

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JULY 2020

What's Inside

Regular Meeting for July is cancelled Everyone stay healthy and safe!

***Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Project Update

Fishing Reports:

- Chesapeake Bay; Cobia, Red Drum
- CBBT; Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel, Spadefish
- Inshore; Grey Trout, Black Sea Bass
- Offshore/Norfolk Canyon; Blueline and Golden Tilefish, Shark, Black Belly Rosefish, Hake
- James River; Rockfish
- Ocean Front; Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel
- Little Creek; Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

We've decided to delay our next meeting to August 10th. Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill is expected to reopen during Phase III, which begins on July 1st. We believe it would be prudent to delay for another month as businesses and the community work through this next phase of the COVID-19 issue. Until we can get together please be safe, take care of your family and each other. I look forward when we can all get together again in fellowship and talk about fishing.

If you've had an opportunity to venture out on the water, we've been getting lots of reports of Cobia in the bay. Check out Capt Austin Hayne's FINAO Sportfishing on Facebook. Austin's been consistently sight casting on cobia. I recently spoken to an angler who returned from a late afternoon/evening Spadefish trip at the Chesapeake Light Tower. Judging from the quantity and quality of their catch they had a good run.

- Will



On the Cover: The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Project. Dominion Energy recently completed construction of the two 6-megawatt wind turbines located 27 nautical miles off Virginia Beach. This edition of the *Wireline* features information on how these wind turbines were erected.

Photo was taken by Captain Will Bransom on June 26, 2020 of the wind turbines and support vessel *Vole Au Vent*.

Meeting

Our next Club meeting is scheduled for *August 10th*

**Important:
July NAC Meeting has been
cancelled!**

Publishers NOTES

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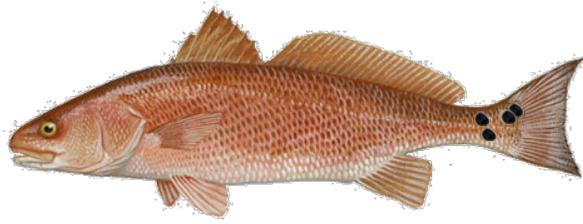
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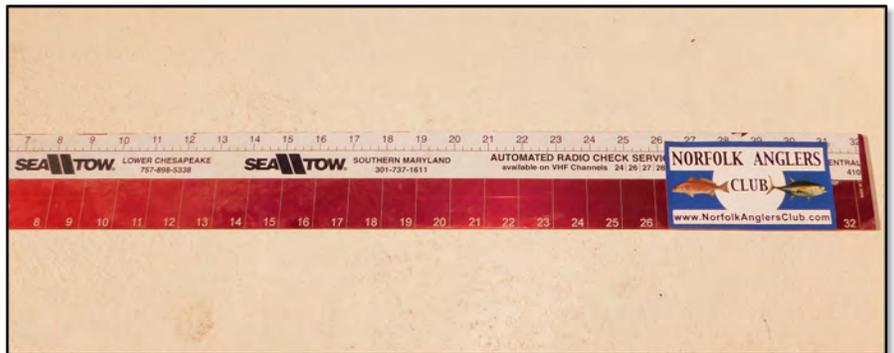


Norfolk Anglers Club - Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between March 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020
- 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 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler and presented at the Club Holiday Party in December

***Entries received as of June 30, 2020; Bert Sainz (2)



Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries January 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)	Shark	Greg Rogers (1)
	James Eisenhower (1)		
Largemouth Bass	James Eisenhower (1)	Blueline Tilefish	James Eisenhower (2)
	Russel Willoughby (1)		
Crappie	James Eisenhower (3)		

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form may be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower at the regular meetings or send via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW)

Project Update

Originally published in the December 2018 Wireline newsletter and with the project moving ahead on schedule and with construction completion planned for later this year, we're including our CVOW Project Update in this edition. With construction continuing anglers are reminded to maintain a safe distance from the wind generation towers and support vessels.

November 12, 2018: The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project is an important first phase in development of offshore wind energy in Virginia. The project calls for the development of two 6-megawatt wind turbine generators on a 2,135 acre site leased by the Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy for wind energy research. The planned site is located approximately 24 nautical miles off the Virginia Coast just west of the Triangle Artificial Reef area. It's the first offshore wind energy project planned for U.S. Federal waters and builds on the experience gained from Rhode Island's Block Island Wind Farm constructed in 2016 in State waters. There's a much larger Commercial Lease Area adjacent to the CVOW area which is on a separate development timeline.

