

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

FEBRUARY

2022

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Andy Kim with *Sashimi Sportfishing, LLC*, on Tautog and Black Sea Bass fishing

Fishing Tips: Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program & Practicing a Careful Catch, Susanna Musick, *Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Marine Advisory Program*

Fishing Reports;

- James River Bridge: Rockfish
- James River/Surry: Blue Catfish
- James River/Chickahominy: Blue Catfish
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Bahamas: Blue Marlin, Wahoo, Barracuda
- North Carolina/Hatteras: Sand Tiger Sharks, Bluefish, Roundhead

Boat Show!!
Saturday & Sunday
Feb 5 & 6th!!

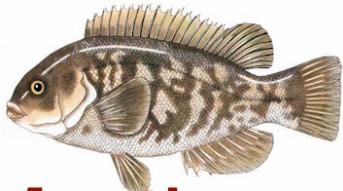
Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

We had a great first day at the Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show on Friday. The Show organizers made the decision with inclement weather to move the remaining two days to the following weekend Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6th. There's lots of Vendors and boats to see! Stop by our Norfolk Anglers Club booth to say hello. Here's a couple of other Vendors to check out; USA Fuel Service, Dave Trosien has some great fuel products to protect your fuel and checkout the Sea Tow Hampton Roads booth. The Boat Show is the perfect time to sign up, renew or update your Sea Tow membership with Ed and Karen Schrader.

We're planning our Club Awards Banquet for Saturday, March 19. This is an event for NAC Members and their sponsored guests. We've reserved the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. As in past years the NYCC puts on an absolute incredible event. One you don't want to miss! Tickets for members and guest are only \$25 and you can pay a couple of ways. Cash or check at the meeting, check by mail, or online through the NAC Website with paypal (\$25 +\$1 transaction fee per ticket).

- Will



Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Andy Kim with *Sashimi Sportfishing, LLC*.

Taug fishing can be a real challenge in the colder months and cooler water temperatures, but Captain Kim has been putting his clients on the fish.

Join us on Monday, February 21st at 7:00 pm to learn his tips and techniques for catching Tautog and Black Sea Bass.



Important:
FEBRUARY 21st NAC Meeting
at Boil Bay Seafood City,
Norfolk, VA

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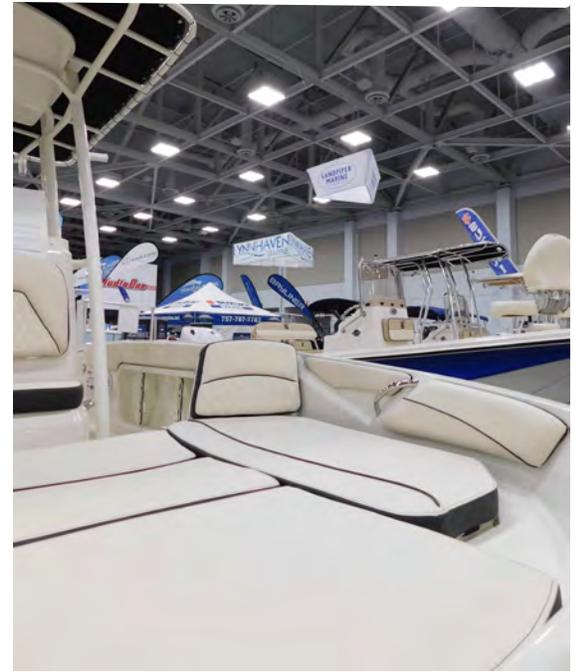
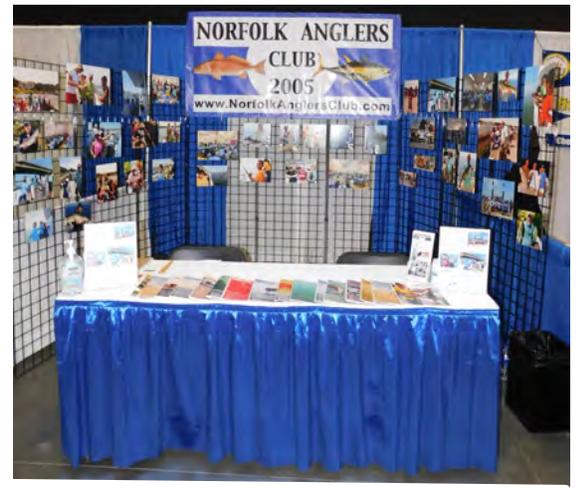




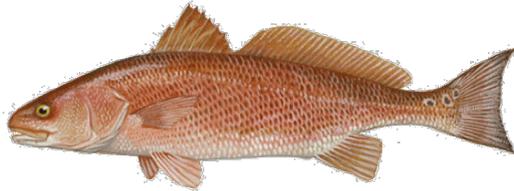
69th Annual
Sports & Boat Show
rescheduled for
Saturday, February 5th
10:00am to 8:00pm
&
Sunday February 6th
10:00am to 5:00pm

Lots of vendors and new boats to check out. If you weren't able to make Friday, the remainder of the boat show is available on Saturday and Sunday.

