

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MAY 2018



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Captain Jay Leach, *First Landing Charters, LLC*

Fishing Tips: Capt Jake Hiles, *Matador Sport Fishing Charters*, Coastal Fishing Rigs

Fishing Reports:

- James River: Blue Catfish
- Freshwater: Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel
- Rudee Inlet: Red Drum
- Cape Henry and CBBT: Tautog
- Elizabeth River: Striped Bass
- Florida Keys: Tarpon, Bonefish, Permit, Barracuda, Yellowtail Snapper

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Congratulations to Norfolk Angler Mike Hubert for having the winning Cobia Charter Raffle Ticket drawn at the April meeting. Our many THANKS to Capt Austin Hayne with FINAO *Sportfishing* for providing us the Cobia Charter opportunity.



Fish and weather have finally begun to cooperate! Get out and fish, remember to take lots of photos, then send them to the Wireline Editor.

- Will



On The Cover: The beautiful Red Drum, Speckled Trout, and Flounder Tee-Shirt design created by MSP Design Group (www.mspsdesigngroup.com) in Virginia Beach for our club shirts.

Pre-Order your shirts and colors at the May meeting!

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Jay Leach, *First Landing Charters LLC*, will be joining us on Monday, May 14th to share his expertise fishing our area.

Capt Jay grew up fishing along the shore of Virginia Beach. operates his 2016 Sea Hunt Gamefish 30 out of Lynnhaven Inlet and operates everywhere from inshore to way offshore!



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, April 14th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Club Calendar

May

Saturday, May 5th: SBCC Marine Flea Market at
Vinings Landing Marine Center

Monday, May 14th: NAC Club Meeting - 7:00pm

Saturday, May 19th: Hunt for the Hardheads club
tournament (Portsmouth City Park)

Tuesday, May 22nd: VMRC commission meeting
in Newport News

Congratulations!!



Congratulations to Maddie O'Brien for completing her Virginia Safe Boating Education course.

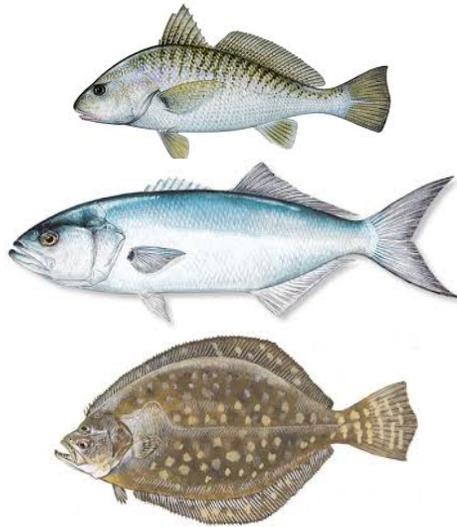
In 2016 Virginia required all vessel operators to complete a Safe Boating Education course and while there's no minimum age requirement to take the course, DGIF cautions "...it is fairly difficult for youngsters under the age of about 12 to complete and pass a course".

Well Done Maddie!, The Norfolk Anglers Club is very proud of you for successfully completing your Safe Boating Education Course!!

(Editor: Maddie will be celebrating her 10th Birthday later this fall.)

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries		
Certificate Number 1119630	Certification Date 08/31/15	
Birth Date 08/22/89	Instructor Boat Ed	
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**"Hunt for the
Hardheads"
Challenge**



**Sign Up
at the
May 14th
Meeting!!**

**"Hunt for the Hardheads"
Saturday May 19, 2018**

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

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

Tentative Date: Saturday May 19, 2018

Location: Portsmouth City Park Lines In: 7:00 am

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

Fee: \$30.00 per boat (includes 3 anglers,

additional anglers \$10.00. Includes Fishing,

Picnic, and Wish-a-Fish Donation)

Picnic Only \$5.00

Rules:

1. Clubs are limited to five boat entries. Team Captains must be Club Members.
2. Boats depart from any Virginia Port.
3. Eastern Boundary is 500 yards east of HRBT.
4. Measurement is length only. Girth measurement determines a tie.
5. 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!

NAC Shirts for 2018: The last time you can order NAC Shirts for 2018 is at our Meeting on 14 MAY.

