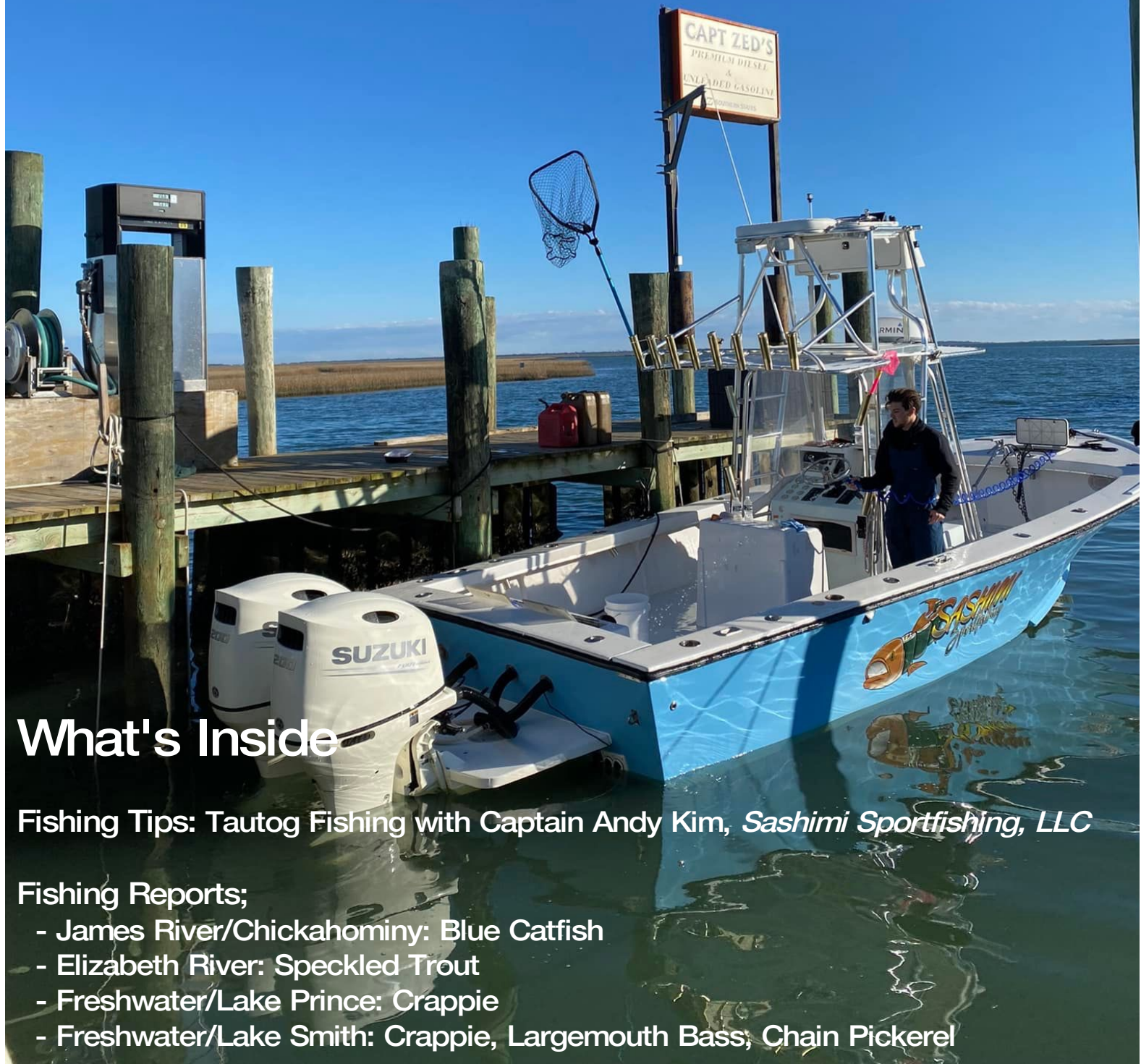


THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINER

MARCH
2022



What's Inside

Fishing Tips: Tautog Fishing with Captain Andy Kim, *Sashimi Sportfishing, LLC*

Fishing Reports;

- James River/Chickahominy: Blue Catfish
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout
- Freshwater/Lake Prince: Crappie
- Freshwater/Lake Smith: Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

We're planning our Club Awards Banquet for Saturday, March 19. This is an event for NAC Members and their sponsored guests. We've reserved the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. As in past years, the NYCC puts on an absolute incredible event. One you don't want to miss! Tickets for members and guest are only \$25 and you can pay a couple of ways. Check by mail, or online through the NAC Website with paypal (\$25 +\$1 transaction fee per ticket). If you make prior arrangements, you can pay at the beginning of the banquet.

