



# THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

JUN 2016



## What's INSIDE



- Guest Speaker: ✱ Cobia fishing with Capt Chris Demasi, Rodfather Sportfishing
  - ✱ Mr Joe Rieger, Elizabeth River Project, an update on the Puppy Drum and Speckled Trout PCB Study
- Fishing Tips: Drum Fishing with Capt Austin Hayne, FINAO Sportfishing
- Fishing Reports:
  - Flounder fishing in Lynnhaven
  - Lake Prince fishing for Shellcracker Sunfish and Catfish
  - Black Sea Bass at the Triangle Reef
  - Drum fishing on the Eastern Shore shoals
  - Flounder fishing off Ocean View
- Angler Interests:
  - New Cobia Regulations for Virginia

JUN 13th meeting  
&  
at Teppanyaki Buffet  
Grill

# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

CONGRATULATIONS! to our Hunt for the Hardheads Fishing Team, (photo featured on the Wireline cover). They fished against the other southside fishing clubs scoring points with their Croaker and Bluefish catch and placing second for the Club. Well Done!

Remember we are always collecting non-perishable food items for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Please think about those who would benefit from your generosity and bring along a few canned or boxed items for the Foodbank. Thanks to the coordination and help of Norfolk Angler member Gary Waddell, in late April we delivered nearly an entire truck bed of items to the Foodbank.

*Will*

## MEETING

### Guest Speaker:

Capt Chris Demasi, with Rodfather Sportfishing will be joining us to share his Charter Captain expertise fishing for Cobia in and around the Bay. There's been lots of regulatory action regarding cobia in the last few months, including new regulations for our waters, and a prohibition on gaffing cobia.

Mr Joe Rieger, Elizabeth River Project's Director of Restoration will provide the results for the Red Drum and Speckled Trout PCB study in the Elizabeth River. The Elizabeth River Project's many programs to restore the Elizabeth River are making an amazing impact. One of their latest projects is the evaluation of PCBs in Puppy Drum and Speckled Trout



## Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, June 13th at 7pm

## Location:

[Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill](#)

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

## Publishers NOTES

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# Thank You!

## USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9

The Norfolk Anglers Club would like to Thank the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 5-9, for supporting our club and local anglers with Safe Boating Courses and Vessel Safety Checks. USCG Auxiliary members from Smithfield, Virginia traveled to Virginia Beach on May 7th to provide trailered boats an opportunity to get their VSC completed. Then again on May 24th and 25th they conducted a Safe Boating Course in Norfolk for our local anglers. Well Done! Flotilla 5-9





# Members 5-Fish Tournament

## Saturday, June 18, 2016

Where: Bay Point Marina (Little Creek)

When: Fish Measuring Noon-1:00pm Picnic starts at 1:00pm

### Rules:

- Must be a NAC Member
- Recreational Hook & Line regulations apply
- May enter up to 3 Fish for each category caught June 18th
- 5 Categories: Bluefish, Croaker, Flounder, Spadefish, and Spot
- Measured by LENGTH only

Awards: 1st and 2nd Place for each category get a \$50 (1st) & \$25 (2nd) Gift Card

Entry: \$10 per Adult

Sign up at the June 13th Club Meeting



Attention Club Members!

We've revised the Club's Prize Fish Tournament Rules to include Fresh Water Species and created our own Club catch and release standards.

Check out our Club Webpage at [www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com) for the revised standards and the Club Prize Fish Entry Form.

#### Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Tournament

##### Saltwater Species

Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament			Norfolk Anglers Club		
Species	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	
Amberjack	RELEASE	50"	RELEASE	38"	
Bigeye Tuna	70 lbs	n/a	53 lbs	n/a	
Black Drum	80 lbs	46"	60 lbs	35"	
Black Sea Bass	5 lbs	n/a	3 lbs 12 oz	n/a	
Bluefin Tuna*	100 lbs	60"	75 lbs	45"	
Bluefish	16 lbs	36"	12 lbs	27"	
Blueline Tilefish	10 lbs	n/a	7 lbs 8 oz	n/a	
Cobia	55 lbs	50"	42 lbs	38"	
Croaker	3 lbs	20"	2 lbs 4 oz	15"	
Dolphin	25 lbs	n/a	19 lbs	n/a	
Flounder	6 lbs	26"	4 lbs 8 oz	20"	
Golden Tilefish	30 lbs	n/a	23 lbs	n/a	
Gray Triggerfish	4 lbs	20"	3 lbs	15"	
Gray Trout	9 lbs	30"	7 lbs	23"	
Jack Crevalle	RELEASE	40"	RELEASE	30"	

#### Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Tournament

##### Freshwater Species

Virginia DGI/Trophy Size Fish			Norfolk Anglers Club		
Species	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	
Blue Catfish	30 lbs	38"	22 lbs 8 oz	29"	
Bowfin	10 lbs	30"	7 lbs 8 oz	23"	
Brook Trout	2 lbs	16"	1 lb 8 oz	12"	
Brown Torus	5 lbs	25"	3 lbs 12 oz	19"	
Carp	20 lbs	34"	15 lbs	26"	
Chain Pickerel	4 lbs	24"	3 lbs	18"	
Channel Catfish	12 lbs	30"	9 lbs	23"	
Croaker	2 lbs	15"	1 lb 8 oz	12"	
Flathead Catfish	25 lbs	40"	18 lbs 12 oz	30"	
Freshwater Drum	6 lbs	24"	4 lbs 8 oz	18"	
Gar	10 lbs	40"	7 lbs 8 oz	30"	
Hybrid Striped Bass**	8 lbs	24"	6 lbs	18"	
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs	22"	6 lbs	17"	
Muskellunge	15 lbs	40"	11 lbs 4 oz	30"	

#### Norfolk Anglers Club

##### Prize Fish Entry Form

Please fill out the following information. All weights must be on certified scales, witnessed, and caught using Hook & Line.

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Caught: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Lure or Bait: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_ lbs \_\_\_\_ oz Length: \_\_\_\_ inches

☐ Jr. Angler ☐ Adult Angler

☐ Fish Released \*\* ☐ Fish Tagged

Angler's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We certify that the information provided is correct.

Angler's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness/Weighmaster Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness/Weighmaster Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Anglers fishing alone must provide a clear, sideview photograph of the fish on a measuring device, which clearly shows the entire length of the fish.

Membership must be in good standing at the time of the catch to be eligible.

Please submit your Prize Fish Entry form to the Awards Director at any of the Norfolk Anglers Club regular meetings, or mail it to:  
Norfolk Anglers Club  
Awards Director  
P.O. Box 8422  
Norfolk, VA 23503-0422



