

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

JUNE 2022

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Aaron Maurer with *The Savage 3 Tackle Company* on targeting summer flounder

Fishing Tips: Captain Colt North with *Litigator Sportfishing*, Fishing for Drum in Hampton Roads

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay: Tautog, Cobia, Striped Bass
- James River/Chucktuck Creek: Striped Bass, Puppy Drum, Blue Catfish
- Freshwater/Lake Prince: Shellcrackers, Flathead Catfish
- North Carolina/Edenton Bay: Largemouth Bass
- North Carolina/Oregon Inlet: Yellowfin Tuna
- North Carolina/Hatteras: Spanish Mackerel, Sharks, Bluefish, Roundhead
- Florida Keys: Tarpon, Bonefish, YellowTail Snapper

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Welcome to our new members Mike Reinhart and Denny Dobbins. We're glad to have you with us and look forward to fishing with you.

The summer (almost) fishing season is upon us. Lots of anglers are out on the sand surf fishing, fishing offshore, and inshore/bay. Fishing reports and sharing your fishing experience is one of those things that brings our club together. Many Thanks for your input. What else is upon us is the Hurricane season. While we don't usually see destructive tropical weather early in the season, take some time now to ensure you have the preparations necessary to protect your family, your home, and your vessel.

The past weekend was an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that Memorial Day represents. There's another opportunity in late July to support our Active Duty Service personnel at the Military Appreciation Day. It's a great event to show our appreciation for their service. Check out the MAD-Tidewater info in this edition. - *Will*

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Aaron Maurer with *The Savage 3 Tackle Company* in Chester, VA. is joining us to talk about targeting flounder off the deep structure in the summer months, drifting offshore wrecks, artificial reefs, and the local bridge tunnels.

He'll share his tips for picking the right day, where and how to fish flounder on different structure and demonstrate how to use some different style rigs to successfully hook up with summer flounder.



Important:
JUNE 20th

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

Publishers NOTES

Editor:

Wendy Bransom

NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

NAC OFFICERS

President:

Will Bransom

Vice President:

Henry Troutner

Treasurer:

Ned Smith

Awards Program:

Ike Eisenhower

Events Coordinator:

Mike Hubert

Assistant Events Coordinator:

Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr

Membership:

Ben Capps

Member at Large:

Alex Perez, Sr.

Webmaster:

Pat Hirsch

pfhirsch@yahoo.com

Contact us at;

NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

June

Sat, June 4th, 11:00am-4:00pm: Elizabeth River Park

Children's Pier Fishing

Mon, June 20th: Regular Club Meeting, Boil Bay

Seafood City, Norfolk

Thurs, June 23rd: 8:00am-12:00pm, USFWS Kids

Surf Fishing Class, Back Bay Wildlife Refuge

Tues, June 28th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Meeting, Fort Monroe

July

Mon, July 18th: Regular Club Meeting, Boil Bay

Seafood City, Norfolk

Sat, July 23: Hunt for the Hardheads Tournament,

Willoughby Harbor Marina



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

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries
January 1, 2022 - May 31, 2022

Freshwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (5) Russell Willoughby (6)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1) 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

Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)
Shark	Kelly Hoggard (2)
Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard (1)
Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (8) Ned Smith (1) Bert Sainz (1) Louis Glaser (1)
Cobia	Alex Perez, Sr (1)
Red Drum	Kelly Hoggard (1)

For the 2022 Tournaments, ALL entries need to be submitted to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, as well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish paperwork is acceptable.

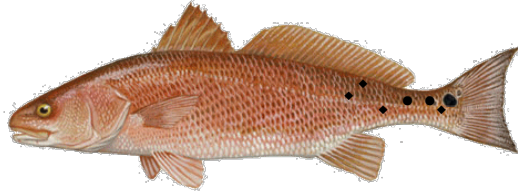


**Speckled Trout
Club Members Tournament
May 1st - November 30th**



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$5 Entry Fee due before fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$100 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$50 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 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)



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

TIDEWATER CHAPTER



JULY 30, 2022

COBB'S MARINA, 4524 DUNNING RD, NORFOLK, VA



[HTTP://MILITARYAPPRECIATIONDAY.NET/MAD-CHAPTERS-TIDEWATER-VA](http://militaryappreciationday.net/mad-chapters-tidewater-va)

[FACEBOOK.COM/MADVA](https://facebook.com/madva)

BOAT & TROOP REGISTRATION

Boats: Starting May 15

Troops: Starting June 1

Via our web page

CUSTOM ROD RAFFLE

MAD-Tidewater Chapter is a **501c (3) Non-profit organization** which recruits volunteer fishing boat captains to take active duty troops out for a full day of inshore and/or offshore fishing. For the troops, the entire day and all activities and services are **FREE**. At the end of the day, the troops, their families, and boat volunteers are treated to a huge southern-style cookout – which is also **FREE**.

There will also be a **FREE** raffle of many different prizes.

This event would not be possible without the support of our generous **donors and corporate sponsors**, whose company logos will be displayed on our event banner – like the one above used at a previous event. The more you can give, the higher your sponsorship tier, the larger your banner logo, the more “mentions” on our social media, and the more we can provide to our brave troops!

No donation is too small – in kind donations are appreciated.

Keep an eye on our web page for a custom rod raffle, thanks to

Reel Blessed Custom Fishing Rods!

SPONSORSHIP TIERS

PLATINUM: \$1000+

GOLD: \$500-\$999

SILVER: \$200 - \$499

See back for details!



