

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JANUARY 2026

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Bill Pappas, *Playin' Hookey Charters*, Bluefin Tuna Fishing

Fishing Reports:

- Chesapeake Bay/Eastern Shore: Rockfish
- Virginia Inshore/Chesapeake Light Tower: Bluefin Tuna
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Red Drum
- James River/Surry: Speckled Trout, Blue Catfish
- Lafayette River: Speckled Trout, Red Drum
- Chuckatuck Creek: Rockfish
- Lynnhaven/Broad Bay: Red Drum

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Happy New Year!! We wish you the very best in the coming year, with good health, prosperity, and lots of beautiful fishing days!

Interested in participating in the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program? It's a great way to participate in fisheries science while fishing. Time is running out to sign up. See the flyer in this edition of the newsletter.

Congratulations to Chris Harris and Bert Sainz the top anglers in our Member's Speckled Trout Tournament. Chris landed his 25.5" fish on the last day of the tournament, November 30th on the Rappahannock River. Bert Sainz's 22.0" fish was caught on November 14th in the Elizabeth River. Our tournament for this year will start on March 1st and run through December 31st. Good luck!

The Mid-Atlantic Boat Show is coming to the Virginia Beach Convention Center beginning on Friday January 30th. We have a club booth for the show and will be asking for club volunteers to show convention visitors what our club is all about. We'll have a sign up list at the January meeting or if you like send me an email at NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com and I'll block time slots for you.

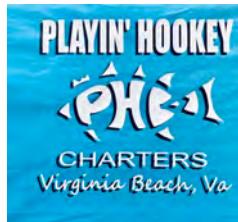
Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Bill Pappas, Playin' Hookey Charters

We're very pleased to welcome back Captain Bill Pappas to the club. Bill is an experienced Charter Captain who puts his customers on a wide variety of fish, inshore and offshore. This year's tuna bite was been the best in more than 10 years and Playin' Hookey Charters has been right in the middle of it consistently making catches out of Rudee Inlet.

Join us on January 19th to hear just how good it's been and still is!



Important:
January 19th, 2026 at 7:00pm
NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk,

Publishers NOTES

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NAC OFFICERS

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Will Bransom

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Henry Troutner

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Member at Large:
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Club Calendar

January

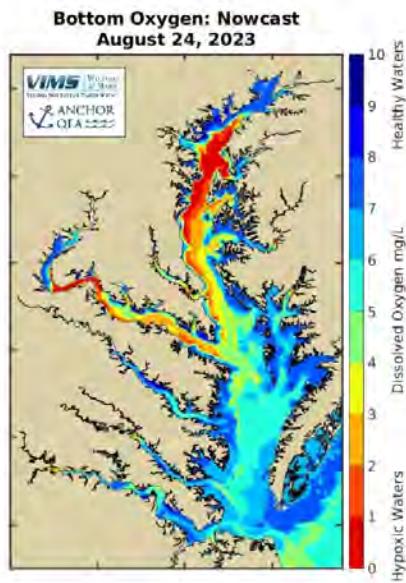
Mon, Jan 19th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting,
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk
Tue, Jan 27th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA
Fri-Sun, Jan 30th-Feb 1st; Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show,
Virginia Beach Convention Center

February

Sun, Feb 1st; Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show,
Virginia Beach Convention Center
Mon, Feb 16th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk
Tue, Feb 24th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

Use our forecasts and real-time "nowcasts" of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms, waves and other environmental factors within the Chesapeake Bay to help plan your fishing! Based on observations and computer models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and partners, these tools accurately predict the current status of important environmental variables and how they are likely to change in the short-term. Check out this free resource to have a more productive day on the water!