Thank you to the members who helped out at the Boat Show. Ned Smith, "Ike" Eisenhower, Alex Perez, Mike Hubert and Henry Troutner. You did a great job promoting our club and the community activities we support. Well Done!

Welcome to our new members! Vince Garrenton, Jeff Garrenton, Garland Tabb, Dave Stoddard, Doug Schroeder, Jay Faszczewski, James Crockett, Greg Harman, Nick Carson, Dave Steele, Mike Tem, Doug Wilburn, Kevin Glaser, Mike & Tina Moretz, Richard Harris, Paul Allgeier, John and Germaine Curry, Jeffery Fremeau, Austin Glaser and Jere & Jennifer Humphrey, We're glad to have you part of our organization and look forward to fishing with you.

Because our Member's Banquet is on the Saturday before our regular monthly meeting, we'll not hold a March meeting. Our next club meeting will pick up with the 3rd Monday in April on the 18th. We hope to see you there!

- Will



On The Cover: Captain Andy Kim with *Sashimi Sportfishing, LLC*. Andy was our Guest Speaker in February and provided a fantastic presentation on Tautog fishing. Check out Sashimi's Fishing Tips in this edition of the Wireline.

Important:
March 19th Club Members
Banquet at the Norfolk Yacht
and Country Club

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

March

Sat, March 5th: 2:00 pm Fishing Seminar at
Norfolk Yacht and Country Club
Fri, March 11th: 6:30 pm Virginia Game Fish Tagging
Program Awards Ceremony, Bass Pro Shop
Sat, March 19th: Club Members Awards Banquet
Mon, March 21st: NO Regular Club Meeting

April

Mon, April 18th: 7:00pm Regular Club Meeting at
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

May

Sat, May 14th: Hunt for the Hardheads Tournament



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:

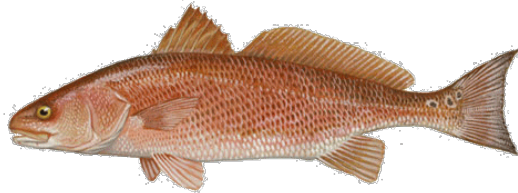
- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

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

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)



Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries **January 1, 2022 - February 28, 2022**

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (4) Russell Willoughby (2)	Shark	Kelly Hoggard (2)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (1)	Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard (1)
		Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (4) Ned Smith (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

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.



Virginia Fuel Tax Refund Program <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmv-fueltax/#/>

A refund of the Virginia fuels tax paid on purchases of fuel in quantities of five gallons or more is available to any person provided that they have paid the fuels tax and that the fuel was used for an Eligible Use. What's an eligible use? Some of the eligible uses that qualify for a fuel tax refund are; used in operating or propelling recreational and pleasure watercraft, used in operating or propelling commercial watercraft, and diesel fuel used in a passenger car, pickup or panel truck, or truck having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. The refund amount for diesel fuel tax is equal to the difference between the tax rate for diesel and the tax rate for gasoline.

How do I apply for a refund?

Registration is required the first time you use the Fuels Tax Online Refund system, thereafter, logon with your email address and the password you have chosen for your account. Read the system prompts carefully. First the claim is created then users must go to "Pending Claims", to add the claim(s) to the cart and check out.

What information do I need to file a fuels tax refund claim?

To submit a refund claim, you will need to provide the refund claim period, number of gallons, fuel type (gas, diesel, etc.), how the fuel was used, and other information required for the type of refund claim you are submitting. The system will guide you through the application process and display messages when the fuel receipts or other documentation is required to be submitted to DMV.

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Tautog Fishing

Captain Andy Kim, *Sashimi Sportfishing, LLC*



Tautog are a species available year round in Virginia, with the exception of the closed spawning season (mid-May through June). Known as Blackfish or "Taug" they're part of the Wrasse family and can be found from Maine to Georgia. They make for great eating with their firm, mild, white fillets. Taugs are daytime feeders with a diet primarily of mussels and crustaceans (crab, shrimp, lobster, clams, barnacles etc). Their appearance varies



from a dark mottled brown, lighter shades of grey, to nearly all black, hence the name Blackfish.

Taugs have larger lips than most species used to capture and hold crustaceans before crushing them in their large teeth. Males are easily identified by their pronounced chin.

Taugs are a slow growing species that habitates hard structure, rocks, wrecks, pilings, etc. They can provide a hard fight and will be tough on your tackle.



Taugs, Structure, and Tackle

For a fish that fights as hard as a taug, they have one of the lightest bites. They'll reward an angler's inattention by stealing your bait and leaving you with an empty hook. Captain Andy Kim shared it takes an angler a while to develop into a good taug angler. Patience is the key to taug fishing, he added. "*Building the Bite*" is the process Capt Andy describes as teasing the taugs to get them feeding. He shared, taugs are down there on the structure checking out your bait presentation but nothing is biting, except for the ever present sea bass. Sometimes it can take 30 minutes or more before the first taug clamps down on your bait. Once the first taug starts feeding it excites the rest and creates the bite.