JULY 30, 2022

COBB'S MARINA, 4524 DUNNING RD, NORFOLK, VA

BOAT REGISTRATION

Our boat captains are invaluable – whether you're a seasoned, licensed Captain with a 43' sportfisher or a weekend fisherman with a 19' skiff, the troops could use your services! Starting **May 15**, you can go to our web site and provide some basic information such as your contact information, boat make and size, intentions for inshore/offshore fishing, # of troops that you can support, and your planned launch/return location. We will have a Captain's dinner meeting at Cobb's Marina the evening before the event, where we will distribute our Captain's buckets full of goodies and provide some important event information for everyone.

Contact our Boat Coordinator for more information.

TROOP REGISTRATION

Active duty service members of all branches can register for this **FREE** day of fishing and family entertainment starting **July 1!** We will work to assign you to a boat that will fit your needs as best as we can... just remember, we can't promise that you'll be going offshore to catch record bluefin tuna! But we will do everything we can to put you on some fish!

At Cobb's Marina, while you're enjoying some Mid-Atlantic's premier fishing action, your family can enjoy a fun-filled atmosphere with Major Dave – our event DJ/emcee, Norfolk Fire Department and Rescue Squad vehicles, ice cream, face painting, cornhole, and other activities.

VOLUNTEER/DONOR/SPONSOR INFORMATION

As mentioned, MAD-Tidewater is a 501(c)3 Non-profit organization (**TAX ID 81-3558648**). If you would like to donate, either use this PayPal QR code or send a check to:

MAD-Tidewater, Inc: P.O. Box 8126, Norfolk, VA, 23503

No donation is too small – in kind donations are appreciated. Contact our Treasurer for more information.

We can also use event volunteers as well - especially if you are skilled with a filet knife! If you want to volunteer at the event on July 30, contact our Event/Volunteer Coordinator.



POINTS OF CONTACT

President: Debra Wade
wadedebra1@gmail.com

Vice President: Lisa Dunn
dunnsells757@gmail.com

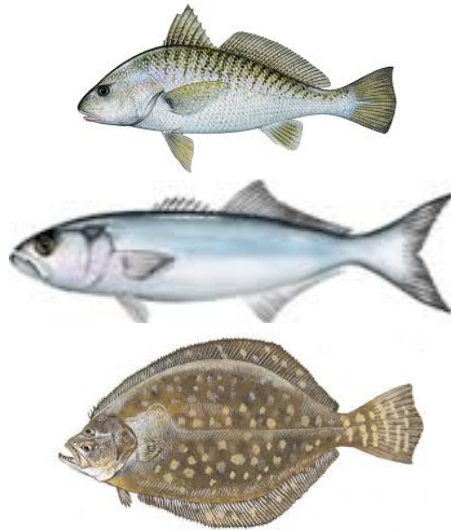
Treasurer: Shelby King
shelby.king@militaryappreciationday.net

Boat Coordinator: Brian Daniel
brian.daniel@militaryappreciationday.net

Event/Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Carroll
lisa.carroll@militaryappreciationday.net



**"Hunt for the
Hardheads"
Challenge**



**Sign Up
at the
Next
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"
Saturday July 23, 2022**

Norfolk Anglers Club, Virginia Beach Anglers Club,
Tidewater Anglers Club, and Great Bridge Fishing Association

A Croaker, Bluefish, and Flounder
fishing challenge among angler clubs.

Date: Saturday July 23, 2022

Location: Willoughby Harbor Marina, Lines In: 7:00am

Measure In: Starts at 12:30pm ends at 1:30pm

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per Angler. (Includes Fishing,
Picnic, and Charitable Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

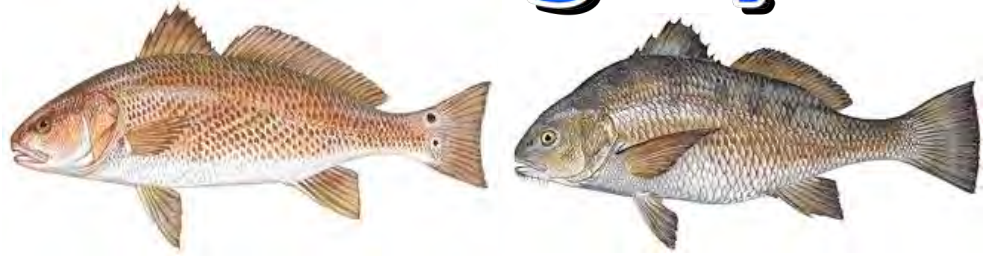
Rules:

1. Clubs are limited to 20 angler entries. No restriction on number of boats or anglers on a boat. All anglers must be members of your club.
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port - No fishing boundaries.
3. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
4. Five Points awarded for longest fish, Four Points for second longest, etc. Up to five fish entries for each species. The Club with the most points wins!

