

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINÉ

FEBRUARY 2021



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: James River Blue Catfish, Captain Scott Cannon, *Big Cat Guide Service*

Fishing Tips; Coastal Wreck Fishing with Captain Bradley Gray, *Wreck Dawg Sport Fishing*

Fishing Reports;

- Lake Smith/Larsen: Crappie and Largemouth Bass
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- James River: Striped Bass

Angler Interest:

- Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Network Education Mini Series
- USCG Auxiliary Operation Paddle Smart program

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

We're pleased to Welcome our new members to the club; Richard Vaughan, James "Tripp" Seed, Michael Fountaine, Bryan Wright, David Dively, Mike Seay, Andrew Reid, and Randy Martin. It's great to have you with us!

Black Sea Bass season is open this month and for opening week the weather doesn't look too encouraging. Remember to take precautions while you're out on the water. Air temperature is cold, the water is cold, and the Marine Forecast may not be ideal. Please consider leaving a USCG Float plan with a reliable person and if possible look to some mutual support offshore with a buddy boat. For those heading out remember you have a pre-departure call to make to the Marine Operations Center and reporting when you get home. See the Anglers Interest section for additional information.

Lastly, I wanted to share Wendy has gotten online with paying annual dues via PayPal. There's a transaction fee for using PayPal, none if you mail a check. Take a look at the club webpage and look for the link at the top.

- Will

Meeting

Our next Club meeting is scheduled for February 8, will be a video networked meeting on Zoom.

Guest Speaker: Captain Scott Cannon with *Big Cat Guide Service*. Captain Scott Cannon and Captain Joe Cannon fish for the BIG Blue Catfish on the James, Pamunkey, and Mattaponi rivers.

Join us on Zoom, Monday February 8th to hear Capt Scott share what catching Big Blue Catfish on the James River is all about.



Important:
February NAC Meeting will be
on Zoom *February 8th*

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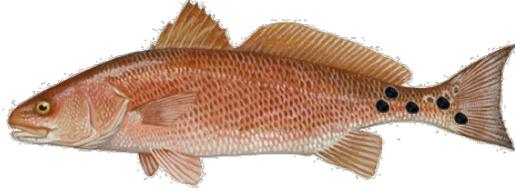
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Club Members Tournament for 2021



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- 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.
- 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, 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.



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- Awards determined by Total Weight and then by date of catch
- 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
- 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)
- 1st Place, 2nd Place, and Best Photo Winners get a Non-Tipping Oyster Toad Can Cooler from Oyster Toad Outfitters
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director

"AJ" Perez, the Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (OTTD)



OysterToads - Did you Know?



*The Oyster Toadfish (*Opsanus tau*) is a species recognized by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). The current IGFA All Tackle World Record is held by David Tinsley, who caught a 4 lb 15 oz (2.23kg) Oyster Toad in Ocracoke, NC on June 4, 1994.*

Hooked on OA



OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Are you curious about what ocean acidification (OA) is? Are you curious about what a more acidic ocean could mean for the fish you target? Would you like to learn how seagrass plantings can buffer changes in water chemistry and help with oyster reef restoration? Are you eager to try out a new app that provides short-term forecasts for pH and hypoxia in coastal waters?

Come join us for the “Hooked on Ocean Acidification” mini-series on Thursday evenings, from February 18 to March 11. All four sessions will be held virtually, via ZOOM, from 6:30-8:00 PM. Through this program, we aim to provide Mid-Atlantic anglers, party and charter boat captains and crew, and recreational fishing industry stakeholders with the latest scientific research and apps to understand how ocean acidification may affect your local fisheries and what can be done to reduce the impacts.

Our featured speakers include:

February 18: Dr. Grace Saba, Rutgers University,
“Ocean and Coastal Acidification in the Mid-Atlantic: the What, the Why, and the Risks.”

February 25: Dr. Hannes Baumann, University of Connecticut,
“How Vulnerable are Coastal Fishes to Ocean Acidification?”