Taug are structure oriented, more so than most other species. Structure is their protection and they hang close to it in the holes, hollows, and breaks. That creates the second challenge with taug fishing, getting them off the structure in clear water. Capt Andy added, once you hook a taug they'll power straight back to the safety of the structure. If an angler isn't quick to keep them clear of the rocks or wreck they'll break off the line.



For rod/reel setups, Sashimi Sportfishing prefers using a Shimano Torium 14HG series reel with 50# braided mainline. Braided line doesn't stretch like monofilament and will give an angler the advantage of "feeling" the structure. The Torium 14HG comes with a star drag and a maximum drag setting of 17 pounds, enough to keep the taug from powering back to safety. Rods need to be sensitive enough to feel the bite yet have a strong backbone to fight the fish. Andy's choice is the 7'3" Black Hole Charter Special Rod (C-73MH).

Hooks are another area anglers should give taugs respect. Andy recommends the Gamakatsu Octopus X4 Strong offset hooks for taugs. Lesser hooks might straighten out during a taug fight, he cautioned.

Norfolk Anglers Club

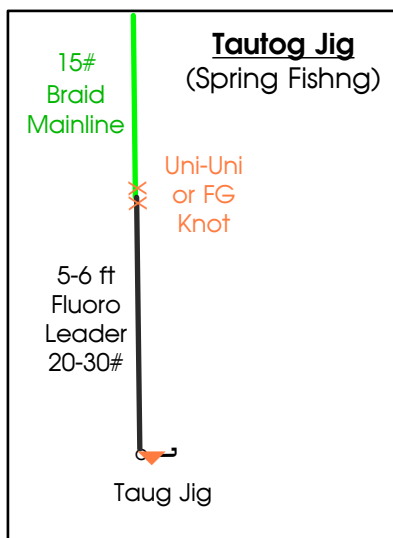
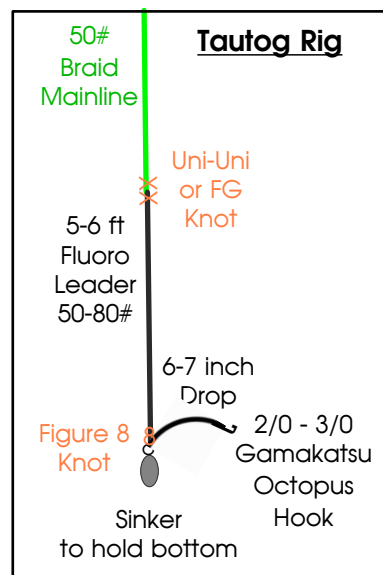
www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



The Gamakatsu 4X strong hooks are designed for heavier line and hard fighting fish like taugs. Andy recommends preparing your blue crab bait by sectioning it into quarters or halves and hooking in one leg socket and out another. He explained that taugs will initially break the bait with their larger front teeth before crushing it with their rear teeth. Anglers want to let the taug get its teeth into the bait to make sure the Octopus hook can get a good position inside its mouth before setting the hook. He added too often anglers are quick to set the hook and miss the fish while the taug holds to bait with its lips.

Sashimi Sportfishing's standard Taug Rig is tied directly to the braid mainline with a Uni-Uni or FG knot and is 5-6 feet in length. He shared that you want a long fluorocarbon leader of 50-80# test to reach down in the structure. Braided fishing line can't take the abrasion from the rough surfaces of the rocks, wrecks, or pilings. Fluorocarbon leader is a better choice to withstand that abuse and he recommends if you're fishing deep inside the structure to check your leader frequently for cuts and knicks. His taug rig does not use any swivels or snaps, even the sinker is tied to the leader with a figure 8 knot and the tail end attaches to the 2/0-3/0 Octopus hook. This is a strong rig designed for hard fighting fish during most of the season, particularly in the deeper waters off the coast. For the early season fishing in and around the Chesapeake Bay Andy will use lighter tackle and rig with a taug jig.



Taug Jigs are weighted jig heads with an integral hook. It's important to look for quality hooks when shopping for taug jigs as not all have strong enough hooks. Use 20-30 pound fluorocarbon leader and tie directly to the braided mainline and the jig. The lighter fluorocarbon leader is for clearer water and an angler can increase the fluoro test up to 50# if desired. For spring time fishing he'll often fish with a 3000 series spinning rod.