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

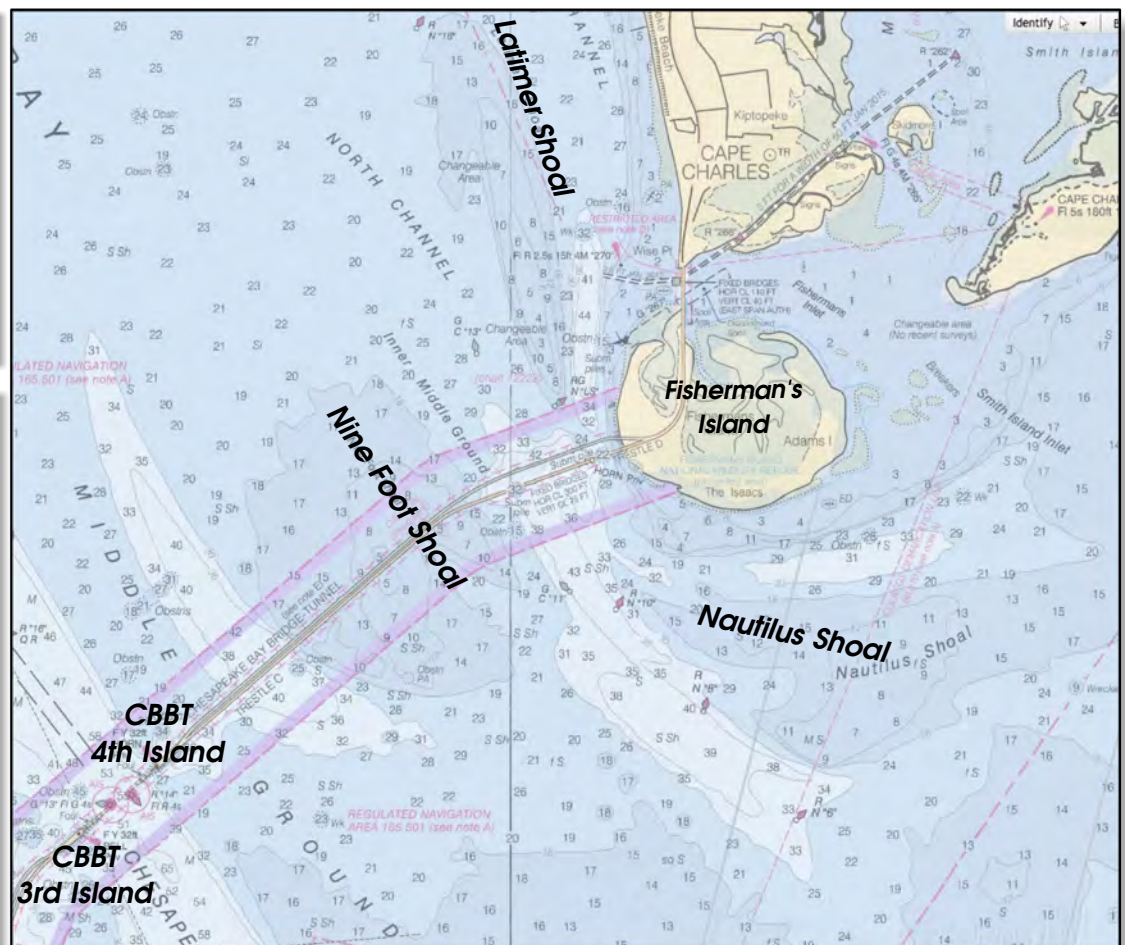


Citation Drum Fishing

Captain Colt North, Litigator Sportfishing, LLC

Springtime is the perfect time to target large drum as they migrate up the coast. They can be found along the oceanfront to Cape Henry and inside the bay as they move into our area. They'll remain in the Chesapeake Bay until they migrate south in September. Look for them to school around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands and shoals off the eastern side of the bay. Nautilus Shoal, Latimer Shoal, and Nine Foot Shoal are prime areas for large drum.

Red drum outside the slot size of 18-26 inches are a catch and release fishery. Care must be taken to land large drum fish quickly using the right tackle to minimize the fight. Citation sized drum fight hard and can fight to the point of exhaustion. They need to be handled properly from having the right sized (large) net to land them, handled with gloves and/or wet hands, and revived/released quickly. Never handle a release fish by the gills or lift them by the jaw. Always support their body and lower them back into the water, then release once they've been revived. Holding them in the water so that water washes over their gills and releasing them once they're strong enough to swim free will provide the best chance of survival. If possible, dehook them in the water and revive before releasing them.



Litigator Sportfishing uses a versatile Shimano rod/reel combinations in both spinning and conventional boat casting rigs. Capt Colt North prefers using a long spinning rod, like the Shimano Teramar 8' (TMS-80H), for casting long distance to the drum schools. The Teramar spinning rod has a stout backbone with a fast action tip. That combination makes it an ideal casting rod for bucktail jigs and casting live bait. Capt North pairs it with a Shimano 6000 Saragosa spinning reel spooled with 50# braided mainline. The Shimano Talavera (TEC-66MHC) boat casting rod paired with a Shimano Tekota 660HG reel is another option. The Talavera rod is a medium-heavy strength rod also with a fast action. Both of these rod/reel combinations are affordable setups that can handle large fish and work equally well on all other bay and inshore species.



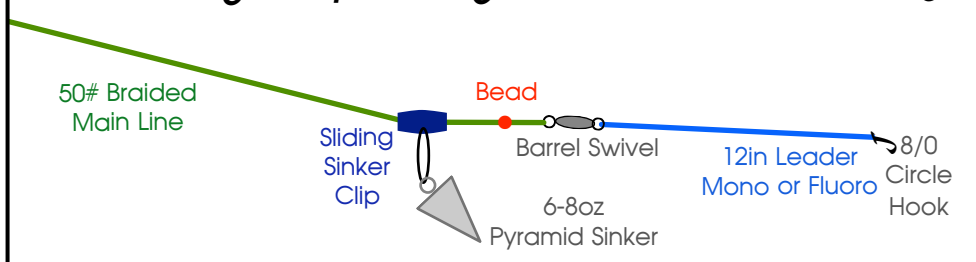
Capt North recommends primarily using the spinning rod setup and keeping your distance from a school of drum. The longer rod will give you great casting distance and keeping away from the school will prevent them from diving down. He added, you can usually spot a school of large drum near the surface by the sandy/copper color moving around. Some anglers describe it a swimming sand bar. Keeping your distance and casting in front of or to the side of the school is best. Casting *into* the school can scare the fish and then they'll dive down. He'll use a short 18 inch 60# monofilament leader tied with a uni-to-uni knot to the braid and attach a 2 ounce bucktail. He prefers the Bowed Up Lure's 2oz Bucktail with a contrasting color. These lures have good strong hooks that can hook and hold large powerful fish like citation drum. He'll cast in front of the drum or along the edge of the school and work the jig hard in the upper water column. He shared, that when drum are in schools they'll often be very competitive for food. Bucktails are a good option for drum all season. Another lure to try is a gold spoon. Capt North will rig the 3 1/2 gold color drone spoon with a short mono leader and work it in front of the school. Work the spoon with a steady retrieve. Its design causes it to wobble and the gold finish mimics a bait fish.