March 4: Dr. Emily Rivest, Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
“Ocean Acidification and Shellfish: Can Seagrasses Provide a Local Solution?”

March 11: Fei Da, PhD Student, and Dr. Marjy Friedrichs, Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
“Chesapeake Bay Water Quality: From Short-term Forecasts to Long-term Trends”

To register, please visit the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5g8hsfb>

Registration will be open through February 15, 2021. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you like. A Bass Pro Gift card will be raffled off each night. Certificates of completion will be awarded for those who attend all four sessions.

This program is being sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS), in collaboration with our partners from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Questions? Please email Kirstin Wakefield at info@MidACAN.org

We hope to “see” you there!

VIMS | WILLIAM & MARY
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE


Sea Grant
NJ Sea Grant Consortium

MACAN
Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network

 **MARACOOS**
Ocean Information for a Changing World

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■ Cooperative Extension

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Coastal Wreck Fishing with Captain Bradley Gray, *Wreck Dawg Sport Fishing*

The best fishing for big Black Sea Bass is the short February season. Captain Bradley Gray with Wreck Dog Sport Fishing advises fish toward the deeper wrecks, in the 115 to 200 feet of water, for the bigger class of fish. He added, while you can catch Sea Bass closer to shore and in shallower water, in his experience the larger fish are further offshore.

Fishing the wrecks in February, because of the weather, requires you have the right boat and experience level to handle the boat in all sorts of conditions. Capt Gray prefers to slow drift the fishing spot by keeping the stern into the wind and holding position with the motors. It's important to understand how your boat handles the swell and wind. Vessels with cutout or notched out sterns should never attempt to hold with the stern into the swell or current. He advises, when you can't hold the drift due to conditions try anchoring tight on the wreck. It's important to be on the wreck for fishing Sea Bass. You'll find them on top and around the wreck but once you're too far off the wreck you baits will fall victim to the Spiny Dogfish Sharks, which can be a real nuisance during the winter fishing season.

For targeting the large Black Sea Bass over the smaller ones, Captain Gray shared that in his experience the larger Sea Bass prefer the cut bait over squid. Use fresh Bluefish, Sea Bass, or other fish for the larger bass. While squid works great and everything eats it, he added the smaller Black Sea Bass are more likely to start attacking it because it's soft and easy to bite off. The result is lots of smaller Sea Bass when using squid.

On Wreck Dawg's 23ft Bulls Bay Center Console they'll use a conventional reel setup with a Shimano 6 ft heavy action rod paired with an Avet reel which is fairly high speed and spooled with 50# PowerPro braided line. Captain Gray shared this rod/reel combo is good for Tautog, Flounder, and Sea Bass. Another setup is their spinning rods, they're Shimano Trevala 6'3" medium action rods (40-60 pound line class) and spooled with 30 PowerPro.

Octopus Circle Hooks are their "go to" hooks for a number of species. The 5/0 and 6/0 Circle hooks are the mainstay of their fishing rigs for fishing the deeper offshore waters. Circle hooks are designed to hook in the corner of the fish's mouth and are easier to de-hook and get back to fishing. No hook set pull is required with Octopus Circle Hooks. Once set, they seldom lose a fish at the gunwale.



Norfolk Anglers Club

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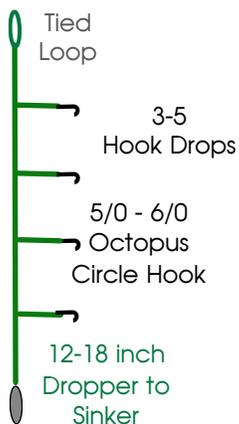
Fishing Tips...