The best bait for taugs is fresh female blue crab, top off and quartered or halved. Fiddler crabs work well too. Hook fiddlers through one leg socket and out another, similar to blue crab. Andy doesn't recommend hooking them up through the center, which will kill them. Hermit crabs are another good bait but they're difficult to find.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Anchoring on Structure

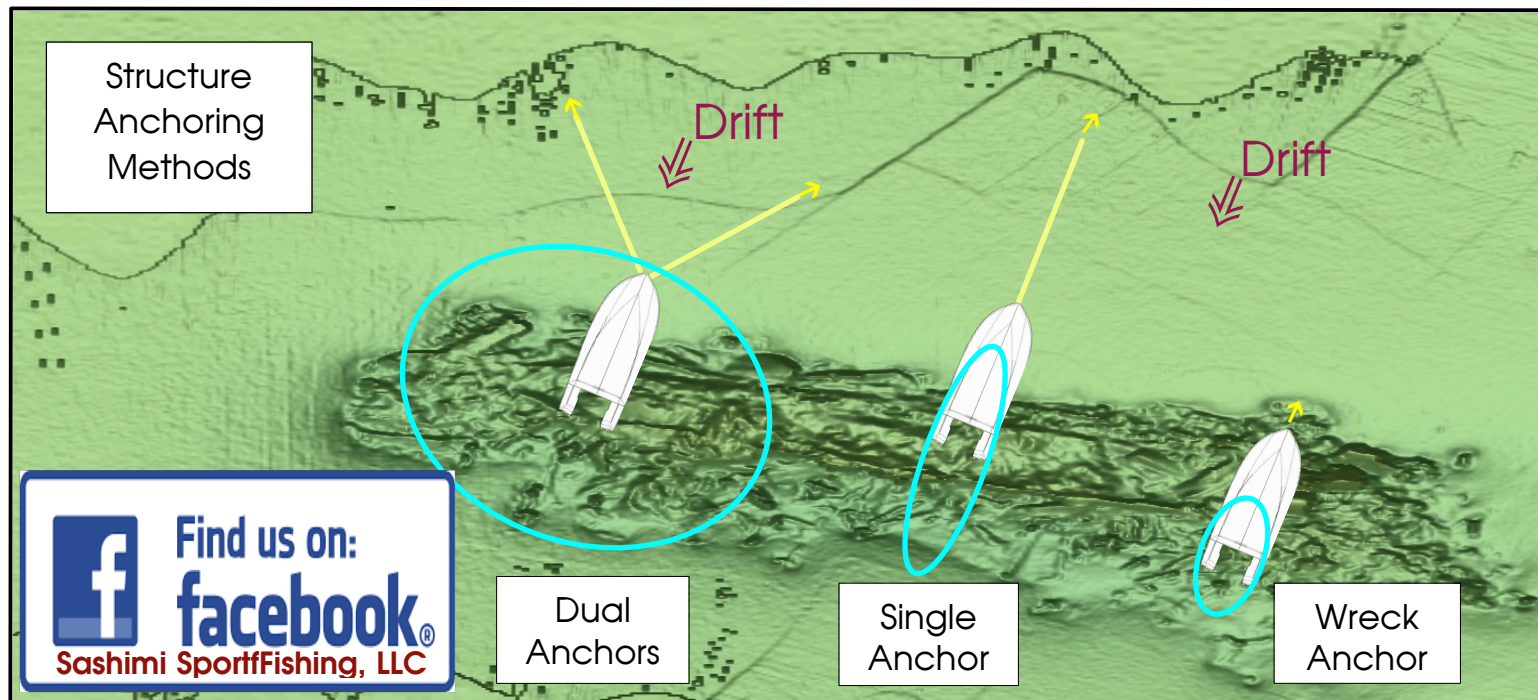
A technique taug anglers must master is positioning their vessel on the structure and it's not as easy as it seems. Becoming familiar with each area will lead an angler to target a specific feature on the bottom, such as breaks in wrecks or holes in the structure. Rarely is it possible to hold position with the vessel's motors consistently enough to catch taugs. Anglers should be familiar with three methods of positioning; wreck anchoring, and anchoring with a single or double anchor set up. Each method has its benefits and challenges. The first task is to determine the drift over the site. The combination of wind and current will determine your drift course.

Most common is the wreck anchor method. Using a traditional weighted grapnel hook, anglers will drop up current and hook the edge of the wreck or nearly over top of the fishing spot, then lay out enough anchor line to get in position. The main disadvantage of wreck anchoring is two fold; it limits the area that can be fished and if the drift changes it moves you away from "your spot". The area circled in the diagram below represents the area accessible with this method. Captain Andy recommends anglers secure the anchor line to the wreck grapnel with a section of chain and attach the chain to the head of the grapnel and secure the chain along the grapnel shank with strong zip-ties (photo right). Wreck grapnels are known to hang up on the structure and the zip-ties are designed to break allowing the chain to pull from the head of the wreck anchor making it easier to get your wreck anchor back.