### Finding Drum, Bottom and Sight Fishing

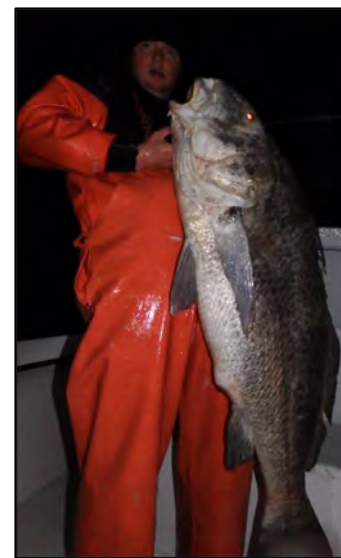
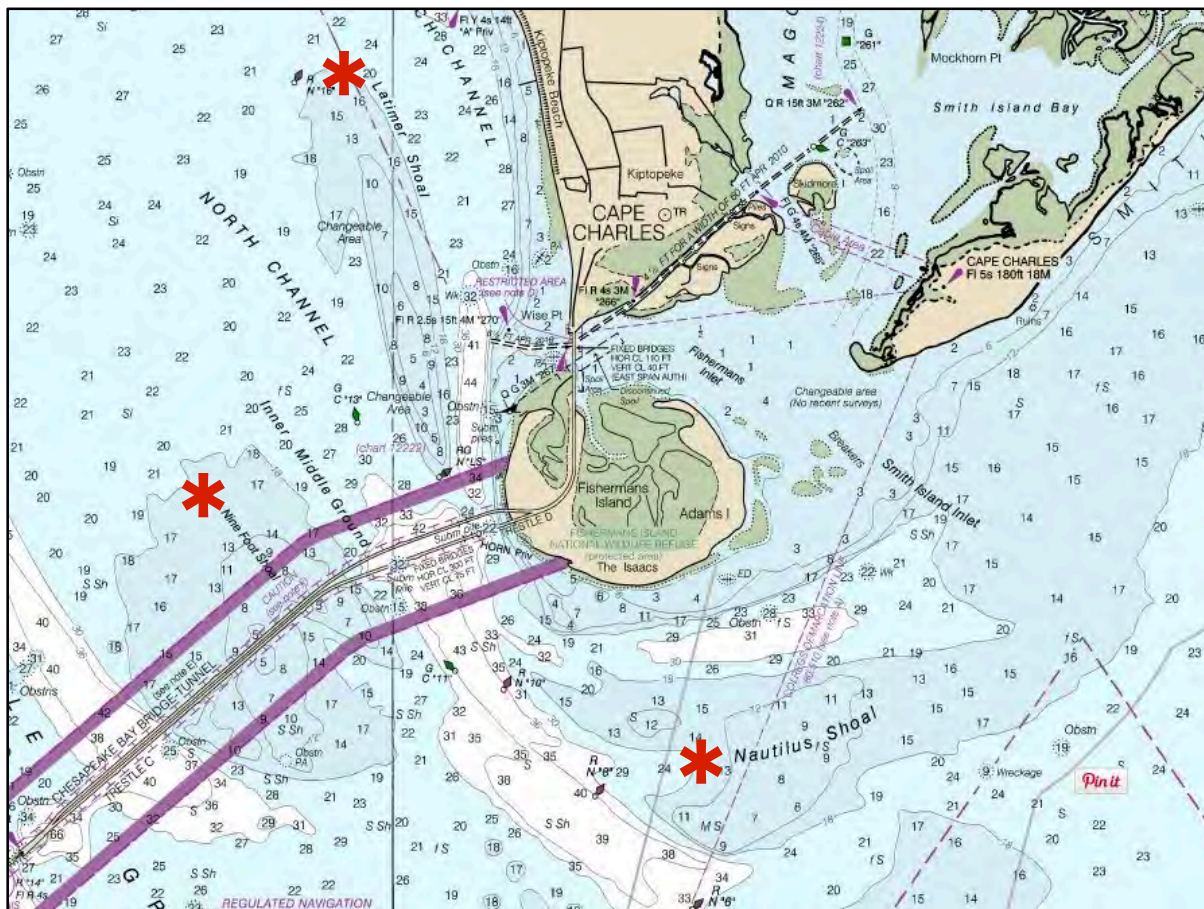
*Captain Austin Hayne, FINAO Sportfishing*

Spring and the Fall seasons offer the best Drum fishing in Virginia. Many anglers believe the blooming of the Dogwoods in Virginia signals the openings of Drum season. Captain Hayne with FINAO Sportfishing likes to bottom fish the Eastern Shore breakers early in the season using a variety of bait. Later in the season he'll move off the shoals and switch to sight fishing or bottom fishing around the CBBT.

**Bait Fishing - Where and When:** Early fishing off the Eastern Shore always brings success. Areas like Nautilus Shoals, Nine Foot Shoals and Latimer Shoals are the primary areas you'll find boats congregating for large Drum. Drum are looking to forage for food around the edges of the shoals while taking advantage of the warmer water coming off the shallows. Captain Hayne prefers fishing the outgoing tide along the edges of Nautilus Shoals between the 3rd week of May to mid-June to ensure constant Drum action. Later in June he advises the sharks and rays seem to move in the shoals and you're likely to deal with a lot more of that rather than Drum. He advises to be extremely cautious when maneuvering around shoal areas and arrive early enough in the afternoon to assess sea conditions before sunset. Use your chart plotter to plot your entrance and exit from the shoals and always practice safe boating.