Bottom fishing for drum is another technique for the shallow areas and shoals and around the CBBT islands. Capt North uses a typical bottom fish-finder rig with a 50# braided mainline tied to a barrel swivel. On the mainline side of the rig is a small bead and the sliding sinker clip. The bead is included to keep the sinker clip from wearing on the knot attaching the swivel. On the leader side of the swivel is a short (12 inch) leader of 60# monofilament or fluorocarbon leader tied to a Gamakatsu x4 Strong 8/0 Circle Hook. Pyramid sinker weight vary but Capt North recommends as light as possible to hold the rig where you cast it. He starts with 6 ounce weights and will occasionally move up to 8 or 10 ounce sinkers, depending on conditions. Circle hooks are necessary on these bottom rigs for a number of reasons. He shared, that circle hooks are designed to be self-setting. Once the fish takes in the bait and begins to swim away the circle hook gradually works its way to the fish's jaw. The curved design of the



Litigator Sportfishing Drum Bottom Fish-Finder Rig



Find us on:
facebook®

Litigator Sportfishing

circle hook will avoid deep or gut-hooking the fish and instead hook the jaw of the fish. Unlike J-hooks, once set circle hooks rarely pull free. They minimize the risk of injuring a fish and are easily removed for a quick release of the fish.

Blue crab is a typical bait for Red Drum and Black Drum, to prepare the crab first remove the claws and the back fin (Photo 1). The second step is to remove the top shell and the apron from the bottom of the crab (Photo 2 & 3). The third step is to cut the crab into two baits. For attaching the 8/0 circle hook insert the hook point in the rear back fin knuckle and exit through one of the leg knuckles (Photo 4). Another option is to exit the hook through the bottom hard shell (Photo 5). It's important to leave the circle hook exposed as well as anchor it in a sturdy part of the crab.

Sea clams are a prime bait for black drum, which you'll often find in the same area as red drum. Capt North added, clams are great bait for black drum however, they can be difficult to keep on the hook. Try and hook a piece of clam through the more sturdy muscle to keep it on the hook. Fishing with sea clams will require you check the bait more often.

Bottom fishing for drum is popular around the shoals along the eastern shore. Anchoring up in shallow water near the breaking waves is where you'll find Litigator Sportfishing. Casting your baits behind and to the sides of the boat will cover more ground. Capt North prefers to lock the reel drag down, set the poles in rod holders, and watch for the rod bend as the circle hook finds its mark. He shared that tidal times really didn't matter as much. What's important is that you have moving water.

Boat traffic around the CBBT islands will often cause the drum to seek the safety of the bottom. Use your chart-plotter sonar while moving around and when you spot a school of drum down deep have a bucktail ready and work it off the bottom.



Photo 1

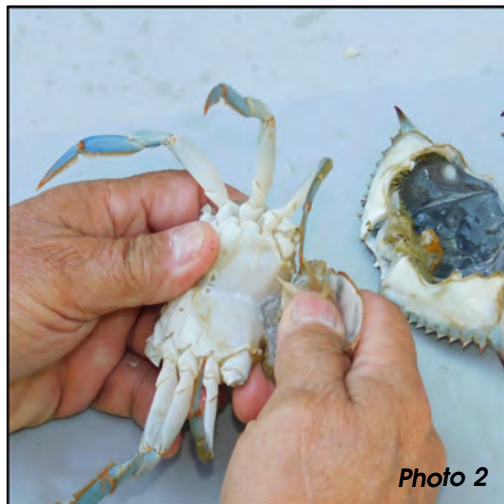


Photo 2

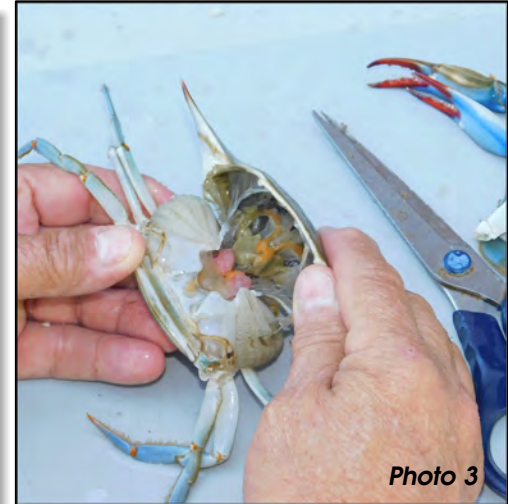


Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

Litigator Sportfishing, LLC

www.litigatorsportfishing.com

litigatorsportfishing@gmail.com

(757) 345-9698

Select Recreational Fishing Regulations

May 2022



Atlantic Croaker

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Spot

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



Kingfish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



Bluefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



Spanish Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



King Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Cobia (Permit Required)

- Minimum Size Limit: 40 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive. Only 1 fish per vessel may be greater than 50 inches total length.
- Season: June 15 - September 15



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Striped Bass

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 20-28 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 20-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. www.mrc.virginia.gov



Spadefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Sheepshead

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 13
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15
- Season: May 15-December 11



Tautog

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



Speckled Trout

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



Red Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Black Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person

Fishing Reports...