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

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (8) Bill Seemueller (1)	Red Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Largemouth Bass	Bill Seemueller (3) Mike Rheinhart (11)	Black Drum	Henry Troutner (3) John Curry (1) George Langdon (1) Mary Troutner (1)
Chain Pickerel	Bill Seemueller (1) Henry Troutner (1)	Sheepshead	Henry Troutner (2) Alex Perez, Sr. (1)
Gar	Bill Seemueller (1)	Wahoo	Greg Rogers (1)
White Perch	Bill Seemueller (5)	Blueline Tilefish	Mike Hubert (3)
Yellow Perch	Bill Seemueller (3)	Flounder	Bert Sainz (2)
Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation work or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry must be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower via il to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com		Triggerfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
		Golden Tilefish	Wes Waters (1)
		Speckled Trout	Will Bransom (1) Bert Sainz (1) Chris Harris (1)
		Rockfish	Henry Troutner (2) George Langdon (1)

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form must be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament March - December 2026

Revised Tournament Dates for 2026

- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from March 1st until December 31st
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- Total Length Tournament Only
- \$10 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- Winner determined by: 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$50 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$25 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)

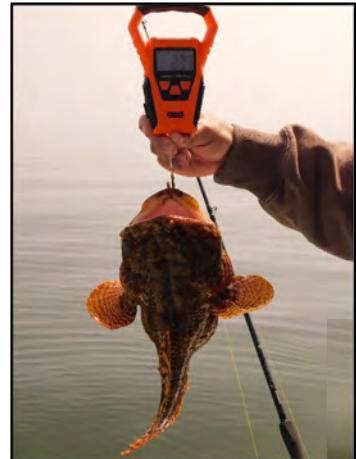


Club Members Tournament for 2025

Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026
- 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, 2026 and December 31, 2026
- Awards determined by:
 1. Total Weight
 2. Date of catch
 3. Date of entry submission
- 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 to 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

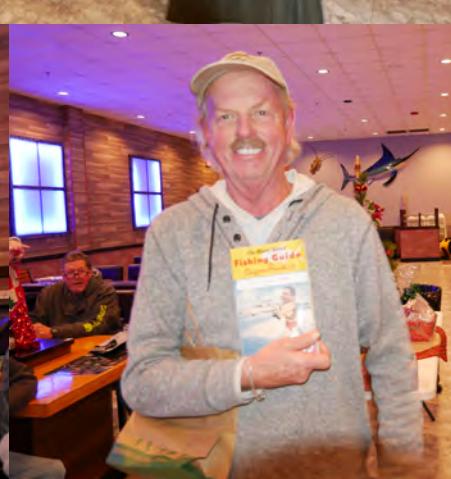
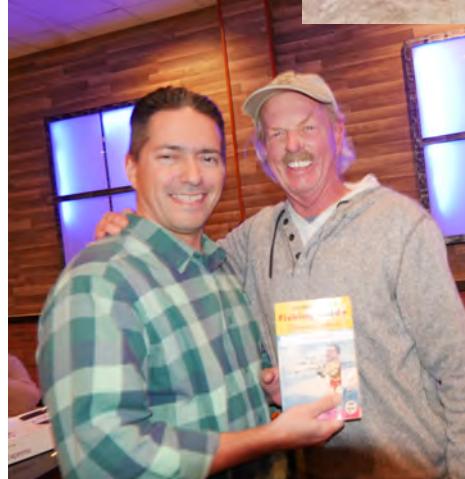
Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr.
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)



Norfolk Anglers Club

Holiday Party







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We our Volunteers

Do you practice careful catch and release fishing and have great fish handling skills? Do you want to share data to help us learn more about our recreational species and improve your fishing? JOIN US!

The [Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program \(VGFTP\)](#) has been a cooperative project of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) since 1995. We train experienced recreational anglers who volunteer their time to tag and release fishes and share data with fishery managers. We tag black drum, black sea bass, cobia, summer flounder, red drum, sheepshead, spadefish, speckled trout, tautog and grey triggerfish. Interested in learning more? Visit www.vims.edu/vgftp/. Interested in joining the waitlist for our next class of volunteers? Send an email with your name, mailing address, email and phone number to :

susanna@vims.edu



4 DEC: Got into some nice pups last night in Broad Bay right outside Mill Dam Creek. Cut mullet right after sunset. Some big bruisers still swimming around even with the water at 47°.
- Andy Reid



13 DEC: Took an 8 hour walk-on charter with Havoc Charters out of Deltaville, VA. Trolled lures at different depths while looking for bait schools. At one point we had 4 rods hooked up, including the double catch pictured. Largest for the day was a 45" release.