The two rigs Wreck Dawg Sport Fishing uses are the bottom rig and jigs. For jigging a 2-3 ounce bucktail is used with a 3-4" piece of strip bait or artificial lure, like Gulp or Got-Cha® soft plastic tails. When the fish are biting strong the Got-Cha® tails work well however, when the fish are finicky about artificial a whole 4-5 inch Gulp or a piece of Gulp can work to entice the bite. When using the jigging method maintain close proximity to the bottom with constant up/down jigging motion until you feel the strike. Jig use a standard J-hook and require that an angler set the hook when the bite occurs. Captain Gray prefers the pink, white, or chartreuse bucktails from the Squid Life Lure Co. in Poquoson Va. He'll jig up to a 3 ounce bucktail and when that proves too difficult for the drift conditions he'll shift over to a bottom rig.



Black Sea Bass

"Meat Rig"



The bottom rigs he'll use are tied with monofilament and use up to 5 circle hooks. They're a typical bottom rig with a 12-18" drop to a Bank or Bell sinker. The advantage to using Octopus Circle hooks is that the hungry Sea Bass will hook themselves without the need for an angler setting the hook. Hooks are attached to a short 4" loop.

When fishing bottom structure it's only a matter of time before you hang up and snag the wreck. Once your weight is hung up try and work it free by giving it slack and bouncing the sinker a few times. Sometimes holding the boat in one position and giving it a few tries can work your rig free. If the rig is hopelessly snagged break it free by wrapping the mainline a number of times around the reel or reel handle and pulling hard. Sometimes this will get your rig back, less the sinker. Avoid locking down the drag on your reel and taking tension with the reel's drag washers. This can damage the reel and prematurely wear out the internal gears.



Setting up on the wreck begins with determining which way and how fast the drift is. It will take a few drifts to get the boat positioned just right. If the Captain can hold the boat directly over the wreck or establish a slow drift by working the motors fishing can be easy. If conditions prevent hovering over the wreck you must be ready to drop as you approach the site. Otherwise by the time you're on the bottom, you've missed the wreck. If you know the direction of many of the wrecks you can select a wreck site that aligns with the drift to give you the most time over the site. If conditions are not suitable anchoring may be the only option. Wreck Dawg carries a couple of 3/8 in rebar wreck anchors with 5-6 feet of chain attached. Captain Gray recommends carrying at least one spare wreck anchor. Like sinkers, occasionally you're going to hang your anchor up too.

He'll use the same jigging technique for Flounder and also use the lead headed jig-heads with a J-hook. They'll bait with a 4-5 inch Gulp swimming mullet and sometimes rig with a 6 inch swimming mullet when there's big Flounder around. Captain Gray shared his favorite time of the year for Flounder is August and just about any color works well but the chartreuse is a favorite.

Norfolk Anglers Club

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Fishing Tips...

When it comes to Tautog fishing if there's no fresh crab bait, there's no sense in going out. The challenge is keeping the Sea Bass off your Taug bait. Captain Gray uses a 2 ounce jig head from Squid Life Lure Company. His preferred bait is live Jonas crabs. Another great bait are Hermit crabs but as Capt Gray added, they can be a pain getting them out of their shell. While some anglers might be tempted to use frozen crab bait, he doesn't recommend it. It gets mushy, washes out and won't stay on the hook, he added. Blue crab is one of the most popular and it works extremely well inshore and offshore. For fishing Taugs along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Bay wrecks fiddler crabs work very well too but not so much when fishing offshore wrecks. Jonas crabs and Blue crabs are your bait of choice on the deeper wrecks. Captain Gray recommends quartering the blue crab and hooking the bait through a crab joint. Unlike fiddler crab baits, which

can be stolen off the hook if you're not focused on the subtle bite, Taugs have to work at the Jonas and Blue crab bait a bit more. Whether you're fishing inshore, the CBBT, or offshore for Taugs, you're going to need to anchor up and fish as vertical as possible with very little jiggling action.



Squid Life Lure

Tilefish is another species Wreck Dawg Sport Fishing puts their customers on. For the smaller Blueline Tilefish the rigging is exactly the same as for Black Sea Bass but you're fishing in deep water 275 feet or deeper. Cut fish works best for tilefish. And for the larger Golden Tilefish rigs are crimped, lights or glow sticks attached and larger line capacity rod/reel gear is needed. Golden Tilefish are found in much deeper waters of the offshore canyons.