Come visit the Norfolk Anglers Club booth (#88) and let's talk about fishing!



Club Members Tournament for 2022



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022
- 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 (on one side), 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50.00 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler.



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022
- Awards determined by 1.Total Weight, 2. Date of catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- Additional Award for Best Oyster Toad Photo
- Entries submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com in the form of a Fishing Report; who was fishing, stating total weight, with photo of the fish on the scale
- Weighing need not be on a certified scale and may be done by the angler, just try an avoid weighing fish on a pitching boat
- No entry fee (we would never charge a fee for catching Toads)
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director

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



Club Calendar

February

Thur: February 3rd, 5:00pm: VMRC Finfish Management Advisory Committee meeting, online

Sat-Sun: February 5-6th: Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show, Virginia Beach Convention Center

Mon: February 21st: Norfolk Anglers Club Meeting

March

Sat: March 19th: Club Members Awards Banquet



Earlier this year, we told you about the RecFish app being developed by Dr. Lisa Kellogg and colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Its goal is to encourage recreational anglers to collect and contribute catch data to help improve fisheries science. Once it's fully developed, the user-friendly, free app will also tell anglers the species and length of their catch and whether it is legal to keep and safe to eat.

Dr. Kellogg says that, with the help of photos you submitted, the computer model can now identify 60 fish species with 95% accuracy and another 20 species are in the works. That represents thousands of submitted pictures!

You can help by going to www.recfish.org and uploading your fish photos. RecFish especially needs photos of:

- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

Phase 2 of app development is almost complete, and, when it is, you will be able to use the app to upload your fish photos directly from your phone. Until then, keep those pictures coming at www.recfish.org!



Photo: Joy Baber

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Fishing Tips...

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Susanna Musick, Marine Advisory Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

In 1995 the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) recognized the need to collect seasonal movement data on a number of species. Thanks to the efforts of Claude Bain (VMRC) and Jon Lucy (VIMS) the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program was created using local anglers for tagging multiple species.

The Tagging Program is made up of 200 volunteer taggers with funding from VMRC's Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund and matching funds from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The program's focus is to train and maintain an experienced group of anglers who volunteer their time to catch, measure, document, and release their tagged species. Each year the program conducts a tagging workshop to introduce new taggers to the program with instructions on how to properly handle, measure and document, and tag and release the targeted species.

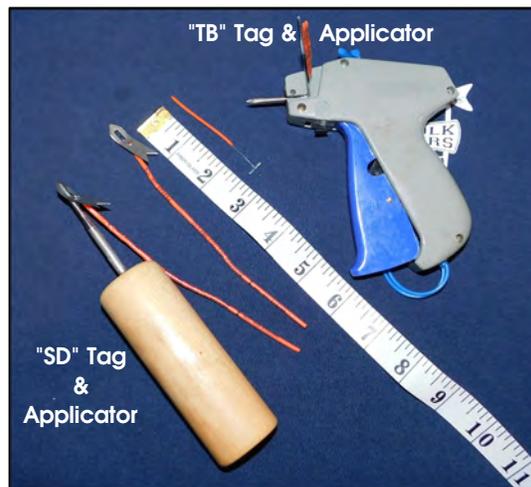


There are primarily two types of tags used by the program. The most common tag found is a small thin orange tag approximately 2.5 inches in length. This is the program's "T-Bar" tag which is applied similarly to inserting an attachment to clothing (same small anchoring device). The second is a 6 inch tag called the Steel Dart tag. This larger tag is used on larger fish such as cobia and larger drum species. Each of these tags has a serial number beginning with "TB" or "SD" with a six digit number following. There's another



experimental dart tag that Speckled Trout anglers may find. Similar in appearance to the "TB" tag but start with "DW". All are labeled "REWARD" with the program phone number (757)491-5160 to report a tagged fish. Anglers can also report their tagged fish by going to the Virginia SaltwaterJournal at;

https://vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php



So, what "Reward" awaits you? Depending on inventory, reward items include program ball caps, t-shirts, fish pins, and decals. Anglers reporting a recaptured fish also get a Recapture Report (left) detailing when and where the fish was first tagged, any previous recaptures, and your own recapture data.

The recapture information you provide helps fisheries management and scientist assess critical habitat and seasonal movement of ten important species in our area.



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Fishing Tips...

Those species are Cobia, Red Drum, Black Drum, Summer Flounder, Triggerfish, Sheepshead, Speckled Trout, Spadefish, Black Sea Bass, and Tautog. Each year VMRC/VIMS jointly publishes their Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program Annual Report. The report outlines program objectives, responsibilities and database management/improvements. It also includes program accomplishments, including tagging effort, recapture fish

results, and result highlights by individual species from the previous year.