Below are the shirts we will be ordering. The prices are reduced for some of the shirts we will keep in inventory, if you pre-order them. There are also Gildan Short and Long Sleeve T-shirts that are not below, they do not have a pocket, the price for those shirts is between \$12 and \$17 depending on the size. See the email sent to NAC Members on 4 April 2018 for colors and more details. Contact the Wireline Editor if you need the PDF to be emailed to you again.

Gildan Tee with Pocket

Price if preorder
S - XL: \$20
2XL: \$22
3XL: \$24



Gildan Tee with Pocket

Price if preorder
S - XL: \$15
2XL: \$17
3XL: \$18



Paragon Islander Long Sleeve Wicking Shirt 50 UPF

Price if Preorder
S - 2XL: \$18
3XL: \$23



Gildan Heavy Blend Contrast Hoodie

Price S - XL: \$22

2XL: \$24
3XL: \$27



Outdoor by Hilton Polyester Fishing Shirt UPF 40

Price:
S - 2XL: \$30
2XL: \$32
3XL: \$35

Plus cost of embroidery



Outdoor by Hilton Polyester Fishing Shirt UPF 40

Price:
S - 2XL: \$30
2XL: \$32
3XL: \$35

Plus cost of embroidery



Outdoor by Hilton Cotton Fishing Shirt

Price
S - XL: \$25
2XL: \$27
3XL: \$30

Plus cost of embroidery



Outdoor by Hilton Cotton Fishing Shirt

Price
S - XL: \$30
2XL: \$32
3XL: \$35

Plus cost of embroidery



Hanes Adult Ultimate Cotton Full Zip Hoodie

Price:
S - XL: \$24
2XL: \$26
3XL: \$28



Hanes Men's Ultimate Cotton® Heavyweight Crewneck Sweatshirt

Price:
S - XL: \$16
2XL: \$20
3XL: \$23



Men's Pima Pique Short Sleeve Polo

Price:
S - XL: \$25
2XL: \$27
3XL: \$29

Plus cost of Embroidery



Gildan Women's Full-Zip Hoodie Heavy Blend

Price
S - XL: \$20
2XL: \$23



LAT Ladies' V-Neck Premium Jersey Tee

Price If pre-order
S - XL: \$16
2XL: \$18



Gildan Heavy Cotton Ladies' Long Sleeve Tee

Price If pre-order
S - XL: \$18
2XL: \$20



LAT Ladies' Curvy V-Neck Premium Jersey Tee

Price \$26



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



Coastal Fishing Rigs with Capt Jake Hiles, *Matador Sport Fishing Charters*

There's much more involved to making up fishing rigs than just picking the right hook and weights. Charter Captains rely on their expertise to create differing rig setups, line weights, and hook configurations to target a seemingly endless number of species. It all boils down to bait presentation using a rig that doesn't spook the fish while enticing a strike. Easier said than done!

Capt Jake Hiles with *Matador Sport Fishing Charters* shares his rigging expertise targeting a number of coastal Virginia species. He advised that time of the year, tidal flow, water temperature, water clarity, the presence of bait will all alter how you fish your species. Anglers should have a number of techniques and rigs that can be adapted to conditions for that day.



Tautog is one of the most sought after species in our area. It's not surprising with the large number of wrecks and structure, like the CBBT, that we have a very healthy Tautog fishery. Capt Hiles cautioned that if anglers want to catch a larger class of Taug they'll need to find habitat that doesn't get much fishing pressure. Taugs are slow growing and migrate from shallow water to deeper water during the year. Unlike many other species Tautog don't migrate up and down the coast. Because they generally stay around our area, fishing pressure can have an enormous influence on the class of fish you'll catch.

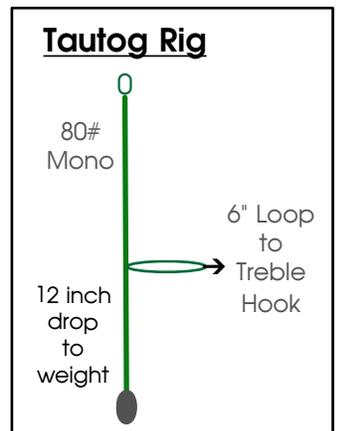
Anglers need to be **ON THE STRUCTURE** to fish Taugs, generally that means anchoring. Capt Hiles advised to be prepared to lose some rigs, you must get your bait in the structure to catch Taugs. They like to stay inside the structure or very close to it. Anchoring to place your line directly on the fish has the highest chance of hooking up with Taugs. A tautog's diet is mollusks, barnacles that they feed off of rocks and pilings, but they prefer crabs and other shellfish. Fiddler crabs work fine for the smaller class of Taugs you'll find along the CBBT however, blue crab is the bait of choice when targeting the larger fish and those offshore.