Anchoring off the structure requires an anchor type designed for hold in sand, a danforth anchor is one type commonly used. Anchoring with a single anchor is quite easy but comes with the challenge of lining up the drift to the spot desired. Turning the motors/rudders will allow some lateral shift of the vessel to cover more of the bottom, however using this method generally limits an angler to fishing the line of the drift over the structure.

The third method is the most challenging but it comes with the advantage of being able to adjust the vessel's position to account of drift changes or to fish another area of the bottom. It requires two anchors and anchor lines set about 45 degrees apart far enough away from the structure to hold while allowing for adjustments. Dual anchors permit the vessel to be shifted from side to side while holding the vessel steady in one spot. It provides for fishing the largest area of the bottom by taking in on one anchor line and letting out on the other. Anglers can adjust without resetting the anchors to account for changes in the drift.



Fishing Reports...

11 FEB: Ned and I went fishing on the only warm, not windy day at the Elizabeth River on my V14 Tracker. Water temperature was 44-45 in the main river, but we couldn't find any fish there.

We checked out the Deep Creek and still couldn't find any fish. Water temperature there was up to 47 degrees. However, when we went into the Bryan's Cove, we found the fish. Water temperature was 49 degrees but they just were really sluggish biting.

We mostly drifted and used the trolling motor to maintain position. We ended up with 3 speckled trout 20, 19 and 16 inches all released.

We had several other fishermen there who had the same trouble getting them to bite, so we only saw a few more caught. One guy had a video set up on his boat and said the fish was stacked up but really lethargic possibly cold stunned. He had only caught 2 during the 4 hours we fished there.

Pretty day on the water until the wind blew up in the early afternoon.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



I got this photo of a bald eagle watching over us on the Elizabeth River. It appeared to be a young one since its tail feathers weren't fully white.





2 FEB: With a slight break in the freezing weather, Mary and I fished with Troy Lane in his skiff. We fished Lake Prince in Suffolk; it was our first-time targeting Crappies.

We fished for about three hours and Troy caught a nice 13 inch and Mary caught a 12 inch, which I think are decent size Crappies. I didn't catch anything.



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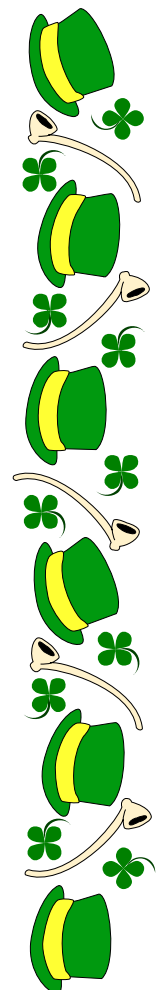
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SEA TOW

We fished small Crappie jigs tipped with small shiners. We believe there is some real potential here, we just need to increase our learning curve.

– Henry Troutner



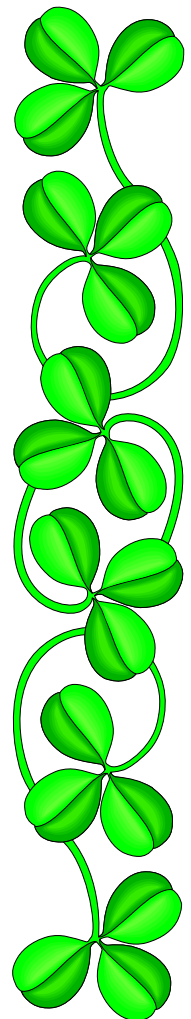
FEB: I've been out catfishing a lot in the month of February. The back end of the cold spell brought out some of the biggest catfish I've ever caught. I've landed over a dozen catfish in the 24-30 plus inch range. Both Channel Catfish and Blue Catfish have been aggressively feeding, especially on rougher days. I have found that the south wind is better.



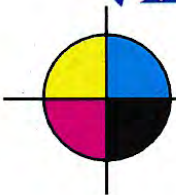
I haven't been able to attribute that to much except that the locations I am fishing are prone to rougher conditions on a south wind. The majority of my catfishing has been in the Chickahominy River and the remainder in the Albemarle Sound/Edenton Area.



My best fishing has been on hard bottom areas in 10 to 15 foot of water.



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The catfish I've encountered on the Chickahominy have been strictly blue catfish. Generally, I'm getting a lot of bites, but many of these catfish are in the 14-to-18-inch range and are smaller.