The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project began more than five years ago under the Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Assessment Project (VOWTAP). The work of the VOWTAP in assessing the ocean's sea floor composition and suitability, conducting hurricane and breaking wave studies, and assessing the wind energy potential laid the ground work for the CVOW project.

Dominion Energy has partnered with Ørsted from Denmark, a global leader in developing and building offshore wind energy projects. The estimated \$300 million project is funded by Dominion Energy's existing base rates. The CVOW project provides critical operational data, assessment of weather and other environmental conditions in the mid-Atlantic region for further development of offshore wind projects in the United States. The two wind turbines scheduled to be commissioned in the summer or fall of 2020 will produce up to 12 megawatts of renewable energy and serve nearly 3,000 customers.

Fishing new structure - unplanned benefit to anglers

The sea bed off the Virginia coast is a gentle sloping sand bed all the way to the continental shelf some 75-80 nautical miles off the coast. With an occasional bed of broken shell or gravel far off shore, shipwrecks, and artificial reefs, there's few fish attracting structures. As experienced in the northeast wind farm, the addition of the wind turbine structures had an improvement on fishing conditions according to most angler focused articles reviewed. Face it, while not a planned benefit of the wind energy project, placing a 26' diameter structure with 40' of large rock around its base, it's going to become a fish aggregating device and a good thing for anglers. Though restrictions on fishing in and around the turbines have NOT been established for the CVOW project, currently the existing wind farm off Block Island has NO restrictions to fishing around the structure. Mooring or tying up to the structure, as expected, is not permitted.

Close enough to see?

Even though the top of the turbine blades may reach as high as 620 feet from the ocean surface at the planned 24 nautical mile distance offshore, it's not likely you'll see the turbines from the shore.



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Project Schedule

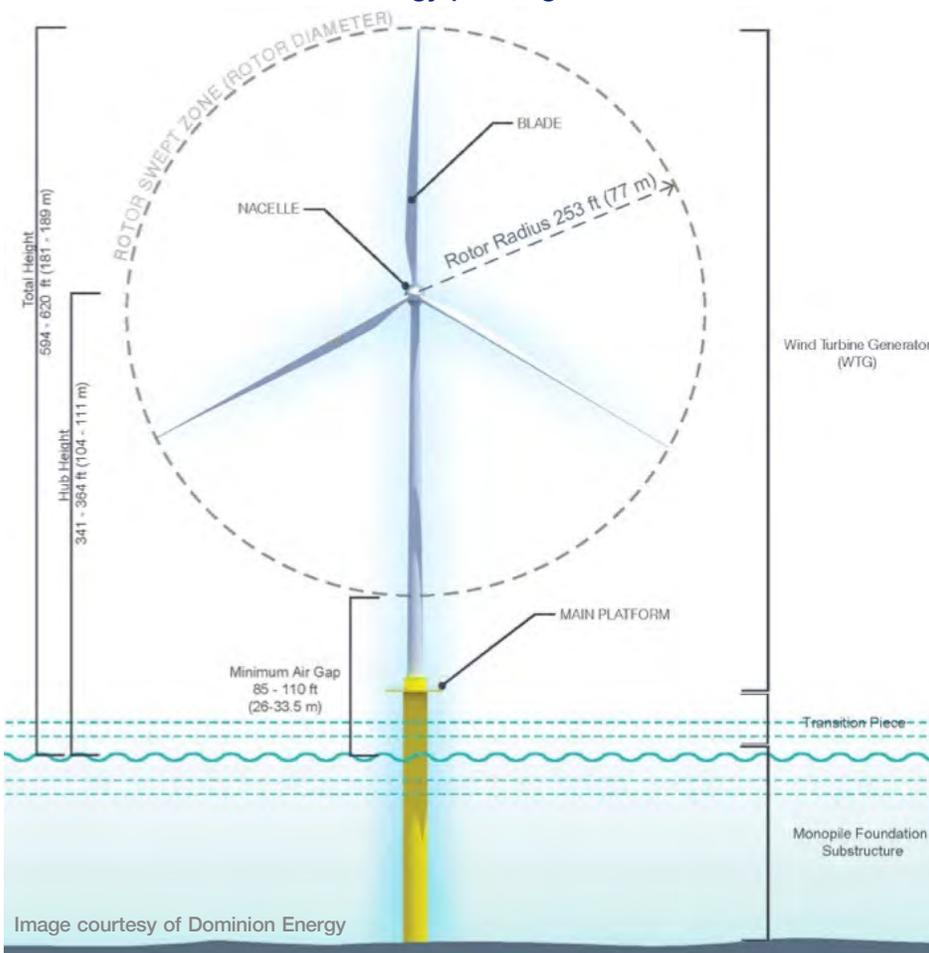
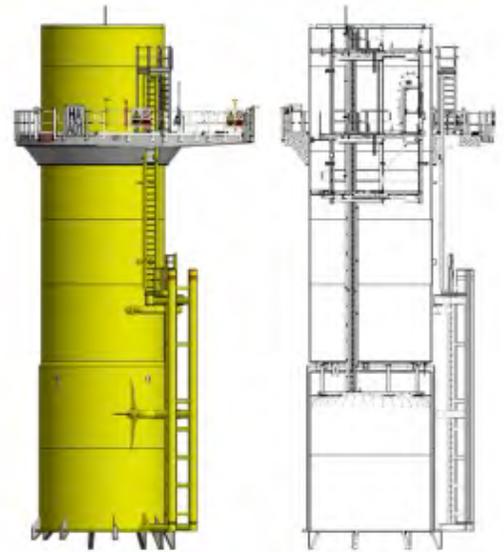
- ✓ Jan-Jun 2019 - Unexploded Ordnance Identification and mitigation (if required)
- ✓ Spring 2020 - On-Shore Construction
- ✓ Summer 2010 - Off-Shore Construction
- Summer/Fall 2010 - Commissioning and start commercial operations