To prepare a blue crab for Taugs first remove the top shell, quarter the body, and remove the legs. Sinker weight depends on the bottom conditions. Use enough weight to hold the bottom without drifting the bait around. Capt Hiles uses a 80# monofilament rig with a 6 inch loop to attach his hook and a drop of 12 inches to his sinker. He inserts the loop through the leg knuckle and then attaches his treble hook. He explained that Taugs will work at the crab quarter to get at the crab meat and sometimes work around a single hook.



The treble hook makes it very difficult for the Taug to steal your bait resulting in more hook sets.

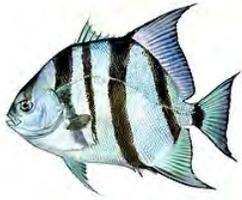
Water temperature is another indicator of when to target Taugs. When the water temp gets to 50-52 degrees anglers will start to see Taugs feeding. When the temp reaches 55-57 degrees around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, it's time to get your fiddler and blue crab and start fishing the pilings and tubes.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

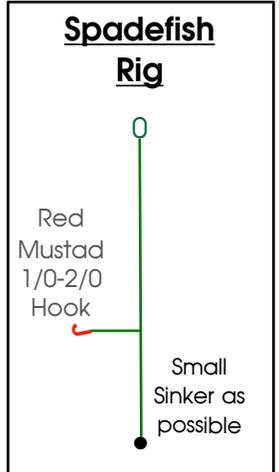
Fishing Tips...



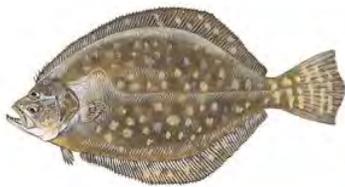
Shortly after Black Sea Bass season opens (Mid-May) the Spadefish will begin to show up on the wrecks. They're easy to spot on a bottom machine. Anglers will see a large schooling concentration of marks in the water column and should make a note of what depth they're in. Spadefish tend to circle in schools above the structure.



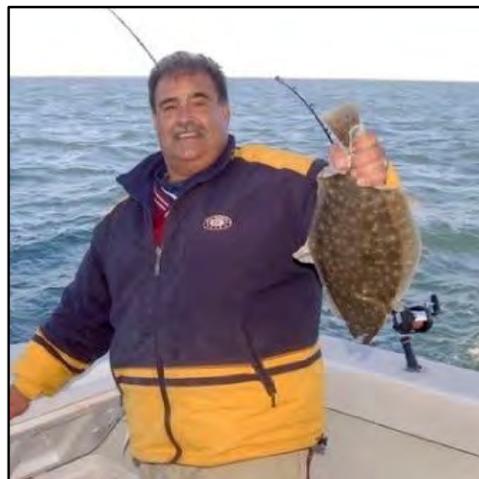
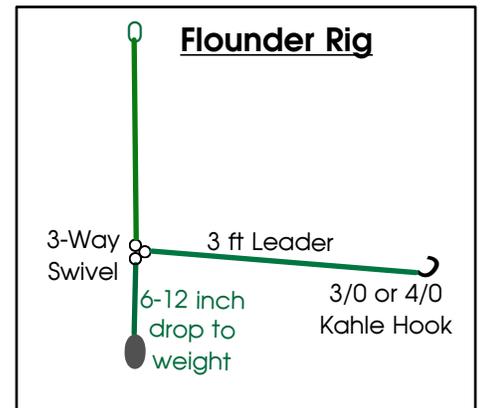
Spadefish rigs are made using lightweight monofilament line and the small Red Mustad hooks (1/0-2/0). Spadefish have very small mouths and seem to be attracted to the red (bleeding hooks) versus silver hooks. Don't underestimate the pullage these fish provide. On light tackle they can be quite a challenge to land. Spadefish have been known to straighten out lighter weight hooks during a long fight.