What, When, Where, and How Many? *VGFTP Data Summary 1995 - 2021*



Speckled Trout (Spotted Sea Trout) >133K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: October
Recapture Range: Maryland to Georgia



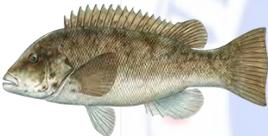
Summer Flounder >88K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: June
Recapture Range: Rhode Island to South Carolina



Red Drum >69K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: September
Recapture Range: New Jersey to Florida



Black Sea Bass >46K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: August
Recapture Range: New York to Georgia



Tautog >23K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: April
Recapture Range: Delaware to North Carolina



Spadefish >7K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: July
Recapture Range: Maryland to North Carolina



Cobia >6K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: June
Recapture Range: Rhode Island to Mississippi



Black Drum >5K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: May
Recapture Range: Maryland to North Carolina



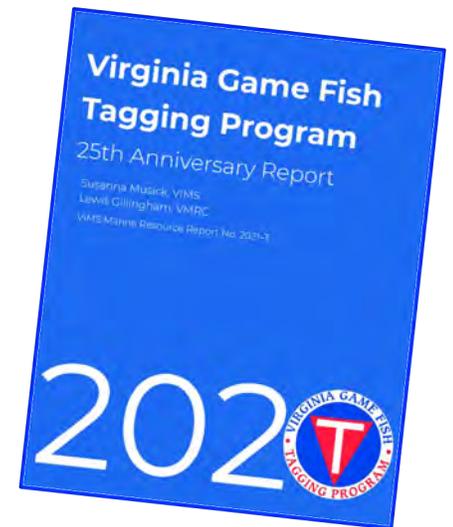
Triggerfish >1K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: July
Recapture Range: Virginia to North Carolina



Sheepshead >1K Tagged
Prime Timeframe: May
Recapture Range: Maryland to North Carolina

Anglers can find the Annual Reports by visiting the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Marine Advisory Program website at;

<https://www.vims.edu/vgftp/>



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Fishing Tips...

VGFTP-Report a tagged fish

https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php

- 1) Write down the **tag number**.
If the tag number is not clear, please cut off the tag and keep it - even if you release the fish.
- 2) **Measure** and write down the **species** and its **total length**. Estimate the length if you do not have a measuring device.
- 3) Write down the **date**, the exact **location**, and how the fish was caught.
- 4) Record any other information about the fish that could be useful; for example, any unusual markings or wounds.
- 5) Contact the agency listed on the tag.

To identify the **VA Game Fish Tagging Program** Tags from other tagging studies here are some things to look for:

Orange T-Bar tag under dorsal fin - TB ##### REWARD - Call 757/4915160

OR

Orange Dart tag under dorsal fin - DS ##### REWARD or SD ##### REWARD 757/491-5160 VA GAME FISH TAG, 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607.

To report VA Game Fish Tagging Program Tags,

Report On-line :
https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/report_tagged_fish.php

Many tagging programs offer REWARDS!!!

*****Another option when releasing the fish is to cut off the end of the tag with the serial number. Each tag has two sets of numbers!**

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Recreational Fishing Online Reporting



The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) is an effort to involve the recreational angling public in the conservation and management of marine finfish. [Read More](#)

Anglers reporting tags from fish they have captured are awarded pewter fish pins or baseball caps featuring the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program logo.

<< Go Back

Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Report Tagged Fish

Required Fields *

Tag No.*

Species*

Date Caught*

Location Caught*

Total Length*

Angler's Name*

Phone*

Street Address*

City, State*

Zip*

E-mail:

Fish Fate*

Fish Condition*

Remarks:

Submit Report >>



THANK YOU!

Programs like the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program are of great importance to our Virginia fisheries and they don't succeed without a host of people supporting them. Thanks to the foresight of Claude Bain and Jon Lucy for initiating the tagging program in 1995 to the many folks who've kept it going for 26 years. Lewis Gillingham, the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Director and manages the Virginia Marine Resources Commission portion of the tagging program, Ann Burnett for her administration and support for the program since the very beginning. Her guidance, data management, (and management of the 200 current taggers), keeps the program going. The Recreational Fishing Advisory Board which annually evaluates and continues to provide funding for the program. Todd Sperling for continually evolving web-based platforms for the VGFTP.

Along with the VRMC side of the program are the great folks at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Susanna Musick with the VIMS Marine Advisory Program, is the Principle Investigator for the tagging program. Dave Ferree and Cheryl Teagle for their support in ordering materials, data entry, and managing the program's budget.

Of course, many thanks to the many taggers who've generously volunteered to spend the time to document their catch & release efforts. Lastly, the angling community who takes the time to record and report their tagged fish. Without all of these people working together the program simply can't exist. Many Thanks!