Construction

Unlike construction of the Block Island Wind Farm, which used a four-pile jacket foundation to support the mid-section transition piece, CVOW construction involves driving a single 26.2 foot diameter monopile into the sea bed to support the transition piece (yellow mid-section) for each wind turbine. Monopile installation is projected to reduce installation times common with other methods taking a week to less than a single day for the monopile, thereby minimizing potential impacts to the marine environment. In addition to dramatically reducing installation times, the use of a bubble curtain reduces the transmission of sound during monopile installation. Once the monopile is driven into the sea bed large stone is added to a 40' radius for scour protection. The power export cable measures approximately 5" in diameter and is planned to be buried to a target depth of 6' beneath the sea bed. Energy generated by the project will come ashore just south of Rudee Inlet at Camp Pendleton and connect to the Dominion Energy power grid.



Image courtesy of Ørsted



Fishing Reports...



20 June: Mike Burton and I went in search of the elusive cobia about a mile off Grandview Beach early in the day. We were joined by about ten boats, all chum fishing and using both cut bait and live eels. We caught a pair of cobia, but both were shorties at 27 and 38 inches. The other good news is that there were zero sharks off Grandview, so we were not bait-limited at the end of the day. We were however weather limited as a we didn't get back before the strong thunderstorm rolled in. Fortunately, we were well protected from the weather we saw in the 30' Grady cabin.

27 June: The following Saturday, I was again joined by Mike Burton and this time George Grinnan. We followed the advice of an accomplished fishing friend and headed toward Cape Charles after

cobia. We had only just set up our chum when we hooked and caught a 42" inch cobia, our first keeper of the season. In spite of great weather and promising waters, we and the 40 or so other boats around us (with few exceptions) couldn't shake the small sand sharks that then proceeded to destroy our rigs and eels for the next several hours. Social distancing even on the boat, you can see Mike Burton and me with the one keeper cobia we did catch in the accompanying photo. - Mike Davis

TIP

I wanted to share a tip I have on cleaning up after a fishing trip.

Tony DeGuillan "The Saltwater Pro" shared this and I constructed one for myself.

This is a great way to clean our saltwater tackle and allow it to dry after wash down. It took only about an hour to make this after assembling the materials.

Make sure to drill holes in the underside to allow for water to drain out.