I took my 6-year-old granddaughter, June, to a creek off Edenton Bay, in early May. We dug some worms for bait and had a couple of pre rigged crème worms.

It was the first time that June was casting a spinning reel and made a good cast with the crème worm rig. She caught this beautiful largemouth bass.

Sometimes the best time to fish is a last-minute decision and then have *an awesome experience with a child!*

- Steve Anderson



16 MAY: George Langdon and I went out to try our luck on the first day of striper season. George caught this 22-inch striper on the first pass at the Chuckatuck Bridge. Caught on a red and white Bandit, ebb current, trolling with the current.

- John Curry



5 MAY: Seven Spots!

- Jerry Hughes

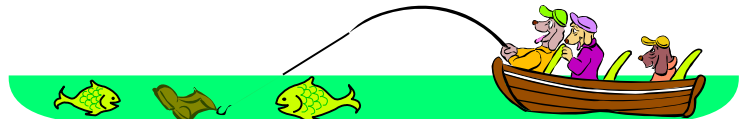


29 MAY: Fished with Louis at 5:30 am. We had four bites, two fish caught and one keeper 24 inches. Worth getting up so early - Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



21 MAY: The outgoing tide went for a quick ride in our 1 foot 2 inch dingy up the Chuckatuck.

I then tried a neon tiger bandit at the Chuckatuck bridge. On the 3rd pass this 21-inch striper jumped on. - George Langdon



17 MAY: George Langdon and I went out on what was a beautiful day. George caught this 27-inch striper at the James River Bridge. We lost one that broke the line and caught a short at the Chuckatuck. We trolled parallel to the bridge with an ebb current using a bandit. The red and white was not working, so we switched to a neon green/yellow. George gave me the fish. Striper is my favorite.



29 APR: Henry Troutner came to help me with my trolling motor. When we were done, I told him I would try it out on the creek.

He went home to work and I caught my first puppy drum for the year. I caught it where Brewers Creek and Greer Creek meet.

It was 17 inches and returned for another day. I was using a popping cork with a jig with a minnow.

- John Curry





26 MAY: Mary and I fished with John Curry. We started on the Chuckatuck where I got a nice 25 1/2 inch red drum.

We then moved to the JRB where we preceded to lose two stripers.

As usually the weatherman got it wrong with wind and rain, but it did get nice as the afternoon approached. Drum caught on a plain jig with a live minnow.

- Henry and Mary Troutner

23 MAY: With no break from the wind in sight, Mary and I met Kait and Kevin at the JRB to rock and troll for stripers.

Wind, waves and current pushing us into the bridge pilings made for difficult fishing. Kait made it worthwhile when she landed a fat 22 1/2 inch which went into the box.

The only other fish caught was a spunky little bluefish that hit a Stretch as big as it was.

Lures were Stretches and Bandits used in various color combinations until Kait's fish finally hit on a green/yellow Stretch.



29 APR: Jamie Paxton and I fished the Anglo African wreck in the Chesapeake Bay to see if any of our Spring fish have arrived. If they were there, they weren't hungry since all we did manage to catch was two Dog Sharks and six Tautog up to 15 inches. One of the Tautog Jamie caught had been

tagged and released by me 28 days earlier! We were using live Blue Crab for bait.

- Alex Perez



Virginia Printing & Signs
Division of JAMMAC Corporation



Brian A. Getz

Tel: (757) 855-5474 • Fax: (757) 855-5748

Email: virginiaprinting@aol.com

6610 E. Virginia Beach Boulevard • Norfolk, Virginia 23502



15 MAY: It was fogged in at Sunset Creek in Hampton on a Sunday until 6:30 am; followed another boat out in the 1-2-mile visibility.

I stopped around Fort Monroe near the boat ramp and made some casts around an old pier where the Coast Guard boats docked years ago. I managed to catch and release this healthy 20-inch Striper on a 3/8 jig head and a 3-inch paddle tail.

The fog rolled back in and the visibility was now less than 1/4 mile. I moored at Fort Monroe for safety and the great people at Fort Monroe Marina gave me a slip to keep my Grady there until the fog lifted.

At 11:00 am, the fog lifted again and I went to MMBT to bottom fish with no love. Another great day on the water and safety first!

- Steve Anderson

22 APR: Will Bransom and I went wreck fishing off the oceanfront before Black Sea Bass (BSB) season opened and the Sea Bass acted like they knew the season dates.

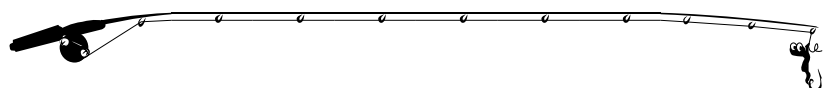
We were using live Blue Crab, quartered for Tautog, but found the Black Sea Bass had the run of the place. We caught, tagged and released over 60 BSBs for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and caught two short Tautog that were also tagged and released.

- Alex Perez Sr

Will and a new friend (Black Sea Bass).



Another Black Sea Bass released



30 APR: The weather had been looking good so Mary, John Curry, George Langdon and I planned a tautog trip to the CBBT in the Shamrock.