- Captain Will Bransom



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Fishing Tips...

Practicing a Careful Catch

*Susanna Musick, Marine Advisory Program,
Virginia Institute of Marine Science*



Many anglers depart on a fishing trip with a plan to catch (fill in the blank). They know where they're generally going to fish, the depth, the rigs to use, and the bait for the targeted species. Sometimes that's all that's really needed, if you're going to keep everything you catch. Rarely does that happen, keeping everything you catch. There's minimum size limits, slot sizes, possession limits, and out of season species to deal with. Practicing a Careful Catch means being prepared and having a plan before you arrive at the fishing spot. The "Plan" might include planning for the right type of tackle, how you're going to land the fish, and how to safely release the ones you're not going to keep. Reducing fishing mortality with proper handling of your releases helps preserve our fishery and provide for future fishing opportunities.

Preparation

For those fish you're going to release consider using heavy enough tackle to minimize the fight. Landing a fish quickly prevents wearing out the fish and minimizes the amount of time to revive a stressed fish. Think about the last time you landed a citation Red Drum. They fight hard and are often exhausted when you get them to the boat. Landing them quickly can minimize the stress on the fish and better its chance of survival after release.



Part of the plan might be the size and type of net you use. Select a knotless rubberized net to minimize injury to the fish. Fish have a protective coating or slim on the skin and scales. Minimize handling by dehooking them in the water is the best practice for fish you're not going to keep. Revive any fish that shows signs of exhaustion or is out of the water too long.

Hook selection may be personal choice but many regulations require the use of non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks or allow J-hooks only for certain bait applications. Always check the current regulations (State and Federal) for permitted tackle before you go. Using the non-offset circle hook prevents deep hooking the fish and makes hook removal easier.



Image courtesy <https://dhr.maryland.gov/>

Handling

After minimizing the time to get the fish in the net, it's equally important to get the fish back in the water quickly, with proper handling. Always support the fish horizontally and use wet hands, towel, or gloves to handle the fish. Avoid placing your hands in the gills or eyes, and don't hold the fish vertically by its jaw. Carefully remove the hook or if it can't be removed without causing more damage to the fish, cut it off as close as possible. Non-stainless steel hooks will rust away in time. Carefully return the fish to the water, upright and head first, and allow it to swim away. Revive an unresponsive fish by moving it gently forward in the water to get water moving across its gills. When it's revived it'll swim away. Remember - less time out of the water is always better for the fish.



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Fishing Tips...

Descending Devices & Venting

It may surprise many anglers that fishing in "deep water" isn't very deep for the effects of barotrauma to be seen. The bulging eyes, a twisted and seemingly paralyzed fish, distended stomach or intestines are all signs of barotrauma and can occur in water depths as shallow as 50 feet. This is due to the change in water pressure from the depth where you caught the fish to the surface. When a fish experiences significant barotrauma it's not likely it can recover on its own before becoming a meal for another predator. They often float or have difficulty swimming or descending on their own. This is because the rapid decrease in depth upon retrieval has expanded the air in their body and put pressure on internal organs. The remedy is to get them back down to the depth you caught them as quickly as possible for the best chance at survival.

Descending devices do exactly that, to return a fish back down to depth. There are many types like an inverted & weighted plastic basket which will hold the "floaters" as it's lowered down and as the fish's barotrauma subsides they swim away. Another is a pressure release mechanism called the SeaQualizer™. The SeaQualizer™ attaches to a fish's jaw like a Bogagrip® and opens up to release a fish at a preset depth. A third option is using an inverted hook device, such as the Shelton Fish Descender™ which resembles an inverted barbless wire hook to hold the fish until it's able to wriggle free.

The last resort to reducing barotrauma should be venting the fish. Venting involves inserting a needle decompression tool into the side of the fish just behind the pectoral fin until you hear the air vent. As one can imagine, inserting a needle, on a rocking boat, with a wriggling fish can be a challenge. Because venting doesn't place the fish back to the depth where caught, carries the inherent risk of injury (to fish and self), and adds more handling and time out of the water, it's the least desirable method available.



Shelton Fish Descender™
Incredible new device for saving fish suffering barotrauma. Descends fish to recompress the air-bladder and re-oxygenate for quick recovery.

Heavy Duty SFD™
Perfect for sports boats or party boat. Mount in-line with standard tackle, on a boat rod or use on a portable reel.