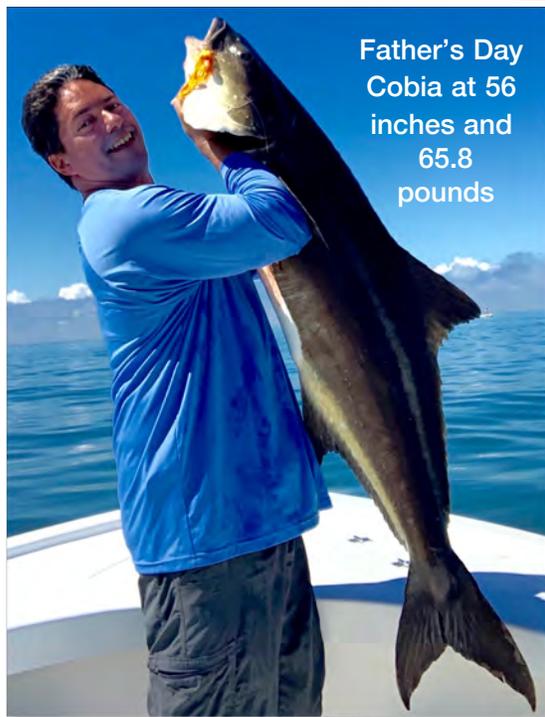
- Jackson B. Salvant Jr.,
M.D., F.A.A.N.S., F.A.C.S.



30 May: My buddy, Troy had friends visiting from Michigan. We planned to drum fish Nautilus Shoal in the evening but headed out a little early to try for sea bass on the Anglo. Arriving at the wreck, I could not believe the amount of fish on the sounder but when we started fishing they were not sea bass but grey trout. We had a fish every drop, some doubles, but they were all about 10 inches. At 5:30 pm we moved to the shoal and anchored up just as the tide headed out. Weather was beautiful and seas were calm. Perfect conditions, hoped I brought enough crabs for all the drum we were going to catch.

Over the past 5 years I've caught my share of big red drum here but only one ray. This evening we fished until 10:00 pm and caught 3 big cow nose rays. We only hooked one red which broke off.

- Henry Troutner



Father's Day
Cobia at 56
inches and
65.8
pounds

21 June: For Father's Day, AJ didn't feel like going with me so I ventured out solo to Baltimore Channel. My goal was to see if I could find something to bring home for the afternoon grill. I arrived at the CY buoy and worked my way to the East, towards the third island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT). It was slowly cruising along, sight fishing, and the quantity of boats now around me had the fish I was seeing very skittish. I decided to slow down to a crawl and with the incoming tide. I encountered a pair of Cobia swimming right at me. I was able to land a two ounce bucktail jig in front of the larger fish, which fortunately ate it. After an exciting 25 minute fight, I landed the fish and headed back to the ramp. Later I found out, AJ surprised me with a Father's Day present he had prepared, which is why he didn't "want" to go with me. **AJ and that fish made my day!!**

22 June: The Markham family joined me for fishing at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) for a few hours. We trolled Clark Spoons along the up current side of the bridge while keeping an eye out on any Spadefish on the bridge pilings. The water quality wasn't the greatest (most likely from the recent rainfall) but we were able to find one small Bluefish and six Spanish Mackerel. We then opted to go sight fishing for cobia behind the third island and only saw two very uninterested fish. The wind picked up out of the Southeast and we decided to head in for the day. - Alex Perez Sr.



Nicholas with his
lucky hat and a
lucky Spanish
Mackerel

10 June: Norfolk Anglers Greg Rogers Mike Hubert, Allen Holton, and Andy Potvin and I headed offshore to the Norfolk Canyon for a deep drop trip. We made a quick run out to the Ocean Venture to try our luck with an early season Sea Bass bite however, as we learned from another boat working the wreck, Sea Bass weren't biting today. We fished the wreck and found conditions exactly as they described and soon moved on. We set up in a Blueline Tilefish spot and were again faced with fish that weren't biting. We boated a nice class of Bluelines but it was painfully slow. Off to deeper water and the Golden Tilefish grounds. Fishing with cut squid and boston mackerel we cranked on the Golden. Allen was the first to land both Blueline and Golden Tilefish on the boat. Mike brought in some double Golden, and Greg hooked into a 90" Hammerhead Shark for a Virginia Game Fish Tournament Release Citation.

We observed large pods of Pilot Whales in the distance and decided to switch over to a tuna trolling spread for an hour or so. We rigged up the ballyhoo and put out an eight line spread and worked the contours and undersea mounts in the area. We had three strikes on the short outrigger baits but none hooked up.

We dropped back on the Golden Tilefish and fished until our planned departure time. While seas were calm most of the day, passing the Triangle Reef on the return trip we found a choppy ride for the remaining trip into Rudee Inlet. We had a great day on the water and returned with a fish box full of tilefish.

- Will Bransom





4 June: Mary, John Curry and I fished with George Langdon on his 21 inch CC at the James River Bridge.

We arrived at a slack current and had about an hour before the current and bite picked up. We were trolling Stretches and double 4-1 ounce jigs with 6-4" paddle tails.