Mid-season you'll find Captain Austin fishing the oceanside of the CBBT sight fishing or bottom fishing. Look for areas where rocks and other structure meet the sand and target those areas. Drum will be foraging along those

boundaries. Don't forget along the ocean front during the late season.





# Norfolk Anglers Club

[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

## Fishing Tips...

**FINAO's Bait Fishing Gear:** When fishing for Drum, Captain Hayne prefers an Offset 8/0 Gamakatsu Circle Hook snelled to an Ande 80-125# leader. His rigs are a standard Fish Finder Rig using an 8 ounce Pyramid sinker. Pyramid sinkers are necessary to hold bait placement and prevent your rig from rolling around the bottom and becoming hopelessly tangled. His main line is 65# yellow Power Pro and winds onto a Saltist 30 or AvetSX reel. You'll find a medium heavy rod is necessary fight big Drum. Another useful tool to handle big Drum is a Boga Grip or a Lip Gripping tool, especially when reviving them before release.

**Sight Casting - Where and When:** Early season Cape Henry and the Eastern Shore close to the shoreline are good areas to locate Red Drum. During the summer or late season look for fish marks on your fish finder around the CBBT. Have multiple rods ready to cast into a school of Drum. Both Red and Black Drum congregate in schools and the Red Drum will feed aggressively so casting multiple jigs into the school will provide good results. Approach a school from the rear maintaining a constant low engine rpm. Avoid shifting gears, even into neutral, as the noise will spook the school. If they do spook and descend, watch for them to reappear a distance away and retry your approach moving in the same direction as the school. Ideal conditions will have the sun at your back and a south or southwest wind. Make a note of the direction the school is heading as they'll likely continue the same direction. A school of Drum is often described as a large patch of brown water or sand until you get close enough to see the school fish.

**Sight Casting Gear:** Spinning Reels, like the Saltist Spinner 4000, are the primary method for sight casting Drum. Paired with a medium-heavy 7-9 ft rod, 50# Power Pro, and a 80# Ande Leader complete FINAO's gear. Captain Hayne uses a custom 2 ounce Buck Tail as many of the off-the-shelf jigs lack a strong enough hook to prevent straightening out the hook when fighting a large Drum. Jig color isn't that important as the Drum will hit just about anything put in front of them when they're schooling. What's important is that you can see the jig in the water and can keep working the jig in the top water column where the Drum are.





**Bottom Fishing Baits:** Just about any cut bait will work for bottom fishing Drum. In our Bay waters, Fresh Mullet, Fresh Menhaden and Spot work the best. It's important to remember FRESH is best. Female Blue Crab is another great bait for Drum.

**How to prepare your Crab for Bottom Fishing:** Captain Hayne advises Female Blue Crab works best for Drum fishing. You can easily pick out the female crabs as the tips of their claws are a red/orange color; male blue crabs have blue claws. Some anglers will use a whole crab when fishing for Drum, FINAO prefers to halve the crab. Captain Hayne tells us it seems to give off more scent in the water and it gives you twice as many baits.

The first step is to remove the claws (Photo 1). Just twist them off and discard. Now comes a decision, shell on or off? Captain Hayne prefers to remove the back shell as it's easier to cut the crab in half and place the hook. Leaving the shell on will prevent the bait from washing out especially if you're fishing in the turbulent water around the shoals. Either shell on or off works for drum fishing. To remove the shell, hold the lower portion of the crab in one hand and pull the top shell off (Photo 2). Next use shears to cut the crab down the middle (Photo 3). You'll now have two crab baits almost ready to fish (Photo 4).

Now take the 8/0 Gamakatsu Circle Hook and insert it through the rear paddle fin knuckle. This is the best location to minimize washout and the strongest location for the hook (Photo 5). If you decide to leave the shell on insert the hook from the underside and up through the hard shell (Photo 6).