Save bloated fish suffering barotrauma

Stainless Steel Wire Crane swivel

Shelton Products
Newark CA 94560

www.sheltonproducts.com



Practicing a Careful Catch

- Land fish quickly with the right gear
- Keep the fish in the water and release
- Use Circle Hooks
 - Non-offset hooks
 - Non-Stainless Hooks
- Handle Release fish with care;
 - Knotless Rubberized Nets
 - Support the fish horizontally
 - Use wet hands or wet gloves
 - Minimize the time out of water
 - Avoid touching the gills or eyes
- Use Descending Devices
 - Return to fish to the depth caught
 - Never puncture the stomach



With planning, proper handling, and good release techniques anglers can greatly increase the survival rate of fish they release. Release mortality is a real concern for many species and if not addressed can result in reduced catch limits and shortened or closed seasons. Practicing a Careful Catch will preserve our fishery for the future.



To learn more about the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and their partnerships, projects, research & services visit <https://www.vims.edu/> and check out <https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/catch-and-release-fishing/> for more information on catch & release practices from the Florida Sea Grant and the University of Florida.



NOAA FISHERIES

Marine Recreational Information Program

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is the state-regional-federal partnership responsible for developing, improving, and implementing surveys that measure how many trips recreational anglers take and how many fish they catch.

Measuring Recreational Catch: The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

How does NOAA Fisheries collect information about recreational catch?

From Maine to Mississippi and in Hawaii, state agencies work with the Marine Recreational Information Program to conduct angler interviews at public fishing access sites. These interviews are part of the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (AP AIS), and inform our estimates of total recreational catch.

To conduct the AP AIS, specially trained field interviewers visit marinas, boat ramps, beaches, and piers, and survey anglers as they complete their fishing trips. Interviewers weigh and measure fish that were harvested, and collect information about fish that were released. State agencies coordinate in-person, on-site data collection, while regional fisheries information networks provide data storage and quality control. Interviewers play no role in law enforcement, and must keep the information anglers share confidential.

How many anglers are surveyed each year? What happens to the information they share?

In 2019, field interviewers intercepted about 95,000 angler trips on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and about 2,800 angler trips in Hawaii. Data from our catch surveys are combined with data from our effort surveys to produce an estimate of total recreational catch. These estimates are combined with commercial catch data, biological research, and information collected from direct observations of fisheries to help scientists assess the health of fish stocks. Through a public process that includes angler input, fisheries managers use these assessments to set fishing regulations that balance access to the resource with maintaining its sustainability.

How does this survey benefit me?

Our understanding of saltwater recreational catch depends on complete and accurate data provided by recreational anglers. Taking a few minutes to share information about your fishing trip is one of the most important contributions

you can make to fisheries science, management, and the sustainability of a great American pastime. When you share information about your fishing trip with field interviewers, you are playing an important role in supporting sustainable fishing opportunities.

How do interviewers decide where to go?

Field interviewers are assigned to visit public fishing access sites during specific times of day. We use standard statistical methods to select sites that will produce a representative sample of fishing trips.

What is an interviewer's daily assignment like?

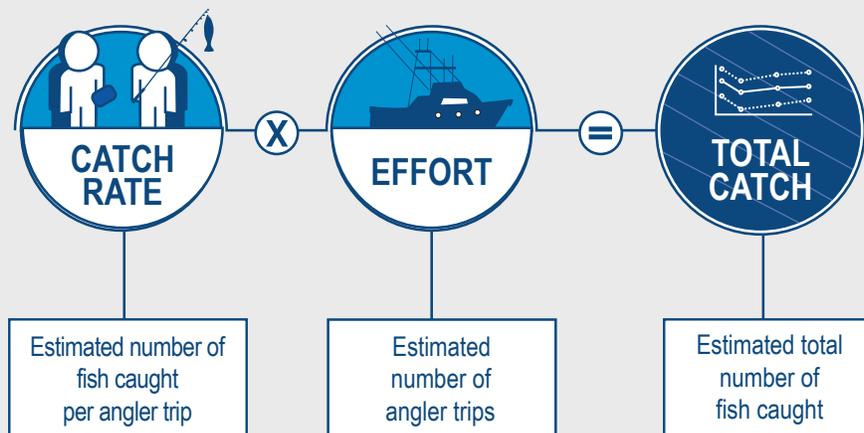
Field interviewers conduct surveys during all times of day, and work the entire length of their six-hour assignment. This means you may see an interviewer at night, or working at a site where fishing activity is low.

Each sampling assignment includes a date, a time interval, one or two sites that should be sampled, and the order in which these sites should be visited.



LEARN MORE
countryfish.noaa.gov

How do you use the APAIS to estimate total catch?



While the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey is used to collect data about the number of fish anglers catch, the Fishing Effort Survey and For-Hire Survey are used to collect data about the number of trips anglers take. Three additional surveys, known collectively as the Large Pelagics Survey, collect recreational catch and effort data for tuna, sharks, billfishes, swordfish, and other offshore species. Catch and effort data are combined to estimate total catch, which informs scientific stock assessments and the public process of setting rules and regulations to support healthy and productive recreational fisheries.

Why do interviewers work at sites where fishing activity is low?