As usually Mary caught most of the fish, landing 5 including two 22" keepers. I was using the double jig for a while and caught two at once, a 22" and 19" short. I thought I had a really big one. George lost a really nice fish that threw the hook. John says he just doesn't understand it.

Mary fished the exact same lure trolled right next to his and he did not have a strike.

The fishing gods just smile on her!

- Henry Troutner



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26 June: We headed offshore to the Norfolk Canyon with the intention of trolling for tuna and deep drop fishing. The trip was quick and we set up for tuna trolling eight lines. We worked in with the other boats and trolled the usual contours without much success before switching over to deep dropping. Targeting Golden Tilefish, we set up our drifts in 500 feet and drifted toward deep water. Almost immediately, we were hooking up on a nice class of tilefish on cut squid bait. We moved from one Golden Tilefish area to another during the day. During our time trolling I noticed a few areas on the fish finder that looked very nice with fish stacked up on the bottom. At the end of the day we dropped on those locations and were rewarded with some very nice Blueline Tilefish. We headed back to Rudee, stopping at the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project area for photos. All the filleted tilefish carcasses were donated to the Virginia Marine Sport Fish Collection Project.

Along for the day was Mike Hubert, Greg Rogers, Angela Adams, and Bill Gray.

- Will Bransom

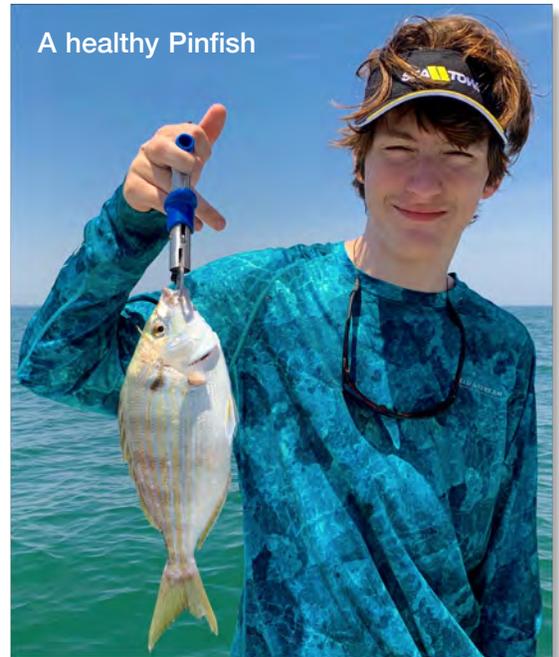




4 June: AJ and I fished out of Rudee Inlet cruising south working our way to Sandbridge in search of Red Drum or Cobia.

While sight-fishing, we immediately saw two smaller Cobia but they were in a rush to get where they were going. AJ climbed out of the tower and got to work on trolling spoons for Spanish Mackerel.

◀ AJ doing school work while looking for the other kind of "school!"



A healthy Pinfish



37 inch Cobia, tagged and released

We limited our normal trolling spread to only one #00 Drone spoon on a 4 ounce inline sinker. We kept to only one line in the event we had to spin the boat quickly upon sighting a fish to cast to. Once reaching Dam Neck, AJ started to catch Spanish and Bluefish on the spoon in 25-30 foot of water with steady action all the way to Little Island Pier. Slightly South of the pier, I spotted a trio of Cobia that had one fish hungry enough to eat the bucktail I presented to it. I passed the rod to AJ as I climbed down to clear our trolling spoon.



Spanish Mackerel



Bluefish!



After a brief fight, the 37 inch Cobia was tagged and released. Having a few clams on board, we decided to run out to the Kingston Ceylonite wreck where we caught a dozen Black Sea Bass, Pigfish, and a large Pinfish.

We did see a small school of Spadefish circling us but they weren't interested in what we had to offer.

- Alex Perez Sr.

◀ A pretty Black Sea Bass!



11 June: I fished with Doug Wilburn at the Little Creek jetty on a nice morning. We ended up with 5 puppy drum 1 keeper, a speckled trout and a round head. They were all caught on 4 inch green gulps.
- Louis Glaser



23 June: After 5 Cow Nose Rays and 1 Eastern Ray, I hooked a Cobia at Least 60 inches long. I fought it for a while, trying to gaff it, I lost it. I was *REALLY* ticked off. The line broke after getting it tangled in the gaff. I rerigged the Pole, set it out underneath my Chum Pot and 5 minutes later a cobia showed up. I was more successful in getting this 48 inch fish in the Boat. No fun fishing alone.