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Wreck Dawg Sport Fishing

Fishing Reports...

5 JAN: A Beautiful Crappie Day in the New Year!

Well, if this first day fishing in the New Year 2021 is any harbinger of the future, I will love this year. Went fishing with Russell in Lake Smith/Larsen in my Basstracker V14 since Russell's John boat 9.9 was not working right. It was cold, but not freezing with no wind and water temperature at 48 degrees. At the first stop, I had a throwback crappie on before I could get all my lines out. We were fishing shiners under bobbers which is a great visual experience. This started a steady bite that maintained for the rest of the day with my biggest at 13.50 inches, then two 12.75 inch and two 12 inches all released for club minimums. Meanwhile Russell was also steadily catching fish up to 11 inches that went into the cooler with all the other keeper sized crappie. I had one bass also with Russell catching two bass. All were small but active. In total, we think we caught over 25 crappie through the day. All in the same place. *It doesn't get much better than this.!*

7 JAN: Another Lake Smith trip but much colder! Russell and I went to Smith again but it was much colder 41-43 degrees with the lake temperature at 44 degrees. We went to the same spot we caught so well on on Tuesday, and the sun was out but wind was up to 12 mph, so for the first half of the day we could not catch a single fish. But we watched a guy near us catch dozens, mostly small throwback crappie with an occasional keeper. He was using a jig, and we were fishing with bobbers and shiners. We tried a couple of other spots to no avail since we really weren't seeing any bait like we did on Tuesday.

So, we went back to our good spot where we knew fish were, and this time tried trolling our baits with my Minn Kota trolling motor and we started catching. Ended up with 8 fish, but only two were keepers and Russell got a 12-inch release club minimum from them. Still better than staying at home on a cold day.

Russell figures the fish were dormant on the bottom and only hitting baits jigged on the bottom whereas when we came back, the water was warmer and the slow troll presented the fish a meal, they couldn't pass up. I did get a big fish, probably a bass that grabbed my bait and ran through our other lines and got off the hook twice in two spots we fished.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



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19, 21, 22 JAN: Bert and I fished 3 days while Mike Rhinehart fished 1 day. Three days of fishing resulted in over 55 speckled trout caught in the Elizabeth River. The size of the fish were from 16 1/2" to 23 1/4", all were catch and release. The fish were caught on 1/4 oz. jigs with 4-inch soft baits and 18MRs. We even caught a few speckled trout by vertical jigging from the boat. The water temperature ranged from 44.5 to 46.8 degrees and the water depth where we fished was between 15 and 35 feet. We saw a lot of bait and fish on the screen all 3 days. With the cold weather coming in, *it probably will be our last day fishing in the Elizabeth River!* - Ned Smith



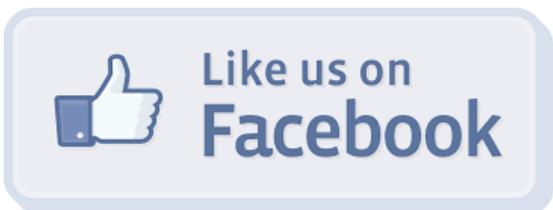
21 JAN: Russell and I went fishing on Lakes Smith and Larsen on a Monday after a cold wet weekend. While it was windy, the temperature was nudging 50 degrees, so we could not resist an attempt no matter what it proved to be. Water temperature was 46 degrees by noon. We started just anchored in our favorite place on Lake Larsen and almost immediately, I had a chain pickerel that went tearing all over the place of course tangling lines all up. Once in the boat, it measured 19 inches, for a club minimum release.

Soon after, Russell and I both got a couple of bass that were small but feisty. I then began to catch one crappie after another starting with a 12 inch then a 13 inch which I released in order to make by 6th for my expert.



But Russell couldn't get to where the fish were biting, so we repositioned the boat. In the process of attempting to pull up the front anchor the chain broke because it was rusted.