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

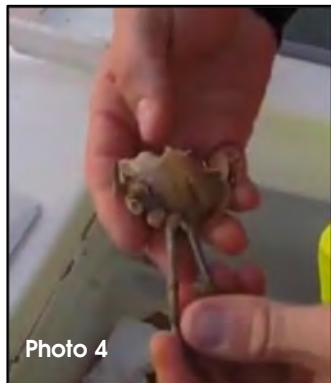


Photo 4

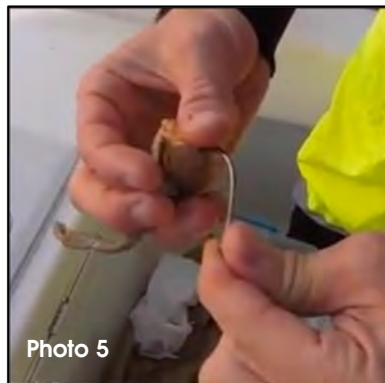


Photo 5



Photo 6

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# Fishing Reports...



11 May: Caught a nice Flounder Keeper in the Lynhaven. I used Minnows and strips. The Crabs ate me up. It was hard to keep a bait down without getting bit. At least the green slime and sea weed has thinned out. *Tough Fishing!*



31 May: Got one out of the muddy waters in Long Creek. The rain had it all stirred up. Another boat nearby had two baby Cobia bouncing bottom. - Jimmy Robinson



Mike's attempt at Alligator wrestling, from our trip to Florida last month. - Ned Smith



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# Fishing Lake Prince

16 May: Russell and I went fishing at Lake Prince looking for Shellcracker Sunfish that usually are biting good this time of year. It was a beautiful day with light NE winds. After setting up and beginning to fish with red wiggler worms on a jighead under bobbers my line went off. After a quick fight, I brought in a Shellcracker that weighed 1 lb. 5 oz. when weighed at Oceans East later in the day. This was my first citation Shellcracker ever and it ended up being the only Shellcracker that we caught all day. However after getting my line set up again in just a matter of minutes, I had what we figured was a large Catfish on the same ultralight rod with 6 lb. line. This Catfish was pulling hard and taking line fast so I couldn't add drag for fear of breaking him off. I kept the pressure on him and let him tire himself out. After about a 15 minute fight around the boat, I got him to the surface. It was a Blue Catfish that weighed about 10 lb. 13 oz. on my digital scale. That was exciting to say the least and the biggest fish I've ever caught on an ultralight spinning rod. From that point on, it continued to be a Catfish fishing trip as we ended up with Russell catching two flathead and one channel catfish about 1-2 lbs. each. I also caught a flathead. These flatheads were caught on minnows since they prefer live bait. All in all a good day on the water that gave us a good load of Catfish for eating later. - Dr. James W "Ike" Eisenhower



28 May: Unfortunately I don't have anything good to report this month but here you go. We made 3 trips to Latimer Shoals for Cobia but unfortunately the highlight of the month there was a 6 foot Hammerhead that we released boatside. On the 28th, we made an exploratory trip to the Anglo and found small Trout and Flounder mixed in with a few (barely) keepers. No luck there as well on the Cobia rods but at least saw a couple of undersized swim by the boat. - Mike Griffith

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17 May: Ike, Russell, John (CGAUX), Mary and I headed out for Sea Bass. I had been given some super secret numbers for a wreck north of the Triangles. It must have really been super secret 'cause even with the numbers we couldn't locate anything substantial. We then headed to the Triangles where we fished 3 or 4 wrecks and hit another one on the way in. Most of the day we had a slow but steady pick of fish, with some decent fish but no citations. About 3 PM, it started to rain pretty hard so we headed in about 3:45 PM. I had commercially fished for Sea Bass on Saturday and the fish were all in deep water wrecks, 180" and deeper. So I don't think they are loaded up on the inshore wrecks yet. - Henry Troutner




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# Cabo San Lucas



I had the family down/over to Cabo San Lucas in early May. The weather was perfect and we managed to get one day fishing on a charter boat. As usually happens during my vacations we were between the runs of various species. Stripe Marlin were slowing down and Sailfish hadn't started. We spent the day fishing for Stripe Marlin but only caught big Thresher Sharks. We did see 4 Marlin caught on boats around us. Although we did troll at the beginning and end of the day, most of the fishing was done drifting large live baits, usually 14 to 16 inch blue runners. One rod was rigged with mono leaders for marlin and the other with steel for sharks. Unfortunately we only got sharks. I was surprised to see the Marlin around us caught while drifting. Oh, water depth 3000 to 5000 feet, so we weren't fishing on the bottom. Coolest thing was while returning, *a large sea lion just jumped up on the swim platform and hung his head in the boat looking for snacks*. Scared the crap out of us the first time. Great vacation with the family. - Henry Troutner