- Jerry Hughes

Week of June 14, 2020: Our daughter, Jess, son-in-law, Tim, and grand-daughter, Blake were here for the week. We took Blake to the boat one rainy day to crab and fish. She had a great time catching spot, croaker, and small crabs from the dock. A couple days later, with the sun out we headed to the 3rd island for spadefish. Tim caught one before Jess got sick. She was throwing up pretty good so we came in. Tim and I fished one afternoon for drum on the Pagan River where Tim lost the only hook up. They all left Sunday after which Mary and I tried the Pagan again for drum. This time I hooked one in the exact same spot Tim had lost his and like wise this one got off.

- Henry Troutner



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26 June: Kelly Hoggard arranged a deep drop trip with Captain Stan Gold. Dave Anderson, Brian Watkins and I were invited. We headed out of Morningstar Marina (formerly Vinings Landing) at 5:30 am with beautiful calm seas. Managed to go right past the new twin towers that are about half constructed though we were going 30 knots to fast to take a picture. We started fishing about 7:30 am and within five minutes I had the first blue line tilefish in the boat. Decent size fish but the second one five minutes later was a 12 lb 6 oz citation. With frequent repositioning in about 350 feet fishing for an hour and a half we had our full boat limit.

Outstanding catches involved with Kelly catching two blue line tilefish citations; one was 12 pound 4 oz and the other was 13 lbs.



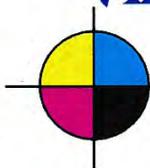
Then we started looking for golden tilefish in much deeper water. All of our tackle, rods, and bait was of course provided by Captain Stan. Bait was large squid, cut mackerel and false albacore. Kelly hooked the first golden, a small one followed quickly with a much bigger one, actually the biggest at 18 lbs. We kept at it for another couple of hours ending up with 8 golden's, three black belly rose fish and two red hakes. While I got my limit of blue line tilefish, I just couldn't seem to hook a golden. Just a couple of the rosies. The weather stayed overcast but calm most of the day.

Heading back, we went through a patch of fog which is always a blood pressure rising experience. Overall outstanding day of fishing.
- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



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13 June: I had planned to go offshore fishing, but the weather forecast worsened and I decided to try fishing the Bay.

We left Hampton at a little after 6:00 am and the Bay was very rough with some 5 foot waves and winds 20 mph but we made it across and anchored on Latimer Shoals. We set up a chum slick and drifted back live eels and had great success with 4 cobia hooked plus 2 sharks and a skate. Two larger cobia broke off by wrapping around various parts of the boat. We landed 2 cobia and kept one.

27 June: I went cobia fishing with my daughter Emily. We fished at Latimer shoals chumming and caught one shark and one 35 inch cobia we released. It was her first cobia!

- Jackson B. Salvant Jr.,
M.D., F.A.A.N.S., F.A.C.S.



20 June: I fished with Burt Whitt in the morning targeting puppy drum at the Little Creek Jetty. We ended up with 2 using a quarter oz. Jig with a 4" gulp (swimming mullet chartreuse).

24 June: I fished in the morning with Douglas Wilburn in Little Creek going for puppy drum. We ended up catching 5 of which 2 were keepers. We used gotcha lures and 4" swimming mullet by gulp.

- Louis Glaser





8 June: I fished with Lisa and Jamie Paxton who were celebrating their wedding anniversary with a day on the water. We ran over to the Baltimore Channel and started trolling #00 Drone spoons for Spanish Mackerel. We immediately caught one at 20 inches and a Bluefish which we released. As the sun got higher in the day, I'm climbed in the half tower, looking for Cobia. I wasn't up there more than ten minutes when we hooked up with one of a pair that was swimming along. A few minutes later, Lisa had brought the 42 inch Cobia to the boat. The fish was caught on a 2 ounce bucktail jig. We ended up seeing six more fish that had no interest in eating.

← First fish of the day, Spanish Mackerel.

Jamie's 46 inch release Citation Red Drum →



← Lisa's Cobia, Jamie helping out.

On our way back to the dock, we came across a large school of Red Drum swimming at the surface. For the next hour, using bucktails and live eels, Jamie and Lisa battled with six Red Drum from 44 to 52 inches. Two qualified for release citations. Each Drum were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez Sr.



Lisa's 44 inch Red Drum

Another 44 inch for Jamie and Lisa's 52 inch Citation Red →



