

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

FEBRUARY 2025



Mid-Atlantic
Boat Show
January 31-
February 2

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Ed Doan with *Doan Outdoors*
Fly Fishing in our area

Fishing Reports;

- Rudee Inlet: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout, Black Sea Bass
- Chuckatuck Creek: Striped Bass
- Costa Rica: Sailfish, Rooster Fish, Bonita, Sierra Mackerel

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Many thanks to our Boat Show Volunteers for stepping up and helping the club make a good showing at the event. With the weather having been so inhospitable for the past month, this year's show is a great opportunity to walk around and see "boat stuff" *indoors*. We hope to see you there and be sure to stop by and see us.

Congratulations to our Redfish "Spots" Tournament Winners. Mary Troutner nailed First Place with an incredible 22" Redfish with 16 Spots! She caught the fish in Chuckatuck Creek on Sept 6. Second Place goes to Alex Perez with his 6 Spot 15" Redfish caught in the Elizabeth River on May 20th. The First Place prize is a \$50 gift card and Second Place received a \$25 gift card from Ocean's East Bait & Tackle.

Congratulations again to Mary Troutner who landed a 3 lb 8 oz Oyster Toad fish while fishing the Chesapeake Light Tower on August 13th. She received an OysterToad Non-Tipping Drink Holder.

Our club's next big event is our Annual Awards Banquet on March 15th at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. We'll have an opportunity to enjoy an amazing venue, great food, and acknowledge our anglers accomplishments. This is a private club event for our members and their sponsored guests. You can sign up at the February meeting and there's an option to pay online (PayPal) on our Norfolk Anglers Club website.

Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Ed Doan with *Doan Outdoors*

We're very pleased to welcome Ed Doan with Doan Outdoors who specializes in fly fishing the Elizabeth River, Lafayette River, and Rudee Inlet areas. He'll share his experiences and techniques targeting speckled trout and red drum near the surface as well as how to hook up with those deeper down.



Important:

February 17, 2025

**NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk, VA**

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Club Calendar

January

Fri-Sun, Jan 31st Mid-Atlantic Boat Show,
Virginia Beach Convention Center

February

Sat-Sun, Feb 1st-Feb 2nd; Mid-Atlantic Boat Show,
Virginia Beach Convention Center

Mon, Feb 10th: Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Mon, Feb 17th: : Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tues, Feb 25th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

March

Sat, Mar 15th; Members Annual Award Banquet

The Mid-Atlantic Sports and



Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show
January 31st to February 2nd
Virginia Beach Convention Center



Club Members Tournament for 2025



Redfish "Spots" Tournament Rules

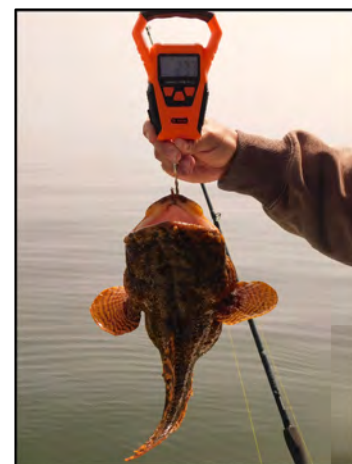


- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. *Entries received with decal and no measurement can only be judged by number of spots. Photo entries without a decal or measurement tape are not accepted.
- 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, 2025 and December 31, 2025
- 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



Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr.
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)





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Fishing Reports

Dec 10: With tide & weather only giving us a couple hours to fish, John Curry, Mary & I though we'd use up a couple eels we still had in the "flow-Troll" at John's dock. Once set up on the Chuckatuck the fishing was slow. Usually if the stripers are there and feeding the eels don't last long in the water. Well we stuck it for a while and finally John landed a fat 24"er. We continued fishing for a while but with no action we headed in. Still have a couple eels left if we get a break in the weather.

- Henry Troutner



Dec 28: I fished with Danny Moore, returning to Lake Wesley during the falling tide. Using frozen shrimp, 3 inch curly tails grubs, and 2.5 inches Gulp minnows, we caught five Red Drum from 14 to 30 inches. Using 1/8 to 1/4 ounce jig heads, we casted towards the sea walls and around dock pilings for the drum but also caught small Speckled Trout in the center of the creek, fishing the lures super slow. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. Water surface temperature was 44 degrees.

- Alex Perez



January 18 thru 25: Mary, Kait, Kevin and I left Norfolk's 18° weather and headed to Quepos, Costa Rica's 85°+ on an amazing fishing experience organized through (QFA) "Quepos Fishing Adventures." Andrew & Connie of QAF handled everything for our stay & 3 days of fishing to perfection. The 4 hour drive from the airport to Quepos led through the mountains to the the Pacific Coast giving an overall view of CR. Our house was perfect overlooking the ocean. The weather was fantastic, 75° nights upper 80° days and very calm seas. We fished 2 days offshore for Pacific Sail Fish, which are much bigger than our Atlantic SF or White Marlin and 1 day inshore for Rooster fish. Because the weather is so nice and seas so calm the boats we fished were not the big 50'-60' sport fishers here. Our 2 offshore trips were 31'/32' Sport fishing boats with towers and the TDL 30's reels were perfect for experiencing the fight. The inshore was a 28" center console with 5000 series spinning reels. I could not count the number of knockdowns we had while Sail fishing. We actually hooked a dozen, including a couple doubles. Although they pulled 1 Sailfish each out of the water long enough for a photo all were released. Inshore Rooster fishing was a little slower. Like Sailfish, you drop back slow trolled live bait when they hit, so we had lots of hits but only landed 3, also released. Everyone caught one except me and I lost one fighting it. We also caught a few other fish, Bonita and Sierra Mackerel. The country is spotless, the people very friendly, and would I highly recommend QFA which handled every aspect of our trip to perfection.