We arrived at the Dandy Point Boat Ramp and as we prepped the boat prior to launch a larger C.C. came in to the dock. The guys said it was rough with waves coming over the bow while they were anchored and they didn't have a bite.

The strong N/E wind would have been on our beam and any spray would have been blown right over us. Time to reconnoiter.



©2021 Sea Tow.

We trailed home, got on John's boat and fished the Chuckatuck. The James River was all white caps.

We didn't catch any drum, but weren't skunked. We caught a catfish that jumped like a tarpon and a pretty big ray. When the ray realized it was hooked, it swam off on my ultra-light outfit stripping line until I broke it off.

Always have a plan B.

- Henry and Mary Troutner

Help Starts Here.

Priority service for members.

When it comes to on-water assistance, response time is everything. Sea Tow® Captains are on-scene in an average of one-hour or less, getting members home and back to boating faster.

Join today and SAVE \$20.

USE PROMO CODE: FCD.

FOR ANGLER CLUB MEMBERS ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 1, 2023.

Sea Tow Hampton Roads

757-496-1999 | seatow.com

SEA TOW®



30 May: Capitán Alex Perez and I headed out early from the Lynnhaven Public Boat ramp in *Hook Shot*, his 23 ft Southern Cross. The weather was beautiful and we moved over to Fisherman's Island/Nautilus Shoals to check for schools of drum along the shoals and drop offs. Our target for the day was early season cobia to tag and release for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. Finding no drum schools we moved up the bay along the North channel off Kiptopeke looking for cobia entering the bay. Once we moved toward the Chesapeake channel, just south of the Cape Charles anchorage we started to see a few fish and rays. Initially, most were pairs of cobia swimming near the surface, later in the day a bunch of solitary cobia. We cast bucktails and nearly every fish turned to investigate but none took the lure. This was pretty much the same with the all the cobia we saw that day, except one. We'd get lots of casts on them before they finally had enough and descended. It was great practice casting on swimming cobia, just not what we were hoping for. I cast artificial eel lures, surface poppers, bucktails and every time the cobia would turn as if they were going to strike and then swim away. Sometimes multiple

passed at the jig.



Alex cast his C&B Custom Jigs (Pensacola) bucktail and finally got one hooked up north of the CBBT 4th Island. We were seeing plenty of cobia around the 40 inch mark during the day but Alex landed the prize, a 48 inch cobia. After getting our measurement and reviving the fish alongside the boat, Alex released the fish. Many Thanks to Capitán Alex, I had a great time fishing on *Hook Shot*!

- Will Bransom



5 MAY: Fished with Russell in his johnboat on Lake Prince when the wind on the bay was howling. Targets were shellcrackers and catfish. The lake was beautiful with little wind and cloudy. Well, the shellcrackers were only presenting as babies, but at least the catfish showed. I hooked up a four-pound flathead on an ultralight rod that was baited with red wigglers. Then Russell hooked up a six-pound flathead on a shiner that ran all over before we could net it. The final hook up was with a two-pound flathead on a shiner. We concentrated on the eastern end of the lake rather than our usual haunts on the west side. But, we even tried the western side; no luck on the shellcrackers. Still those cat gave me some nice fillets for dinner.



Sunrise Fishing:

16 MAY: Fished with Louis Glaser at Little Creek. We were working topwater lures looking for striped bass since Spring season is open till June 15.

As dawn began, after trying several places in the main channel, we started to cast chug bugs that splash a lot and what do you know I started to get boils from missed fish hits.

Two casts later I hooked up with my first striper in 2022. It was too short to keep maybe 17-18 inches but it gave me a great fight. Louis then switched to a chug bug and he hooked one about the same size.



On another cast, he got a huge boil indicating a much bigger fish, but unfortunately that was the last one. The sun had come up too far despite switching to other lures and trying other places.

Nevertheless, we got what we were looking for and now know the stripers are there.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



FLAG DAY, JUNE 14TH!

Chic's Beach Rental & Fishing

*everything you need to enjoy the beach.....
..... & catch your dinner!!*

**Daily, Weekly & Monthly Beach Rentals
All Beach & House Accessories Provided
Beach Rental/Charter Fishing Packages**

www.chicsbeachrentalandfishing.com
grif4408@verizon.net
follow the fishing on facebook!

Capt. Mike Griffith
USCG Licensed
757-687-9093

More from Key West: In the *April NAC Wireline*, I had a writeup on Michel's 140-pound tarpon and the bonefish we caught in the Keys during our first trip with Captain Pat Bracher. On our second trip, we went back to the same area as the first time. Winds were 25 mph with white caps, but within an hour I caught a 70-pound tarpon on a green crab. We fished another hour until the wind and current were too strong to fish the area. We anchored behind an island in 2-feet of water and threw shrimp baits for bonefish and permits; we finished the day catching one bonefish and a few bonnethead sharks.

During our second week in the Keys, Bert and Sandy Sainz drove down from Miami and stayed with us for six days. Bert, Michel and I went fishing with Captain Beau Woods on the reef near Key West. The Captain anchored and dropped a bag of chum behind the boat to bring up the yellowtail snappers. Within five minutes, the yellowtail came to the surface behind the boat feeding on the chum slick. Within a 1.5 hours, we caught our 30 fish limit of nice snappers. The Captain pulled up the anchor and began trolling along a long grass line for mahi and other species. With no bite and rain clouds heading our way, we went back to the deck where the Captain and mate filleted the fish.

We gave a restaurant next to the dock a dozen fillets to blacken and grill for us. They brought the prepared fish on a taco tray with tortillas and several side dishes. Sandy, Michel, Bert and I had a great feast that included yellowtail caught by us two hours earlier.

