) closed at 12:01 a.m. on January 24, 2017, in federal waters. Recreational harvest of cobia will remain closed until January 1, 2018.

WHY THIS CLOSURE IS HAPPENING:

- In 2016, the recreational and total annual catch limits of Atlantic migratory group cobia were exceeded. Therefore, the 2017 recreational season must account for this overage.
- When landings of Atlantic migratory group cobia exceed annual catch limits, accountability measures are in place to ensure overfishing (rate of removal is too high) does not occur. If total landings (commercial and recreational) for the Atlantic migratory group cobia exceed the total annual catch, NOAA Fisheries is required to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season in the following fishing year.
- With the understanding that recreational harvest of cobia will remain open in some state waters during the federal closure, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the annual catch limit in 2017 will likely be exceeded as the majority of cobia landings come from state waters.
- NOAA Fisheries will reevaluate the federal closure if state regulations change in 2017.

DURING THE CLOSURE:

- During the closure, recreational harvest of cobia is prohibited in federal waters from Georgia through New York. Cobia off the east coast of Florida are part of the Gulf of Mexico migratory group.
- This closure only applies to the recreational sector. The possession limit of two cobia per day remains in effect for Atlantic cobia that are sold in state or federal waters.



Tuesday, February 14th...

Doesn't mean buy her some fish hooks...