- Henry Troutner



Save the Date!

2025

Virginia Charter Boat Workshop

at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point

Saturday, March 22

Featured speakers:

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
& MORE!

Space limited, register for free:

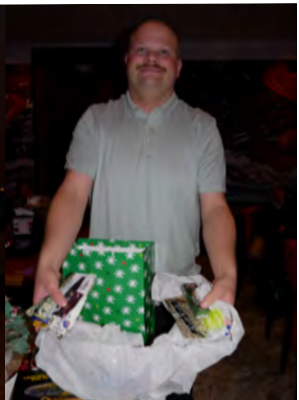
<https://forms.gle/32dR6T6eSEWaz9Rr5>

Questions? susanna@vims.edu

Dec 24: I fished the jetty at Rudee Inlet using frozen shrimp and Zman curly tails on 1/8 ounce jig heads. Fishing the falling tide, I caught five Black Sea Bass up to 12 inches except one that, to my surprise, was almost 14 inches. Moving into Lake Wesley, action was slow but I did manage two small Speckled Trout up to 12 inches.

- Alex Perez





Angler Interests

Black Sea Bass Season Opens, February 1st

With the opening of the special February Black Sea Bass Season Anglers are reminded to get their Recreational Black Sea Bass permit (FREE and online) from VMRC and make required trip reporting. Here's the latest information from VMRC;

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Updated 1/2/2025
www.mrc.virginia.gov

Recreational Reporting Fact Sheet

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE, please call (757) 247-2200 with any questions****

What's up with this mandatory reporting for recreational fishing?

All recreational anglers (private and for-hire) targeting or catching black sea bass during the special February season must be covered under the corresponding species permit and must report for Virginia to be given permission to keep opening this special season.

PERMITS

Who would need to physically have the permit?

The captain or operator of the vessel (whether private or for-hire) and every individual in the case of shore, pier, or kayak fishing. Guests on private boats and for-hire boats do not need a permit, and the captain must also report for their activity.

I am a charter captain and private angler. Do I need two permits for one species?

No, you only need one permit for each species. However, when you report your trips, you need to indicate whether you took a private or for-hire trip.

Where can I sign up?

These free permits can be obtained online or from a VMRC Licensing Agent. For a list of agents, please refer to the website below or call the VMRC at (757) 247-2200.

Sign up for your permit online: <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/mpermits/index.php>

Visit a VMRC Licensing Agent: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/mrcagents.shtm>

What is a VMRC ID?

We assign a number specific to each person who is registered as a commercial fisherman or signs up for a recreational species permit. Most of the time, it will be of the format N0#####. It does not change from year to year and is used to obtain all of your permits. It is different from the "permit number" and your DWR Customer ID/CID or saltwater fishing license number.

What happens if I fish for one of these species without a permit?

If you are stopped by a law enforcement and this is the case, an officer can write you a ticket.

What happens if I go fishing on my friend's boat, and he doesn't have a permit?

It is the obligation of the captain or operator of the boat to be permitted. Allowing passengers on the vessel to obtain permits could create confusion over reporting if those anglers also fish on boats whose captains are permitted.

Angler Interests

REPORTING

How do I report?

You may meet your reporting requirements by utilizing the VA Saltwater Journal found at <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com>. The VA Saltwater Journal has a dedicated section for reporting for these mandatory species. You must also report your non-participation if you did

not fish during their respective seasons. Alternatively, paper forms may be found on our website at <http://mrc.virginia.gov/forms/index.shtm> which will allow you to mail in your reports. Please call if you need one mailed to you.

If fishing for black sea bass during the February season, permittees are also responsible for contacting Law Enforcement Operations at 1-800-541-4646 before or immediately after the start of each fishing trip to coordinate sampling efforts by VMRC staff. The Operations Station is staffed 24 hours a day and is always available for your call. The permittee shall provide the dispatcher with their name, VMRC ID, point of landing, description of their vessel, approximate time of arrival and a contact phone number.

Can I report my trips by calling the VMRC?

No, there is no dedicated call-in system to report for any of these fisheries, nor does staff take specific trip reports.

Do I have to report every trip, even if I don't catch anything?

Yes, trips where you don't catch your target species are important for management, as the number of such "unsuccessful" trips can hint at the health of a fish population.

Do I have to report if I was not targeting one of these species, but caught one?

Yes, these trips are also relevant for estimating recreational landings.

If I called Law Enforcement Operations and told them how many black sea bass I caught, am I all set for reporting?

No, in addition to calling Law Enforcement, you must also report via the VA Saltwater Journal or on paper forms as described above.


What if I can't log in to the VA Saltwater Journal to report?

If you have never used the VA Saltwater Journal before, you will need to register by clicking the "Register Here" button at the top of the page. If you have previously registered but cannot remember your password, please click the "Forgot Password" button. The VA Saltwater Journal only allows one user per email address. However, a registered VA Saltwater Journal user can report for another permit holder in the Journal by entering their VMRC ID. If you continue to have trouble, you may call the VMRC or use the paper form to mail in the report.

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