### 26 May: *Lake Prince Cottonmouth Confrontation*

Went fishing with Russell Willoughby on Lake Prince. We were targeting Shellcrackers and Catfish with red wigglers and minnows but only were able to catch small bream: pumpkinseed and bluegills despite setting up in multiple places on the whole lake. At one place we unexpectedly anchored in a spot when a snake came near on the water near a steep clay bank. When he got about ten yards from us, he noticed us and came towards us with his head up from the water. That was when we stood up in the boat and noticed his triangular head which confirmed that we were facing a large cottonmouth moccasin (about 7 foot long), which are usually very aggressive and



poisonous. As Russell slowly grabbed our paddle to hit it if it decided to try to get in the boat, the snake just stayed motionless for what seemed like about 5 minutes. It was a real stand off for a while when I decided to cast my roadrunner casting bait at him in an attempt to chase him off. As I casted over him, he quickly made an exit away from us towards the brush growing on the bank. Very scary!!!!!! I had experiences of cottonmouths dropping out of over hanging trees into my boat on the Northwest River and even climbing right into my boat in my past so I am very afraid of them. It was only after the snake left that I even thought of taking a picture of him. Missed opportunity that I hope doesn't happen again.

27 May: Went fishing with Louis Glaser looking for Flounder and managed to catch three keepers: two at 17". and one at 19 1/2" on the incoming tide off of Ocean View. It was windy but comfortable. All were caught on cut bait on flounder three-way rigs white and green. All fish nice and fat.

28 May: Went fishing for Cobia on Bob Stuhlman's boat with him and Mike Anderson. Beautiful blue day with light SW winds greeted us that morning launching from Marina Shores Marina. Picked up small croakers off of Little Creek Amphibious Base which we used with fresh menhaden and crabs for bait and menhaden chum. We anchored and set up on the 9 ft Shoals along with many other boats on an outgoing current. Then we proceeded in catching one shark after another with a large cow-nosed ray mixed in. All sharks were 4-5 ft. long and frequently bit off the hook if we couldn't get the hook out soon enough. Fished from about 9-2 pm covering the last half of the outgoing and first two hours of the incoming on both sides of the CBBT on the shoals. We didn't see a Cobia or Red Drum caught near us. When the SE wind started to pick up, we began trolling in with gold spoons hoping to run across drum or cobia but only caught one 11" half-pound Bluefish. - Dr. James W "Ike" Eisenhower

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**..... Hungry?**



Not much to say about catching, but I was out Flounder fishing with Bert, Louis, and/or Andy Reed 5 times during the past two weeks. Total boat catch was a 21 inch Flounder (day 1), 3 keepers, largest was 19 1/2 inches and 5 throw backs (day 2), 2 keepers (18 inches was largest) and 3 throwbacks (day 3), no Flounder (days 4 and 5). We fished Lynnhaven, Ocean View, Bluefish Rock and CBBT from small boat channel to 4th Island. We fished hard with jigs and bottom rigs using flounder belly, live minnows, and gulps. Don't stick your fingers in the Lynnhaven water because the crabs will eat you alive. I'm still waiting for the big run.  
- Ned Smith



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# no fishing Report

12 May: Mary, Ike, Ned, Russell and I decided to put some of Austin's (FINAO Fishing) advise on fishing for Red Drum into practice. Well we must have missed some of the presentation. We think we had the right bait as Ike arrived with 4 dozen fresh and lively she crabs. The water temperature was 64', the weather was slightly overcast with a winds about 10 knots and calm seas. We left Little Creek at about 4:15 and were set up at our first stop on Nautilus Shoals by 5:30PM. We had a nice outgoing tide in about 20' of water but after about 2 hours without a bite we decided to move further north and closer to the shore. Our next and last stop was in about 13 - 14 feet of water. My 31 foot inboard Cabo is not designed to be put in the surf, so this was as close as I dared go. At this spot there did not seem to be as much current and the winds started to shift to the east (Does this seem like a good excuse for not catching any fish?) We fished till a little after 10 PM without a bite and called it quits. The weather was perfect, the company was great and we didn't have any other issues to deal with so it was a pretty good evening fishing. - Henry Troutner