Two days later, Bert and I went flats fishing with Captain Pat for tarpon and bonefish. Within the first hour, Bert hooked up with a nice tarpon, but after a few minutes fighting the fish that included several leaps out of the water, it spit the hook out. Later I hooked up with a 55-pound tarpon and brought it to the boat. Next, we left the area and went flats fishing for bonefish with shrimp bait. We finished out the day catching nine bonefish and several bonnethead sharks.

In the third week, Michel and I had two more trips with Captain Pat. In all, we caught two more tarpon, 10 and 35 lbs. and several bonefish and bonnethead sharks. Overall, we had three great weeks of fishing and enjoying the sites in the Keys.

- Ned Smith



6 MAY: I headed down and fished the Spanish bite in Hatteras. I nearly captured a limit in just a couple hours at the point and one fish topped 26.5 inch TL and 3 lb. 6 oz. I also caught some sharks, blues, rays and a couple roundhead that day. The bite has been incredible in Hatteras lately for just about everything whether you're fishing offshore or on the beach.

14 MAY: I hit the beach with eight friends from VBAC and we all got into a good bite of larger roundhead and bluefish. Many of the blues were in the mid to high teens and most of the roundhead were 13 to 15 inches. The water was nice and clean just after the big nor'easter but was very cold. We were pre-fishing for an upcoming tournament.

On May 21st, I headed down to Sandbridge to get into a sunrise puppy drum bite. While I had one big run (likely a large puppy drum) I lost him shortly after coming tight. I'm hoping it was a puppy drum because a roundhead that size would have been the state record or bigger. I have got into the citation roundhead already including a nice 16.5 inch that weighed 1 lb. 10 oz. I'm releasing them all as I normally would until I get a couple real big ones to weigh. The fishing has got better every year as the few of us who target this particular fish in the area, releasing almost all of our citations. I'm looking forward to enjoying this fishery all summer and can't wait for the Spanish and Pompano to push north to our beaches!

Can't Catch Fish On The Couch!
Kelly Hoggard

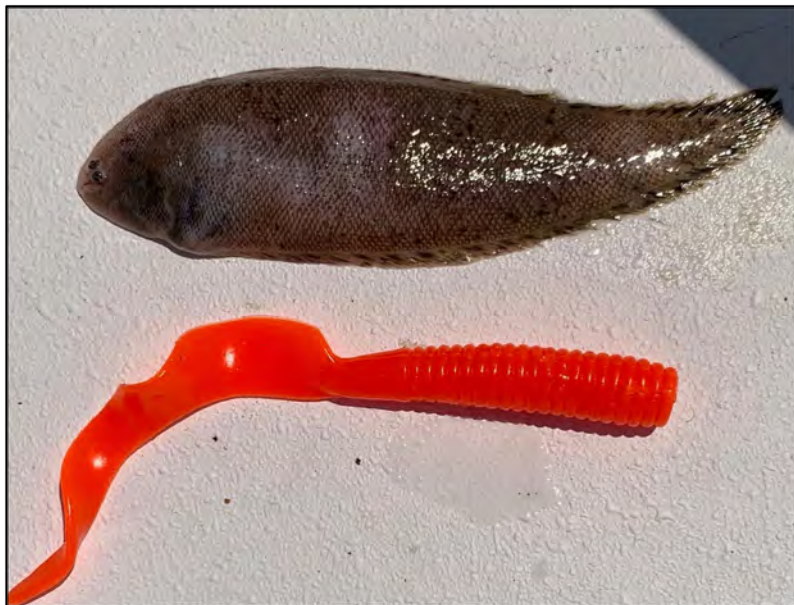
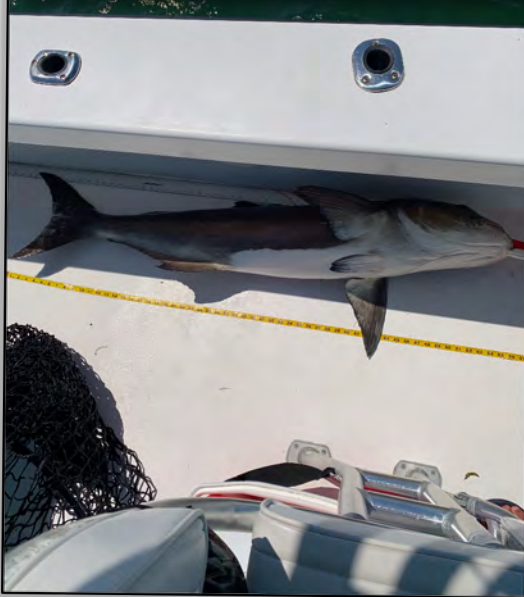


26 MAY: We headed down to Oregon Inlet to get in on the hot tuna bite. It did not disappoint. We headed straight east of the inlet, put out our spread and steady caught tuna all morning. Finished with our limit of 12 nice yellowfins by noon and headed in. *I wore my Norfolk Anglers Club Tuna hat for luck and it worked!* - Tim Kidwell



31 May: I got off work early and took advantage of a beautiful afternoon by launching out of Willoughby boat ramp. Once arriving at Bluefish Rock, I climbed into my half tower and put a six inch curly tail on my 2 ounce bucktail jig. I immediately saw a mid 30 inch Cobia that wasn't interested in what I was offering. It wasn't long after where I saw another fish that was interested in my bucktail. That fish measured at 35 inches which was tagged and quickly released. Only minutes after climbing back into the tower, I saw a pair screaming to the north. I wasn't able to cast to them so I wished them luck as they disappeared into the horizon. I was now between Bluefish Rock and Thimble Shoal Channel, where I spotted a larger fish that was receptive to my casted offering. After a spirited fight of getting it to the boat and then into the net, I tagged and released the 55-inch Cobia. I fished from approximately 1330-1530 hours, 70° water temperature on an out going current.