My largest blue catfish in Virginia so far this year measured 33 inches and was over 14 pounds! The catfish bite in the Edenton area has been significantly larger with fewer numbers. These catfish have been about 50/50 ratio of blue and channel catfish with a mix of a few citation Bullhead (white catfish). The channel catfish have average about 24 inches and the blue catfish closer to a 26-inch average. One of my mornings in Virginia tallied 28 keeper catfish 16 plus inches in 8 hours. In Carolina, one short 2-hour session last Sunday, I managed a mixed bag of 6 catfish that in total, weighed 35 lbs, 7 oz and all were 20 to 29 inches.

I would expect March to be just as plentiful until the water starts to warm significantly. Of those I speak to, the best bite is generally December to March. There is some prime fishing extending all the way out to May. The only month that was difficult for me was mid to late January. I feel the water temperatures were just a bit too cold for a couple of weeks, especially in Carolina.

I'll be catfishing less as water temperatures warm. All these catfish have been an incredible source of edible fish and pullage all winter. I'm not sure I'll be as enthusiastic next year to chase them.

For now, I'm excited to be putting fish away for a community fish fry to be held on Hatteras Island late in the spring or early summer!

– Kelly Hoggard



A Crappie February Day: Went fishing in my Tracker with Russell Willoughby to the Lake Smith looking for crappie. The air temperature had been into the 50's a few days before. This day was supposed to be warm and low winds till around 4 pm.

We launched at 11 am with a water temperature of 50 degrees and almost no wind. We headed to Lake Larsen first. Within 10 minutes, I had a 14-inch crappie that was fat. I wanted some eating fish so kept this one.

But, it was the only fish we caught there, so we moved after an hour. Back in Lake Smith we went to some places where the lily pads are usually there, but this early, they weren't at the surface. This was the place to go. After Russell and I both hooked up a couple that got off in the lily pads, we began to target where the pads weren't then we started catching keeper crappie and small bass.

I kept five for dinner in the 12-14 inch then started releasing them. I released a 14 inch, two 13 inch and a 12.5-inch club minimum. Russell was catching 11-12-inch fish and two largemouth bass, one of which was 16 inch (in photo). I got a 15 inch bass myself that we released.

At one point Russell had a cast that was hanging over a branch of a fallen tree we were fishing by. He said as he was yanking on the line to free it the jig and shiner was dangling above the water when a chain pickerel came out of the water and grabbed the bait.



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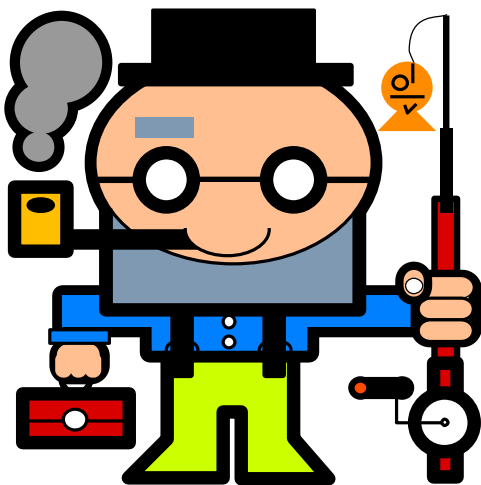
That made for an exciting fight with that fish flying all around the boat, but it didn't get our lines and went into the net (see picture).

In all we caught about 18 crappie, three bass, and one chain pickerel all released but five crappie. All caught on shiners on chartreuse crappie jigs using ultra-light rods mostly.



The bite turned off about 3:30 pm when the wind shifted to the SE and increased to 15-20 making bobber fishing impossible. But, a grand fishing day for February.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower





ANNUAL Fishing Flea Market

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March 12, 2022

8:00 am - 2:30 pm

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Angler Interests

Fishing Seminar at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club: Saturday, March 5th, 2:00pm



Want to learn more about fishing on the Elizabeth and Lafayette Rivers at a FREE seminar? Join us at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club for a presentation and discussion by Will Bransom, President of the Norfolk Angler's Club (NAC), and Reigning NAC Angler of the Year, Alex Perez, who will provide an insightful presentation on fishing in our local waters. Come join the conversation which will include proven local techniques and procedures, rods, reels, lures and natural baits; the impact tides, currents, weather and solar/lunar tables can all play in successful fishing. There will be plenty of time for questions and some answers that will help you throughout the coming fishing season. Register now. Free to attend!.

To register follow the link: <https://www.norfolkyacht.com/PublicEventManager>

Vessel Safety Checks are great way to start the boating season!



The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program is an effective, proactive preventive safety program unique to the recreational boating community. It ensures that key marine safety equipment is present, is within prescribed functional limits, and is compliant with Federal, State and local regulations.



Why get your vessel inspected? Safety! The peace of mind that your boat meets federal safety standards in an emergency you will have the necessary equipment to save lives and summon help.