We couldn't find it, so we repositioned, then we both started pulling in one after another.



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30 DEC: This was the last time out for stripers in 2020. We worked hard for the 2 keepers and 2 shorts we got.

- Henry Troutner



Russell ended up with a 13-inch, 12.5 inch and two 12-inch release club minimums. I caught 6 more keeper sized fish up to 12 inch and Russell got 5 more we kept for eating. We must have thrown back another dozen undersized crappie. It was just one of those good catching days that just got better as the day got warmer. Now we both have crappie in the freezer too. We fished with shiners on Bobby Garland soft bodies on jigs. My tube with black head and chartreuse legs was hot. Russell's MoGlo Slab Slay'r green tube body and chartreuse sheath was hot for him. After a while, any color jig worked.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

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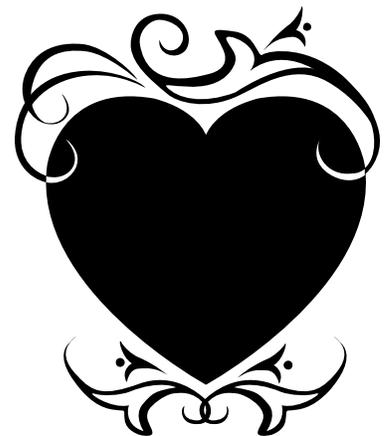


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**HAPPY 2021
VALENTINES DAY!**

Angler Interests

Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network; Educational Mini-Series



Are you curious about what ocean acidification (OA) is? Are you curious about what a more acidic ocean could mean for the fish you target? Would you like to learn how seagrass plantings can buffer changes in water chemistry and help with oyster reef restoration? Are you eager to try out a new app that provides short-term forecasts for pH and hypoxia in coastal waters?

If so, we'd like to invite you to join us for a new virtual educational mini-series, Hooked on Ocean Acidification. During four Thursday evening sessions, we'll provide you with the latest scientific research and mobile apps to understand how ocean acidification may affect your local fisheries and what can be done to reduce the impacts. You'll also have a chance to win a \$25 Bass Pro Shops Gift Card during our weekly raffle!

Featured speakers and topics include:

- Feb. 18: Dr. Grace Saba, Rutgers University, "Ocean and Coastal Acidification in the Mid-Atlantic: the What, the Why, and the Risks."
- Feb. 25: Dr. Hannes Baumann, University of Connecticut, "How Vulnerable are Coastal Fishes to Ocean Acidification?"
- March 4: Dr. Emily Rivest, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, "Ocean Acidification and Shellfish: Can Seagrasses Provide a Local Solution?"
- March 11: Fei Da, PhD Student, and Dr. Marjy Friedrichs, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, "Chesapeake Bay Water Quality: From Short-term Forecasts to Long-term Trends"

Operation Paddle Smart: "If Found" Stickers available



When the Coast guard or local emergency responders receive a report or discover a paddle craft adrift, there is no way to determine if the vessel was washed off of a beach during high tide or was separated from its owner during the course of a boating accident. In these situations, the Coast Guard has to assume the owner is in trouble and needs assistance until it can find evidence to support otherwise. As a result the Coast Guard and local harbor masters spend hundreds of thousands of tax dollars per year searching for potential people in distress when there was no one in danger to begin with.

To combat this growing problem, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary have launched Operation Paddle Smart. The cornerstone of Paddle Smart is providing owners of kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, and other unregistered watercraft a free "If Found" sticker for their boat to help reduce the number of unnecessary search and rescue cases.

The stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker. The "If Found" sticker should be placed in a highly visible location inside the vessel's cockpit or near the operators station.

The Norfolk Anglers Club was provided some of these "If Found" stickers by the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9 from Smithfield, VA. If you would like to have one just send us an email with your name & address to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com. We'll send it to you free!