- Alex Perez



👉 WTF?! What's That Fish?

Alex Perez reports his 35" cobia tossed up two of these. Do you know what it is? Ever caught one?



Angler Interests

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION 2022 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS May 2022

AMBERJACK

Minimum Size Limit.....32 inches
Possession Limit.....2 per person

AMERICAN EEL

Minimum Size Limit.....9 inches
Possession Limit.....25 per person (50 for hire captain & mate)

BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches
Possession Limit.....1 per person

BLACK SEA BASS

Season.....May 15 - Dec 11
Minimum Size Limit.....13 inches
Possession Limit.....15 per person

BLUEFISH*

Possession Limit.....3 per person (5 per person on for-hire trips)

COBIA (permit and reporting required; no towing or gaffing)

Season.....June 15 – Sept 15
Minimum Size Limit.....40" but only 1 fish over 50" aboard vessel
Possession Limit.....1 per person, 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive

Croaker and Spot*

Possession Limit.....50 fish each species
additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire vessels

GREY TROUT (WEAKFISH)

Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches
Possession Limit.....1 per person

GROUPE*

Possession Limit.....1 per person

KING MACKEREL

Minimum Size Limit.....27 inches
Possession Limit.....3 per person

RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, REDFISH)

Minimum Size Limit.....18 inches
Maximum Size Limit.....26 inches
Possession Limit.....3 per person

RIVER HERRING (ALEWIFE, BLUEBACK).....Illegal to Possess

SCUP (PORGY)

Minimum Size Limit.....9 inches in state waters
Possession Limit.....30 per person in state waters

SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD).....Illegal to Possess

SHEEPSHEAD*

Possession Limit.....4 per person

SPADEFISH*

Possession Limit.....4 per person

*No size limit for bluefish, croaker, grouper, sheepshead, spadefish and spot

Dates are inclusive where a season is specified

All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. www.mrc.virginia.gov



SPANISH MACKEREL

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....15 per person

SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....5 per person

Only one speckled trout of the 5-fish limit may be 24 inches or greater

STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH, STRIPER)

Regulations on seasons, size limits, possession limits, available on separate regulation card or use the contact information below.

STURGEON

.....Illegal to Possess

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches
Possession Limit.....4 per person

TAUTOG

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches
Possession Limit.....4 per person

Season.....Jan 1-May 15 and July 1-December 31

TILEFISH (NOAA permit required)

Bluefin Tilefish—Season.....May 1-October 31
Possession Limit.....3 fish per person on a recreational vessel; 5 fish per person on an uninspected for-hire vessel; 7 fish per person on an inspected for-hire vessel

Golden Tilefish.....Open all year; Possession limit 8 fish per person

SHARKS (Anglers shall use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for sharks)

Recreationally Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take or possess any shark from the "Recreationally Prohibited Species" list, as defined in Regulation 4VAC20-490-20, including but not limited to the following species commonly encountered in Virginia: Atlantic Angel, Dusky, Sand Tiger, Sandbar, White, and Bigeye Thresher Sharks. No size or possession limits apply to Dogfish Sharks, but all fins and head must remain attached.

Minimum Size Limit (exceptions below).....54 inches fork length (FL)

All sharks must be landed with head and fins attached; hammerhead sharks must be 78 inches FL or greater, female mako must be 83 inches FL or greater, male mako must be 71 inches FL or greater; no minimum size applies to Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth Sharks.

Possession Limit.....1 per vessel

Possession limit for Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person. A non-boat assisted shore angler is entitled to a vessel possession limit

Season Closed (Large Coastal Group).....May 15-July 15 (Includes Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, and Tiger Shark)

Federal waters, beyond the Three Mile Limit governed by different regulations set by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Sharks may only be taken by handline or rod and reel; No spearing or bow fishing.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Saltwater Fishing License – Individual license required in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and in all seaside and coastal ocean waters out to the Three Mile Limit Line, unless fishing on a licensed pier, licensed charter or headboat, or licensed private boat; or unless specifically exempted. For an FIP number, register at: www.mrc.virginia.gov/FIP.

Measurements – Size limits are in total length; fish must be measured from the most forward projection of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the tip of the longer lobe of the tail fin, with the tail compressed along the midline, using a straight-line measure, not over the curve of the body.

Snagging – Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any finfish.

VMRC website: www.mrc.virginia.gov

Information may also be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (757) 247-2200 or the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament (757) 491-5160, located at 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Cobia Season Opens June 15th



REMINDER: cobia season opens June 15! The season is June 15-September 15; there is a 1 fish per person, 2 fish per vessel possession limit; and a prohibition on gaffing. The minimum size is 40" total length with one allowed on a vessel >50" total length. To get your permit, please visit: <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/mpermits/>. The deadline to report is October 6, 2022.

Who Needs A Cobia Permit?

Captains and/or operators of vessels fishing for cobia must obtain a Recreational Cobia Permit from the Commission and report all cobia fishing activity (trips with harvest, trips without harvest, and no activity if permit is not used) for all individuals on board. Individual anglers that target cobia from a pier or a shore must obtain a Recreational Cobia Permit from the Commission and report all of their cobia fishing activity (trips with harvest, trips without harvest, and no activity if permit is not used)