In many cases boating insurance agencies offer discounts for vessels which undergo a Vessel Safety Check every year. All decals and safety checks are void December 31st of year they are inspected, they are also void should the operator /owner fail to maintain the vessels equipment or the vessel itself to the standard at the time of the safety check.

To find an examiner and schedule your VSC visit the USCG Auxiliary link at: <http://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

USCG Changes Fire Extinguisher Classifications effective April 20, 2022



The USCG is moving away from their weight-based fire extinguisher classification and adopted the UL's performance rating classification system. Under the former CG classification system boaters would see fire extinguishers labeled as Marine Type USCG Type B-I or B-II as of April 20, 2022 the Underwriter Laboratory (UL) classification will be used. This includes extinguishers labeled such as 5-B or 10-B:C, etc.

Boat owners should be aware that for vessels constructed prior to August 22, 2016 (between 1953 and 2017), you may keep your extinguishers labeled B-I and B-II as long as they are still serviceable, however, if there is a date stamped on the bottle, extinguishers must not be more than 12 years old according to that date.

For vessels model year 2018 or newer, you may need to replace your fire extinguishers. In addition to meeting the requirements for the correct number of extinguishers for the size of your boat, they must be labeled as 5-B, 10-B or 20-B; extinguishers labeled with B-I or B-II only are no longer acceptable.

Extinguishers must not be more than 12 years old according to the date of manufacture stamped on the bottle.

Fire Protection for Recreational Boats

Regulation goes into effect on 04/20/2022

Start Here

Is Fire Extinguisher
Readily Accessible?

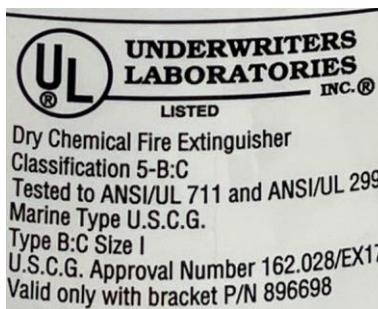
- Marine Type U.S.C.G.?
- Correct Classification (Note 1)?
- Not > 12 years old (Note 2)?

Good & Serviceable?
(Note 3)

- Note 1** – a. Extinguishers **UL Classified 5-B:C/10-B:C** (or greater) meet carriage requirements for ALL recreational vessels regardless of vessel age.
b. Extinguishers rated as **Marine Type USCG Type B:C, size I or size II** are only acceptable on vessels built model year 2017 or earlier.
(Model year means the period beginning June 1 of a year and ending on July 31 of the following year and being designated by the year in which it ends.)
c. Ratings that include higher numbers or more letters are acceptable.
d. One 20-B extinguisher may be carried to replace two required 5-B extinguishers.
e. There are special rules for vessels built prior to 1952.
- Note 2** – Make sure disposable fire extinguisher is not more than 12 years old from date stamp on bottle. Must be removed from service on 31 December of the 12th year.
- Note 3** – See Good & Serviceable meaning below.

[Link to Federal Register Notice: 2021-22578.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

Label example



Date Stamp Example



Good and serviceable working condition means:

- (i) If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator it must be in the operable range or position;
- (ii) The lock pin is firmly in place;
- (iii) The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
- (iv) The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

www.uscgboating.org

January 2022

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECREATIONAL BOATER FAQ

Q1. Where can I find the recently published final rule on regulations for fire protection for recreational vessels?

A1. The rule may be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/10/22/2021-22578/fire-protection-for-recreational-vessels#sectno-reference-175.320> . These regulations will be incorporated into 33 CFR Chapter 1, Sub-Chapter S in the near future.

Q2. What is the effective date of the fire protection for recreational vessels regulation?

A2. The rule takes effect on April 20, 2022.

Q3. What is new in the fire protection for recreational vessels regulation?

A3. If your disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher has a date of manufacture stamped on the bottle (example: "05" means 2005), and it is older than 12 years, the extinguisher is considered expired and must be removed from service. Look for wording on the bottle stating, "This product must be removed from service within 12 years after date of manufacturing".

Q4. How can I tell if a fire extinguisher is approved for use on boats?

A4. The label on the bottle will state "Marine Type – USCG Approved". Underwriters Labs approves fire extinguishers on behalf of the USCG

Q5. Are there any changes for when marine fire extinguishers are required or the number of extinguishers required?

A5. No. If your boat was required to carry a fire extinguisher, it is still required to do so under this new regulation. There is also no change to the quantity required.

Q6. Which recreational boats are required to carry marine fire extinguishers?