Strict adherence to survey design is critical to collecting statistically sound data. This means field interviewers must follow their predetermined schedule until their work for the day is complete.

While field interviewers do not work when the weather poses a threat to their safety, they do work when the weather is bad or when fishing activity is low. Documenting low-activity sites gives us a complete picture of what's happening—or not—on the water.

Why do interviewers survey anglers who didn't catch any fish?

Our sample needs to be representative of all saltwater fishing trips, regardless of how many fish, if any, were caught. If we only sampled trips where anglers caught fish, our catch estimates would be biased (and likely, too high).

Why do interviewers survey anglers who are visiting from out of town?

Interviewing both resident and visiting anglers ensures our sample is representative of all saltwater fishing trips. It also gives us the information we need to adjust the effort data we collect through our mail survey of coastal households. In other words, if we didn't use the APAIS to gather information from

out-of-state residents, we wouldn't be able to account for the fish those anglers catch or the trips they take.

Why does it matter what one angler reports?

The success of our surveys relies on the participation of the people we sample. Because it's not practical or possible for us to intercept the millions of recreational anglers fishing along the coast, each trip we do sample may represent dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of trips.

Why should I participate more than once?

Even if you've been surveyed before, the unique characteristics of your most recent fishing trip haven't been incorporated into our data. No two fishing trips are alike, and our survey is designed to capture those differences.

Why haven't I been interviewed?

With millions of fishing trips taking place each year, it's not possible to intercept every trip that occurs or to gather information from every angler who fishes. While no two fishing trips are the same, the statistical process that drives the selection of sampling sites ensures the anglers we do interview are representative of the wider recreational fishing community.

What can I do to help?

If you're asked to participate in a recreational fishing survey, we encourage you to provide complete and accurate information, even if you didn't fish, or didn't catch anything. This will help us produce more accurate estimates of recreational catch. You can also encourage other anglers to participate in recreational fishing surveys; voice your support for state, regional, and national data collection programs; or get involved in fisheries management through your state marine fisheries agency, interstate marine fisheries commission, or regional fishery management council.

Fishing Reports...

Last month Ron and I did a delivery from St Croix to Key West. A friend of 30 plus years owns Sunset Watersports in Key West. Every two years or so he has a new boat built and we go with him to take delivery. This time we picked up Miss Valyn a 54-foot power cat with twin 300 Yamahas. This boat is going to be used to take customers out in the gulf back country to Kayak and paddle board.



Miss Valyn was built by Gold Coast Yachts in St Croix. It took us four days to outfit the boat and complete sea trials and one more day for a good weather window.

Once underway, it took us four days to reach Long Island Cay in the Bahamas. On this leg, we trolled hoping to get a wahoo or maybe a sailfish and we weren't disappointed, but what we got was a huge surprise. The rod on the port side started screaming and the fight was on. After about 10 minutes we realized we had a Blue Marlin.



He broke the surface a few times and gave us a great show before going back down. I worked him up to the 100 foot of shock line and then to the 100-foot leader. At this point Ron pulled in the rest by hand. We estimated him to be about 7 foot long. We got him alongside, made sure he was okay and released him. I was trolling a 9-inch blue and white jet head with two 11/0 hooks. We couldn't fish the whole trip but we had lines in whenever possible. The rest of the trip we got 6 barracudas, and one wahoo.





A Bahamian friend Marvin Cartwright and owner of Big.V.Adventures on Long Island Cay was with us for the Bahamas part of the trip. He prepared some outstanding food. Conch, Lobster, Wahoo, and yes some very tasty barracuda. His knowledge of the Bahamas and the waters got us into some spots that very few people experience.



While we were there my buddy ordered his next boat and we should take delivery in three years.

- Curtis Mitchell





6 JAN: Caught two citation trout going 24.5 and 25 inches. Ended the day with six fish over 20 inches.

Also caught a few nice drum lately and a few striper.

- Tripp Seed

28 DEC: With only a few days left to the Striper season John Curry invited Fred Hetzel (C.G. Aux.) and I for a couple hours on his boat. With no action after a pass at the Chuckatuck Bridge, we headed to the JRB. On our second pass along the bridge I caught a beautiful 36 inch (right on the line) that was covered with sea lice. Fred got a 19 1/2 inch that had to go back. All were caught on red/white Stretch 20's.

A few notes from this pass fall season: Overall fishing was slow at the Chuckatuck Bridge. Ninety percent of our fish were caught at the JRB. Red/White was definitely the color of choice although fish were caught on other colors. The fish were the biggest we've caught since I moved here seven years ago. We usually catch school stripers in the 20 inch to 28 inch, but this year, toward the end of the season, we caught numerous fish in the 30 inch to 40 inch range. The bite will turn on/off in minutes. You can make several passes along the bridge with nothing then BAM the bite is on.