- Steve Ludwig



20 DEC: Those who know Jere Humphrey know of his angling expertise catching tautogs, sheepshead, and triggerfish (all species really) on the CBBT and inshore wrecks swinging a wreck anchor. Simply stated, Jere is one of the best anglers I know targeting these fish. Now, with his recently installed Rhodan 24V trolling motor on his Mako he's really upped his game! Well Done Jere!

- Will Bransom



28 DEC: Dave Steele and I took the Sea Pro into Pretty Lake to troll with the Rhodan for some speckled trout and stripers.

A side task was to evaluate and learn the 36v Rhodan trolling motor and battery usage and characteristics with the newly installed gateway. Other than getting on the water and having a good time fishing, the Rhodan was the only successful part of the day. On our previous trip the Rhodan tripped the breaker, I thought it was because it took 94% power to buck the 25 knot wind screaming down Pretty Lake.

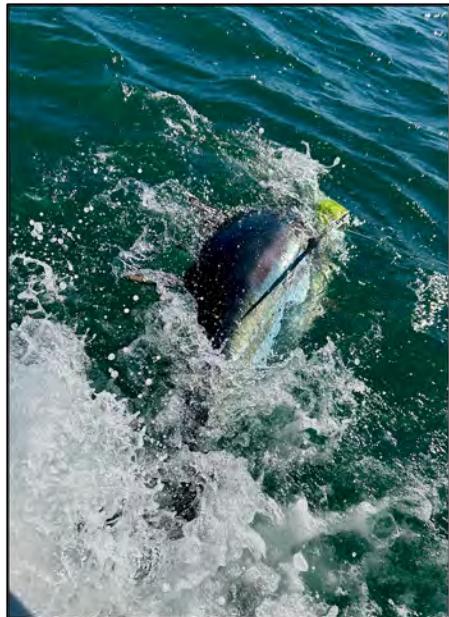
We got to the boat at 9AM. It was cold and overcast. I didn't check the current predictions and we had slack or slow moving water until about 1130 (about the time we quit for the day) due to boredom and getting too cold to use our hands.

The Rhodan performed well all day and the gateway had good information on the MFD which was unavailable before its installation. We trolled for about 3 hours at about 37% power but I don't know the speed (My NAVONICS subscription hasn't been updated on the AXIOM) we only used 15% of the battery charge. I was very happy with the battery and gateway.

- Mike Hubert



20 DEC: With lots of Bluefin Tuna being reported just off the oceanfront we departed the Lafayette River on a chilly Saturday morning with Luke Turk & Harrison Chaires aboard. The recreational season is closed but catching and releasing one of these magnificent fish is too good to pass up. We headed to an area around the Chesapeake



Light Tower about 10 nm offshore. Our trolling spread included lines rigged to #12 planers off the stern with pink and green MoJo lures with Nomad DTX lures and ballyhoo rigged off the outriggers.

We didn't see much bird action but marked quite a few schools of fish. The first strike was on the green MoJo lure and resulted in an approximate 72" 200# bluefin tuna alongside the boat before it was safely released. The second strike was a hit and a miss, most likely by a migrating rockfish.

We'll be back out after the New Year when the recreational season opens back up!

- Mike Davis & Mike Burton



20 DEC: I fished Saint Julian Creek on the Elizabeth River for a couple of hours at the end of the outgoing tide. Casting a chartreuse Paul Brown Fat Boy lure, I caught a 22 inch Speckled Trout, a 19 inch Red Drum, and pulled off another three mystery fish. As usual, I fished the creek for almost four hours and had all the action in a 25 minute window. Both fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP).