Early season Spadefish will generally be found mid water column feeding on plankton or near the bottom feeding on worms and other small prey. As the water warms, Spadefish will school higher in the water column up to the surface to feed on jellyfish. Spadefish can be finicky feeders however, small pieces of clam seems to get their attention more often than not. Capt Hiles advised to not used a lot of weight on your rig, only enough to position the bait at the depth of the Spadefish school.



Arriving in our area in June and July is another highly prized fish; Flounder. Unlike most other species Flounder are ambush feeders than generally lie in wait along the bottom or around structure for baitfish to pass. Their mottled brown and spotted camouflage make them ideally suited to lie motionless on the bottom for a passing meal. Because of their feeding behavior anglers will need to place their bait close to the fish and near the bottom. Bait can be cut bait or live baitfish. Dead bait is usually strips of squid or filleted fish. For live bait, Capt Hiles prefers a lively 3-4 inch Croaker or Spot and using a 3/0-4/0 Kahle hook for fishing Flounder. Kahle hooks aren't circle hooks or J-hooks but something in between. They have a very wide gap with the point of the hook pointing toward the hook's eye. They're very good for live baiting.



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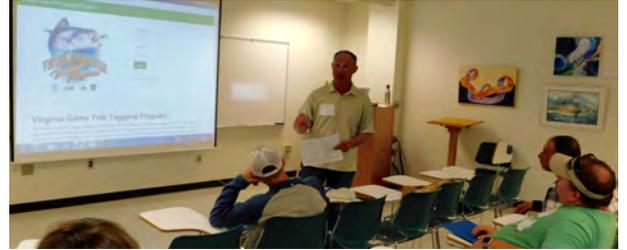


Virginia Game Fish



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Tagging Program



Each year the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) hosts their annual tagging workshop where new members receive introductory lectures on measuring fish, tagging documentation, and hands-on experience tagging fish.

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program is a cooperative effort of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, through its Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament office, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Many THANKS to the volunteer tagging instructors Ed Shepherd, Sheldon Arey, Wes Blow, and Jorg Head. The program wouldn't be possible without the support of Lewis Gillingham (VMRC), Susanna Musick (VIMS), and Ann Burnett (VMRC). Lastly, thanks to the VMIS Fisheries Department for providing the fish specimens for the anglers to practice on.

To learn more about the VGFTP or to report a tagged fish visit the Virginia Marine Resource Commission website at <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/>



Fishing Reports...

6 April: Russell Willoughby, Jerry Hughes and Ike Eisenhower have been trying to catch a citation size Blue Catfish on the James with Captain Petey Bourne. So far the two trips previously completed were not successful mostly because of cold and windy weather conditions that have plagued the area all spring, so we set up another trip. This time while the weather was sunny and warm it was still windy.

We fished the James east of Hopewell all day hitting shallow and deep near the channel sites and by 3 pm we were unsuccessful getting even one real knockdown. But finally one rod went dramatically down and it was my turn so I grabbed it and hauled in a nice 15 lb. eating sized Blue Catfish. That set up Russell for the next fish and in no time we got another knockdown. He grabbed it as the fish went from left to right across all our lines and made a mess that Captain Petey and us began to undo.

Russell at first was saying the fish didn't seem that big until we all saw a huge boil in the water. As he got it close to the surface, the fish seemed to wake up and began to pull drag. This fish was a monster

and well hooked. Then the fight was on. We managed to get all the lines untangled as Russell fought the fish and got it to the net. On Petey's new digital scale, it weighed out in excess of *64 lbs. and measured 48 inches in length and 37 inches girth.* This Blue Catfish was released after getting it fully revived.



Bait was fresh cut shad. Unfortunately for Jerry, we ran out of time on the water before any other fish were hooked. Congrats Russell on this great Blue Catfish. - Dr. James W. Eisenhower & Russell Willoughby



19 April: I am on Deployment on the USS Oak Hill, we will answer America's call overseas as part of the Navy - Marine Corp Team. I have been attempting to do deployment fishing. I jugged up some smelt/ anchovy - like fish and some small mackerel for bait. Using that as cut bait, I got this Red Snapper- like fish.
- Brian Tsai



Editors Note: Brian's first port of call was the Country of Georgia. If you want to write Brian, you can get his address of his Facebook Page, he would appreciate it!