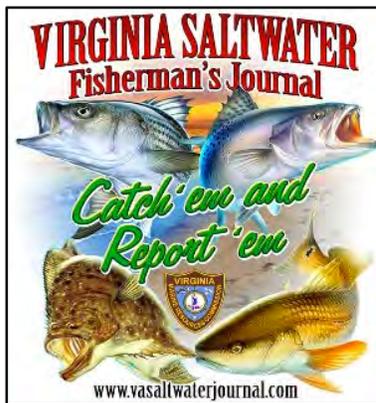
Angler Interests

Virginia Recreational Black Sea Bass season opens February 1st: Permit Required



It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to take, catch, or possess any black sea bass, from February 1 through the last day of February, without first having obtained a Recreational Black Sea Bass Permit from the Marine Resources Commission. It shall be unlawful for any black sea bass permittee to fail to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operation Station at (800) 541-4646 before or immediately after the start of each 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. Permits can be obtained online or at an MRC Licensing Agent. Every trip must also be reported by March 15 through the Saltwater Journal or using forms provided by the VMRC. Lack of fishing activity with the permit must be reported by March 15 through the Saltwater Journal or using the same VMRC form.



To get your permit (Recreational Anglers and Charter Boat Captains) use the link on the VMRC Recreational Fishing Regulations Information page. Enter your information or register to get a VMRC ID Number. Getting a recreational permit comes with a mandatory reporting requirement, even if you didn't fish during the season. Reporting is easy through the Virginia Saltwater Fisherman's Journal, so don't forget during the season to make your reports or a "No Harvest" report at the end of the season if you didn't fish.



| Virginia Marine Resources Commission | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| Transaction Number: OL | 2021 | |
| Issue Date: 2021-01-27 | | |
| Agent: WEB | DOB: | |
| VMRC ID: [REDACTED] | Hair: | |
| [REDACTED] | Eyes: | |
| [REDACTED] | Height: | |
| [REDACTED] | Weight: | |
| License No. | Gear | Price |
| OL | 476 | \$0.00 |
| BLACK SEA BASS REC PERMIT | | |
| OL | 475 | \$0.00 |
| COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT | | |
| <small>Any change in your address or other personal information should be provided to the VMRC, within 10 days.</small> | | |
| <small>I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and accurate and I meet all the requirements for purchasing any of these licenses.</small> | | |
| Applicant Signature | | |
| OL | 01-27-2021, 9:48 pm | Page 1/1 |

National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) Tilefish Permitting:



Recreational fishing for Tilefish requires a NMFS Permit and comes with a reporting requirement. Many anglers fishing for Black Sea Bass on the deep offshore wrecks also make the trip to the Norfolk Canyon for Golden Tilefish during the February Black Sea Bass Season. While Golden Tilefish are open all year in our waters, Blueline Tilefish are only open May 1 through October 31st.

To get your NMFS Tilefish Permit web search or go to the NOAA Fish Online portal at <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/login>. You can log in or create your account to get to the Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office (GARFO) and request your permit.

Reporting your Tilefish efforts is easy through another APP called eFin.



NOAA Fish OnLine APP



eFin Tilefish Reporting APP

Angler Interests

Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project Update: January 2021



Good Day Norfolk Anglers Club,

As our offshore survey work on the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project continues through the winter of 2021, we remain committed to maintaining communications with the fishing community and other mariners in the area via these periodic updates. All mariners are encouraged to contact Dominion Energy's Fisheries Liaisons with any specific questions about the status of the projects in relation to fisheries.

Recent announcements include:

- On 16-DEC-2020 Dominion Energy announced that the keel was laid for the first Jones Act compliant offshore wind turbine installation vessel being constructed by a consortium of respected industry participants that Dominion Energy is leading.
- On 17-DEC-2020 the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) was filed with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the CVOW Commercial Project (CVOW-C).