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# Red Drum Frenzy



31 May: Went fishing with Henry and Mary Troutner on their boat along with Russell Willoughby and Ned Smith to the Nautilus Shoals area near Fisherman's Island for Red Drum. Fishing began around 3:30 pm using blue crab halves; in no time Henry and I picked up a couple of fish on the incoming current. Henry's first Drum was caught on his Penn Battle 4000 rig which with only 20 pound line so he had to fight the fish for 20 minutes to get it to the net. But after those, two no bites were had, other than Mary's fighting a southern ray until around 8:30 pm when the current shifted to outgoing and then the bite was on! All four rods went down and we had a fishing frenzy going on. Ned and Russell and Mary each brought a fish to the boat but mine wrapped around the rudder and I had to cut the line. But shortly after re-rigging I had another one on, a 45 inch one, the biggest of the night. I ended up with hooking one more but that one pulled the hook after a few minutes. In all 8 Red Drum between 40-45 inch long were caught by us and released healthy and we left them still biting. It was a wild finish to a great trip. Thanks Henry and Mary! - Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower







May 16: I went fishing and diving on a beautiful day! Limited out on Seabass. Biggest one via the spear, 6lb 22 inches long. Caught 1 lone Lobster 3 lb. Water temperature on the surface 55 deg F, 60 deg F on the bottom. – Mike Delbridge

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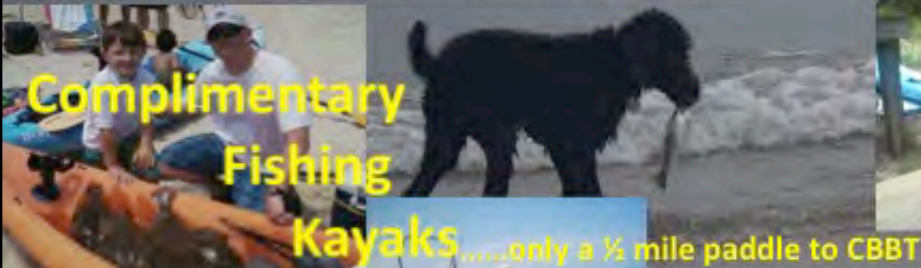
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# Angler Interests

Virginia Safe Boating Courses: [www.dgif.virginia.org](http://www.dgif.virginia.org)



Finding a Safe Boating Course, a requirement for EVERY MOTORBOAT OPERATOR starting July 1, 2016, is easy through the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Website ([www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)). Follow the link to *Boating* and *Boating Safety & Education* to find a DGIF sponsored course in our area. Most courses are FREE or include a small charge to cover the cost of materials. Here's a list of some of the available courses in our area with availability. Make your reservation soon as they'll fill up quickly as July approaches!

As of May 31th:

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, June 4th 9:00am-5:00pm (1 Day) Full with a Wait List

Virginia Beach Fleet Reserve Assoc.: Monday June 6th 6:00pm-10:00pm (2 Evenings) 10 of 25 Seats OPEN  
\*\*\*Cost for Materials \$35

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, June 18th 9:15am-5:30pm (1 Day) 1 of 25 Seats OPEN

Lynnhaven Marine Shore Drive Showroom: Tuesday, June 21st 6:00pm-9:00pm (2 Evenings) Full with a Wait List

Towne Bank Conference Room (Chesapeake): Saturday, June 25th 8:00am-5:00pm (1 Day) 24 of 25 Seat OPEN  
\*\*\*Cost for Materials \$35

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, June 25th 9:00am-4:30pm (1 Day) 10 of 25 Seat OPEN

Virginia Beach Rescue Station 14: Saturday, July 9th 8:30pm-4:30pm (1 Day ) 15 of 20 Seats OPEN