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31 March: Russell and I went fishing to the Virginia Beach Anglers' Club 2018 Crappie Tournament at Lake Smith. It was cold and windy to start the day with a water temperature of 55 degrees, but it was sunny with warming temperatures occurring later in the afternoon.

We didn't catch any keeper sized Crappie until after 10 am when Russell caught a nice one that weighed 14 oz on my scale and .90 lb at the weigh station. But we did catch one Chain Pickerel each, Russell's was 19 inches and mine was 21 inches probably about 3 - 4 lb. Both were released for club minimums which is 18 inches.



Russell's Black Crappie ended up taking 2nd place in the tournament with Steve Harding taking 1st place with a Crappie that was .95 lb. We only caught throw back sized Crappie the rest of the day and throw back Largemouth Bass. My largest was probably about 3 lbs. Tough fishing all day but at least it warmed up and we could stay out of the wind most of the day. Catching the Chain Pickerels was fun since they run all over the place when caught. We were using jigs with spinners on them hoping to catch Crappie but not one was caught with the spinners.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

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follow the fishing on facebook!

10 April: I picked up AJ from school and decided to try the Elizabeth River to see if anything was biting. Unfortunately, this time it was a swing and a miss. We anchored off Tanner Point in the Elizabeth River on an outgoing tide. Water surface temperature was 53 degrees. We used our old reliable Gotcha curly tail grubs and Gulp shrimp on 1/8 and 3/8 ounce jig heads. Not a single bite. The wind switched from the North, picked up a few knots, and dropped a few degrees. Still no bites. We decided to head in and call it an afternoon of practice fishing! - Alex Perez



21 April: Well, since a morning event was cancelled I went home, hooked up my Jon Boat and went to Rudee Inlet. I caught a 25 3/4 inch Puppy Drum. I was the only bite all day!

- Jerry Hughes



13 April: I went to Dam Neck to surf fish. After dragging in about 20 Lbs of Sea Grass 4 or 5 times, I quit!
- Jerry Hughes



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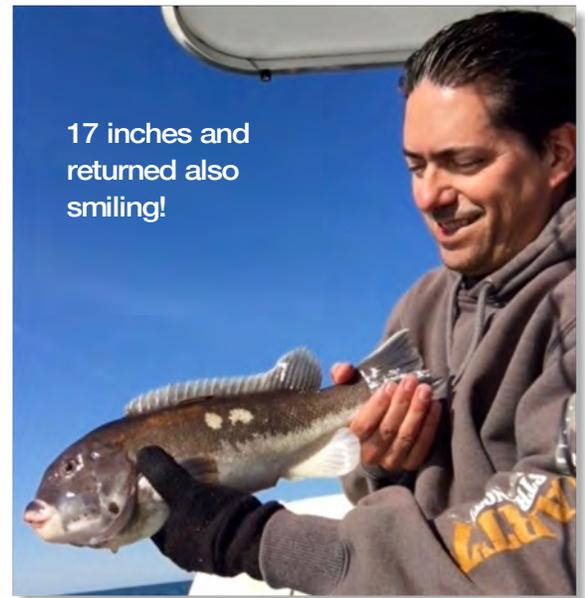





21 April: I fished the Cape Henry Wreck from 4:00 pm until 6:30 pm. I arrived at the last hour of the incoming tide. Armed with six blue crabs, I anchored up and fished in a relatively light current. Three ounce sinkers were enough to hold the bait on the bottom. I fished crab quarters on a single dropper loop rig and ended up catching a total of six Tautog with the two largest at 16.5 and 17 inches. I tagged each fish except the 17 inch which already had a tag in it. All fish were released healthy and I'm looking forward to getting information back from each fish. The action slowed down once the outgoing tide began picking up speed. Surface water temperature was 53-56 degrees.
 - Alex Perez



14 inches, tagged and ready to return healthy.



17 inches and returned also smiling!



16.5 inches, tagged and released.