A6. All recreational boats with:

1. Permanently installed fuel tank(s), or
2. Spaces that are capable of trapping fumes, such as a
 - a. Closed compartment under thwarts and seats wherein portable fuel tanks may be stored.
 - b. Double bottom not sealed to the hull or that is not completely filled with flotation material.
 - c. Closed living space.
 - d. Closed stowage compartment in which combustible or flammable materials is stowed.

Q7. Are there any motorized recreational boats exempt from having to carry a fire extinguisher?

A7. Yes. If your boat is less than 26’ feet in length, uses an outboard engine, fuel is in a portable fuel tank, and there are no areas within the boat where fuel vapors can be trapped, the boat is not required to have a fire extinguisher.

Q8. How many USCG approved marine fire extinguishers do I need to have readily accessible onboard my boat?

A8. You are required to carry a quantity of 5-B or 20-B UL-rated USCG approved extinguishers as required in the chart shown here for recreational boats 65 feet in length and less. For recreational vessels greater than 65 feet, see FAQ #15. If your vessel is older than model year 2017, you may carry a B-I or B-II rated fire extinguisher instead, but you must replace them with a 5-B or 20-B when they are no longer good and serviceable.

All recreational vessels of model year 2018 and newer must carry 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers that are date stamped. Vessels older than model year 2018 may carry either 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers that are less the 12 years old or B-I or B-II rated fire extinguishers that are in good and serviceable condition.

Boat model year between 1953 and 2017			Boat model year of 2018 and newer.		
NOTE - may carry either 5-B, 20-B rated extinguishers with date stamp or B-I, B-II rated fire extinguishers			NOTE - may carry only 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers with date stamp		
Length (feet)	Minimum number of B-I/5-B, or B-II/20-B rated portable fire extinguishers required 1		Length (feet)	Minimum number of 5-B rated portable fire extinguishers required 1	
	If no fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space	If fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space		If no fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space	If fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space
Under 16	1	0	Under 16	1	0
16 but less than 26	1	0	16 but less than 26	1	0
26 but less than 40	2	1	26 but less than 40	2	1
40 up to 65	3	2	40 up to 65	3	2
1 One 20-B/B-II, rated portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two 5-B/B-I portable fire extinguishers. One 10-B is not a substitute for two 5-B.			1 One 20-B, rated portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two 5-B portable fire extinguishers. One 10-B is not a substitute for two 5-B.		

Q9. How must my marine fire extinguishers be maintained?

A9. Fire extinguishers must:

1. Be on board and readily accessible;
2. Be of an approved type;
3. Not be expired or appear to have been previously used; and
4. Be maintained in good and serviceable working condition, meaning:
 - (i) If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator it must be in the operable range or position;
 - (ii) The lock pin is firmly in place;
 - (iii) The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
 - (iv) The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

Q10. What should I do if the gauge on my unused fire extinguisher is in the red?

A10. If a fire extinguisher pressure gauge shows that the charge is in the red zone, a disposable fire extinguisher must be discarded and replaced. A rechargeable extinguisher must be serviced and tagged.

Q11. What is the difference between a rechargeable and non-rechargeable portable fire extinguisher?

A11. A non-rechargeable fire extinguisher, also referred to as a disposable fire extinguisher, is intended for one-time use only. A rechargeable fire extinguisher is recharged once used. A rechargeable portable fire extinguisher requires regular maintenance and servicing; a disposable does not. A disposable must be removed from service after 12 years from date of manufacturing stamped on the bottle.

Q12. When should I replace my disposable (non-rechargeable) marine fire extinguisher?

A12. Disposable (non-rechargeable) dry chemical fire extinguishers, must be removed 12 years after their date of manufacture. These extinguishers generally have their year of manufacturing stamped on the bottom or have its year marked next to its UL label.

Q13. Where do I find the date of manufacturing on a rechargeable fire extinguisher?

A13. The date of manufacturing on a rechargeable fire extinguisher is printed on the label of the bottle. The first National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certified inspection is due one year from the date of manufacturing and the bottle tag must indicate this inspection. A rechargeable does not need to be removed from service after 12 years, but it instead must be maintained annually by a technician.

Q14. I bought a fire extinguisher and in the box is a plastic mounting bracket. The label on the fire extinguisher bottle says it is valid only with bracket. Do I need to mount the fire extinguisher using this bracket?

A14. It is highly recommended to mount the fire extinguisher, but it is not a requirement to mount the fire extinguisher. All portable extinguishers must be readily accessible.

Q15. What are the marine fire extinguisher requirements for boats over 65 feet in length?

A15. A recreational vessel more than 65 feet in length must carry at least the minimum number of portable fire extinguishers specified for its tonnage as set forth in table 4 to § 175.320(b)(1).

Q16. Does one 10-B classified fire extinguisher count as two 5-B extinguishers?

A16. No, a fire extinguisher classified as a 10-B counts only as one 5-B.