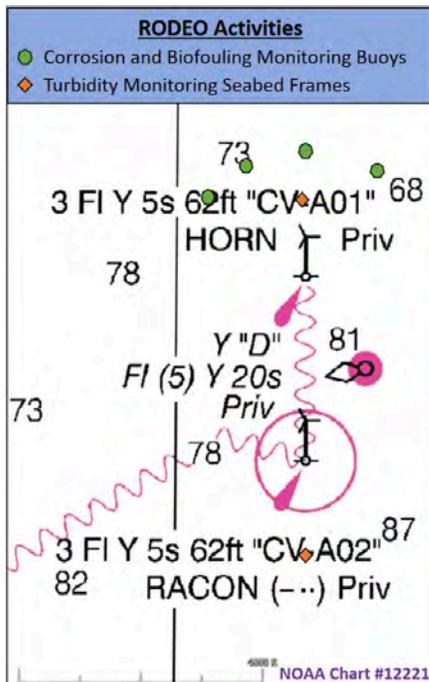
The CVOW Pilot Project (CVOW-P) is now complete! Two wind turbines located in federal waters are providing enough clean, renewable energy to power up to 3,000 Virginia homes and avoid up to 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The CVOW-P turbines, the export cable route and the MET Ocean Buoy are now displayed on the updated NOAA Nautical Charts (Chart #s 12200 and 12221). The CVOW-P turbines continue to provide a platform for Realtime Opportunity for Development Environmental Observations (RODEO) projects as well as US Coast Guard training activities.

Norfolk Anglers Club

Angler Interests

Offshore survey activities for the Commercial Project (CVOW-C) are expected to continue through the March 2021 timeframe. The survey vessel(s) Dina Polaris and Geoquip Speer will continue with their seabed sampling at fixed positions within the lease area and along the planned export cable route towards the shore. The survey vessel(s) *Minerva Uno*, *Kommandor Stuart* and *Go Discovery* will be conducting geophysical survey operations using towed equipment to map the seafloor within the lease area and around its perimeter.

Mariners transiting or fishing in the survey area are requested to give a wide berth to survey vessels which may be limited in their ability to maneuver and towing gear up to 1,000' behind the vessel. Mariners should operate in a manner that will not endanger the vessel or its equipment, a 0.5 NM clearance is requested.



Vessel details are as follows:

Geoquip Speer



Call Sign: V7VK4
Flag: Marshall Islands
MMSI: 538004141
LOA: 275 ft (84 m)
IMO: 9546021
Beam: 59 ft (18 m)

Kommandor Stuart



Call Sign: MPQH3
Flag: United Kingdom
MMSI: 235011900
LOA: 197 ft (60.3 m)
IMO: 7514397
Beam: 39 ft (12 m)

Dina Polaris



Call Sign: LAXB7
Flag: Norway
MMSI: 257006530
LOA: 321 ft (99 m)
IMO: 9765031
Beam: 68 ft (21 m)

Go Discovery



Call Sign: WDK4727
Flag: USA
MMSI: 368058130
LOA: 176 ft (53.7 m)
IMO: 9735696
Beam: 45 ft (14 m)

Minerva Uno

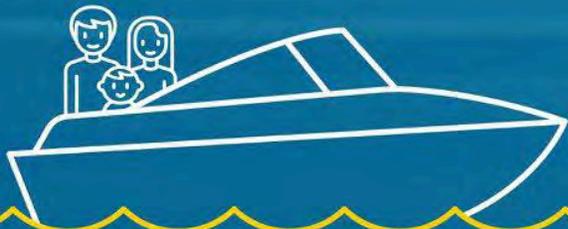


Call Sign: IZVM
Flag: Marshall Islands
MMSI: 247080700
LOA: 155 ft (48 m)
IMO: 9262077
Beam: 30 ft (9 m)



***Survey vessels will monitor VHF Channels 16 & 13 if direct bridge-to-bridge communications are required.

Social Distancing When Boating



Only boat with those in your immediate household.



No beaching your boat right next to someone else.



Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.



No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

No guests on your boat!

This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies.

Go right from your house to the boat and back –

no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air; but enjoy it while boating responsibly.