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, July 9th 9:15am-5:30pm (1 Day) 25 of 25 Seats OPEN

Reminder: Report your Spring Trophy Season Striped Bass landings

Virginia Marine Resources Commission			
Transaction Number:		<b>2016</b>	
Issue Date: 2016-04-03			
Agent: WEB		DOB: _____	
VMRC ID: _____		Hair: _____	
		Eyes: _____	
		Height: _____	
		Weight: _____	
License No.	Gear	Decal No.	Price
OL _____	471		\$0.00
SPRING REC STRIPED BASS TROPHY PERMIT			
<small>Any change in your address or other personal information should be provided to the VMRC, within 10 days.</small>			
<small>I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and accurate and I meet all the requirements for purchasing any of these licenses.</small>			
_____ Applicant Signature			

Participating in the Striped Bass Spring Trophy season (May 1 to June 15) required anglers to get the Spring Recreational Striped Bass Trophy Permit. With that free permit comes a requirement to report your fishing activity. The Virginia Saltwater Journal ([www.vasaltwaterjournal.com](http://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com)) makes reporting quick and easy. Mark your calendar and report your trophy fishing results when the season closes!





# Angler Interests

## VMRC sets 2016 Cobia Regulations



The Commission established the 2016 Cobia Regulations at their May 24th meeting. While Federal Waters are set to close Cobia fishing on June 20th, the Commission voted to keep the Cobia fishery open in Virginia waters with more conservative possession limits until August 30th.

The Commission also created a Voluntary Cobia Landing Permit for Boat Operators and Shore/Pier anglers.

### COBIA



Regulation 4 VAC 20-510-10 et seq.

**Minimum Size Limit:** 40 IN.

**Possession Limit:** 1 per person, 2 Per Vessel when two or more anglers are on-board

**Season:** Closes August 30th

**Capture Citation:** 55 Lbs

**Release Citation:** 50 IN.

**State Record:** 109 lbs, 2006, Joseph F. Berberich, II

The cobia minimum size limit is 40 inches. The personal possession limit is one-fish per person per day. The vessel possession limit, when two or more anglers are on-board, is two-fish per day, allowing only one of those fish to be more than 50 inches. The vessel possession limit applies to all vessels including charter and head boats. Gaffing of cobia is prohibited by recreational anglers. The cobia season closes August 30, 2016. The 2016 voluntary cobia permitting and reporting system is now available and cobia anglers are encouraged to participate so that more specific information about cobia fishing in Virginia waters could be used in the regional fishery management processes that are directing cobia management along the east coast.

## Federal Fishery Management Measures Approved for Blueline Tilefish



April 25, 2016: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) approved measures to establish management of Blueline Tilefish in Federal waters off the Mid-Atlantic and New England Coasts. Blueline Tilefish are managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) from Florida to North Carolina and there has been no previous regular federal regulations set for waters off Virginia to New England. In those waters individual states set their own tilefish regulations, such as Virginia's recreational possession limit of a combined 7 tilefish (Golden and Blueline) per person per day. The MAFMC action proposes a new federal regulation of 7 Blueline Tilefish per person for inspected for-hire vessels, 5 fish per person for uninspected for-hire vessels, and 3 fish per person for private (recreational) vessels. The Council also recommended an open season from May 1 to Oct 31. Currently Virginia has a year-round open season with required reporting.

The MAFMC recommended measures will now be considered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) later this summer and the public will have an opportunity to comment.

*The MAFMC recommend changes have the potential to dramatically change Blueline Tilefish fishing in Virginia. Because Blueline Tilefish are caught in federal waters, regulations set by NMFS will have a corresponding impact to our state regulations.*



# VIRGINIA BEACH FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT



**Saturday, July 16, 2016**

## Tournament Schedule

Friday, July 15th 5:50-7:00pm: Captain's Meeting and On-Site Registration

Saturday, July 16th 6:00am-4:00pm Fishing Day

Awards Reception Saturday, July 16th 5:30-7:00pm

Visit Southside Boys and Girls Club Flounder Fishing Tourney website for more information

[www.ssbgcflounder.net](http://www.ssbgcflounder.net)