- Henry Troutner



ENJOY VALENTINE'S DAY!

1 JAN: New Years Day, 70+ degrees, but very windy. Mary and I fished the skiff on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River for about three hours.

We caught eight speckled trout and one big white perch. Only one was worth keeping, which we had for dinner that night. Although we fished a load of different lures, six were caught on 17MR and two on YoZuri Crystal Minnow.

Unfortunately, the bite seemed to be turning on just as we had to head back in. This is only the third time we fished the Elizabeth. We've got a lot to learn but really enjoy it. Hopefully the bite will hold up until spring shad fishing. - Henry Trounter



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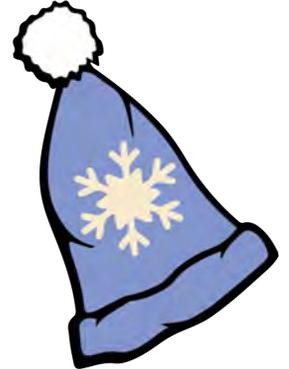


DUE TO WEATHER THE BOAT SHOW WILL BE MOVED TO SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH AND 6TH STARTING AT 10 AM. PLEASE PASS THE WORD!



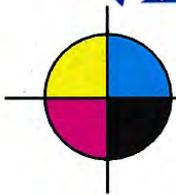
27 DEC: I had to do some trailer repairs with the boat off, so Mary, George Langdon and I headed to Surry with the intent of putting the boat in the water, repairing the trailer and doing some Cat and Speckled Trout fishing. Even after soaking the trailer bolts for several days in PB Blaster, I had two that I was afraid of breaking, so we put the repair off.

Thus, we got a late start to the Surry Discharge. When we arrived, there were over a dozen boats Speckled Trout fishing. We only had about two hours to fish so we put two rods out for Cat and started casting for speckled trout. We ended up catching four decent Catfish (all released) but no speckled trout. Of all the boats, we only saw two small speckled trout caught. I've been saving the bellies from speckled trout and stripers for catfish bait. They worked great, stayed on the hook much better than shad.



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STAY WARM!

25 JAN: Ned and I went fishing in my boat in the Elizabeth River again hoping that despite 41 degree water temperature the speckled trout would still be biting. Launched out of Great Bridge Locks about 10 am as the wind temperature was about 40 degrees and predicted to be up to 50. Started in our recent favorite place and we hooked up almost immediately to a 17 inches then a 23 inch speckled trout.

All speckled trout were released. The bite was slow, so we moved around a bit picking up one fish here and there. We stayed in the main river and fished in deep. At one point we found a red, nice fat one at 21 inch. When we relocated down river we found two shore anglers catching one after another.

We weren't sure what bait they were using except it was artificial. Then we caught 3 reds one after another, but only a couple of speckled trout. In total four reds, two 23 inch and two 21 inch. Seven speckled trout from 17-23.25 inches. Not bad for cold water fishing. Beautiful day, not many on the river. I kept the reds for dinner.

- Dr. James W. "Ike Eisenhower



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13 JAN: Fished Thursday on my V14 Tracker with Ned Smith in the Elizabeth River and what a fabulous catching day it was! Launched out of Great Bridge Locks with the water temperature 41 degrees, air temperature was 37 degrees, but no wind. Started fishing near the Veterans Bridge and I caught a 17.5 inch speckled trout on first cast. From that point on Ned and I began catching 20 speckled trout: 17 inch to 24.25 inch, one after the other, sometimes two at a time. That monster fish is the one posted here. That is Ned's release state citation fish.



We only moved when the outgoing tide slowed. Fishing the Deep Creek produced five fish and one throwback, the only one for the whole trip. We later moved back to our starting place and caught five more.

My biggest was 21.5 inches (the photo). All over 20 inch fish were released (5 Ned's, 4 mine). I kept 4 fish 18-19 inch. Most caught on Heavy MirrOdines 18MR electric chicken & 808 colors. Kept 3 speckled trout with one throwback.

One state citation was a wonderful catching day despite the early cold.

- Dr. James W. "Ike Eisenhower





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Hatteras Smorgasbord; Sharks and Dinner! While everyone was still reminiscing on their 2021, I was up early to get a head start on 2022. Headed down to Hatteras in the morning to chase down the good shark bite. It was a bit breezy with a strong Southwest wind. The wind makes it difficult to get good video and pictures. I got into some sandbars, sand tigers and dog sharks. I also caught bluefish, Roundhead and puffers. As always, I released my first 12.5 inch Roundhead for good luck for the season.