- Alex Perez



18 DEC: Keith Kaufman, his son, Cody and Cody's girlfriend Jayde are experienced Stripper fisherman and old friends from my life in PA. With perfect weather forecasted they invited me to troll live eels on the bay for Striped Bass. We met at Morley's Wharf Ramp on the Onancock Creek on the Eastern Shore. A short run, WSW, out of the creek we hit 40 ft. Cody put out a spread of 6 rods with planner boards and 1 center shot on a large trip float. The eels we used were huge by my standards, 18+". We were trolling between 1 and 1.5 MPHs across the current using a "Sea Anchor" on each side of the boat to slow us down. Wasn't long and we hooked up. They insisted I get the first fish, a 45"er photographed & released. From that point on we had a steady bite resulting in 9 knock down, 6 Stripers boated & released 45" to 48", and 3 that got off (one at the boat ready to be netted). Since we were taking turns Keith & I each got to catch 2 fish. We fished water 40' to 60' and the temperature was 40* to 42*. We might have caught more fish if Keith & I weren't reminiscing old times all day.

- Henry Troutner





28 DEC: Today looked like the only fishable day before 2026 so Mary, John Curry, George Langdon & I took the Shamrock to the "Surry Discharge" to wet our lines. The discharge is a good place to fish since the water is usually pretty warm all winter. Apparently the reactor was down or some other SNAFU and the water was the same as the rest of the James, 42*. We fished for about 3 hours with a dozen other boats. Mary caught 4 Catfish and a Speck, George caught a Catfish, and John & I got skunked. We saw a couple other boats catch a very few Specks. - Henry Troutner



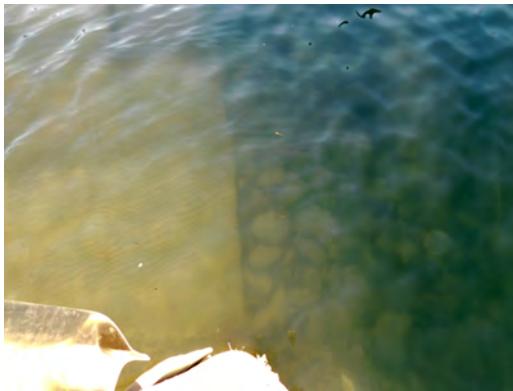
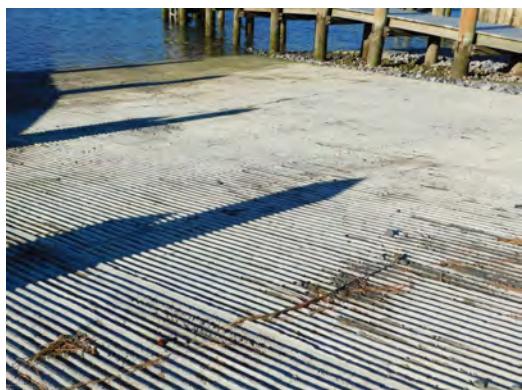
Angler Interests

Owls Creek (Rudee Inlet) Public Boat Ramp Update

Construction has finished at the Owls Creek boat ramp and there are few concerns and observations to share with our readership. The primary concern is the shortened length of the boat ramps. While the grooved surface is a welcome feature the shortened length of the ramps are of great concern. Previous ramps according to a City Engineer were 90' in length and the current length is 71' which doesn't extend past the piers. The contractor did place "End of Ramp" signs to caution boaters. Boaters should exercise caution when launching their boats especially at low tide. The contractor placed "rip rap" stone beyond the ramp to lessen the drop off and prevent prop washout. They also placed rock along the sides of the ramps where the cofferdams were removed but this presents another

challenge in positioning a trailer close to the pier. Some of these issues the city can mitigate quickly, the bigger issue of ramp length is a more challenging and longer term fix.

So, if you're down at the ramp and another angler is using the ramp, become a safety observer and don't let someone drop their trailer wheels off the ramp. We can look out for each other until some of this gets fixed.



73RD ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC SPORTS AND **BOAT SHOW**

JANUARY 30 –
FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Virginia Beach
Convention Center

The Mid-Atlantic Boat Show brings together leading boat dealers & marine vendors from all over the region for a can't-miss showcase.

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