I started the day south of the point looking for a few roundhead or puffers. Recent reports were good for that area. The southwest wind was howling so bad that I could barely fish the surf. Lines weren't moving bad, but the shallow and rough water made it difficult to fish. I later moved north of the point, heading back to one of my hotspots from just a week earlier. Ramp 43 and 44 had some sharks and fish. Due to low tide, it was impossible to reach over the bar. I quickly moved further north to ramp 38 to fish some of the deeper holes there. Ramp 38 still has quite a few deep holes and the beach wasn't busy so I was able to find a spot. The bite was slow but consistent with catches of roundhead, puffers, and sharks through the course of 4 hours. I was glad to get into the fish I did.

Of the sharks I caught, the sand tigers were largest. I caught a new personal best that measured 109 inches. The other was 96 inches. It is pretty dangerous to handle many of these sharks on my own, but I use extensive experience from my life of fishing to do this as safely as possible for both myself and the sharks. Looking forward to more opportunities to catch some additional sea monsters this year.

Just 24 hours later, the island was hit by a Northeaster' that produced sustained winds in the 70s and gusts over 90 miles per hour. It was a surprise for many people and the island was cut off from the mainland for three days. Repair work continues on the island as this winter's storms have been one after the next.



Kelly Hoggard



I went out and did a few catfishing trips in the months of January and December. December was a significantly better bite, though I believe that was more an issue with weather and fishability. My catfishing this year has been exclusively from the shore. I was fishing from a dock that has since been closed due to damage from the winter storms. It's unknown if I can get back there anytime soon.

In December, I made three trips up to the Chickahominy River. All three trips were a tremendous success. Most of my catfish seem to like the 10-20 foot range along the edge of the river channel. I managed to bring home 16, 16, and 18 catfish for dinner from my three trips. All three days included a catfish in the mid 20 inch range and all the catfish kept were 16+ inches. I released more smaller fish than I kept every trip. In Virginia, there is a twenty fish creel limit on catfish in the James River. I like to be sure the fish I keep are filet worthy. These 16-26 inch fish are great eating size and very tasty when fried.

In January, I tried one other spot on the Chickahominy. The bite was still good there, but I struggled to catch fish with a variety of unfavorable conditions. That included some very bad snags along the river bank. I lost numerous rigs while reeling in fish. I suspect a large tree sitting on the bottom. I also snuck out to the Chowan River to fish off the bank at a friend's house. There's a pocket of deeper water about 8-10 feet deep within casting range that holds catfish well in the spring and fall. The bite there was especially slow in the 26 degree weather that morning. The fish were likely out deep with the cold weather experienced this month. I got three bites including one decent one but never came tight.

I'll be doing some more catfishing when the weather improves enough to get back out. Surf fishing is pretty much on hold until water temperatures in Hatteras get back to 60 degrees. The fish can move to deeper water only a short distance from the surf and can wait out the winter weather before returning to the shoreline to feed in the spring.

Kelly Hoggard



**BOXES AND
BOXES OF
CORNDOGS!**

Angler Interests

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Job Announcements



MRIP (Marine Recreational Information Program) Seasonal Data Field Technician

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will conduct the field portion of the MRIP. This program includes the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey/APAIS and requires face-to-face interviews with marine recreational anglers. Field staff will travel to assigned sites to interview anglers about their fishing experiences, collect a variety of information, and weigh, measure, and identify fish by species name that the anglers have caught. Assigned sites can include beaches, piers, docks/jetties, and access points for private charter and head boats, including marinas, boat ramps and other points of entry to marine waters. Field staff is responsible for entering this data on a Samsung tablet while speaking with anglers at these sites. Paper forms may be used in the event that the tablet becomes non-functioning. There will be a 2-day training in the actual MRIP procedures including a Fish ID test and a Procedures Test. After becoming qualified to conduct the APAIS there will be on-site training to get the applicant comfortable conducting the survey.

Qualifications: Must be 21 years old. Must have a valid Virginia driver's license and access to a personal vehicle; personal vehicle use is reimbursed at 57.5 cents per mile, be willing to travel a reasonable distance to reach assigned sites; be available on weekends and weekdays, with additional availability during some evenings and nights. Individuals should be comfortable approaching and speaking with strangers; handling, measuring, and weighing fish; and working outside for extended periods of time in variable weather conditions. Must demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and follow prescribed procedures. Must be computer savvy in Word and Excel, and be able to copy, scan and send data from home.

Knowledge of fish species with experience in the area of recreational angling and familiarity of marine waterways in their local area is required.

Location and Hours: The seasonal data technicians may be required to work a minimum of three (3) 6 hour shifts a week although this is not a guarantee; must have flexible availability and be able to work any and all of the following shifts: 2am – 8am; 8am -2pm; 11am – 5pm; 2 pm-8 pm and 8pm – 2am; regular weekend work will be required and seasonal staff may be required to work up to 12 hours each weekend. The 2am-8am and 8pm-2 am are infrequent and always conducted with 2 Interviewers.

Those interested may contact Jeff Allen at 757-325-8994 or email at; allenfoxhilllure@cox.net

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.

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 stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker.

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!



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