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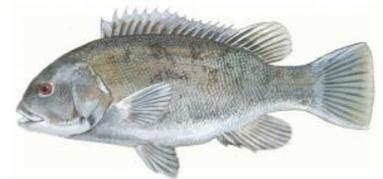


14 Apr: It was great to have Bert Sainz on the water again. We fished the Elizabeth River and caught over 12 Rockfish using Mirror Lures. It was a beautiful day but it was windy.
 - Louis Glaser





28 April: I fished with Bert Sainz and Ned Smith on the Elizabeth River. We were going for Reds & Specs. We ended up catching 8 Stripers. After 5 trips on the river, we have yet to catch Reds or Specs but we have caught quite a few Stripers. - Louis Glaser



14 April: I went Tautog fishing on a nice Saturday from 7:30 am till 1:00 pm. I fished with a neighbor. His boat was anchored up under the bridge near the 3rd Island and began catching Tautogs immediately. We released several females full of eggs which were of legal size. We kept one 22 1/2" males and three more 16 to 17" males. Blue crab was the bait. The photo is of my neighbor holding the fish. It was his first Tautog trip and he successfully caught several Tautog himself and didn't lose any rigs! - Mike Delbridge

Mike and I spent the 1st two weeks of April in the Florida Keys with Michel's sister (Nina) and her husband (Larry). We had great weather with highs in mid-80's and lows in the 70's, and no serious rain. Fishing was great: 3 flats fishing trips and 1 reef/wreck trip, all with a guide. Larry and Ned fished 1 day on the flats and Michel and Ned fished 2 days on the flats. We left the dock at Cudjoe Key Marina each morning at 6:00 am and returned at 2:30 pm. All 3 days, we fished for Tarpon first thing in the morning and then went to several areas for bonefish and permits on the flats. We used green crabs for Tarpon and shrimp for Bonefish and Permit. On the first morning Larry and Ned had their lines in by 6:30 am and 15 minutes later Ned's line started screaming. Five or 6 leaps and 20 minutes later Ned had a 130 lb Tarpon beside the boat (what a rush). We've included a really bad picture of the Tarpon's head, early morning photos are impossible. We had no other Tarpon bites so we headed for the flats. By the end of the day we caught 21 nice size bonefish on the flats (4 were 5 lb + and 6 were between 4 and 5 lb.).



Michel and Ned took the next two trips. We had no Tarpon bites but we picked up 17 nice sized Bonefish, 1 Permit and a big Barracuda. Mike caught the Skittish and hard fighting 4 lb Permit on the flats with a live shrimp. At the end of the day, Pat Bracher (our guide) was poling the boat slowly on the flat while Ned was sightcasting for Permit and Barracuda. He shouted "Ned cast 30 feet out toward 10 o'clock ". Ned threw a 12 inch twister tail in the direction he shouted and Ned reeled fast, the cuda crushed his bait, leaped out of the water several times and circled the boat. We boated and released the 55" toothy critter. Pat said it was the biggest he ever caught on his boat in 31 years. The 3 trips also produced many Bonnethead Sharks and Jack Cravells.



Finally the four of us took a 1/2 day reef/wreck fishing trip for Yellowtail Snappers with Beau Woods out of Key West. We went out about 12 miles on the Atlantic Ocean side in choppy water with 15 to 18 mph winds. Beau laid out a great chum line and we started fishing 20 minutes later using small strips of false albacore. We finished with 25 large Yellowtail and 1 1/2 lb False Albacore. The trip back was smooth with light winds. Beau cleaned the fish at the dock and we took half of the fish to the restaurant at the marina. The restaurant prepared the fish four different ways and served it to us with a sides of veggies (Good Eating).





Ned neglected to mention that we were on a Key that had all manner of Key Deer running around. These guys are like pets and about half the size of a normal deer. The one pictured was looking for a handout. Cute little guys!! **Another great Florida Keys Trip!** - Ned and Michel Smith

Editors Note: The endangered Key deer is the smallest subspecies of the North American white-tailed deer. Poaching and habitat loss had reduced the number of Key deer to only a few dozen animals by the 1950's. But the establishment of the Refuge and subsequent listing of the deer as endangered in 1967 has allowed for protection and a dramatic recovery of the species.



Angler Interests

Norfolk Anglers Club Canned Food Drive....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.



Striped Bass Spring Trophy Season Opens May 1st



Virginia Trophy Seasons

Coastal Area (May 1-15); Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (May 1 through June 15)
Minimum Size Limit: 36 inches
Possession Limit: 1 per person

Additional Trophy Season Regulations:

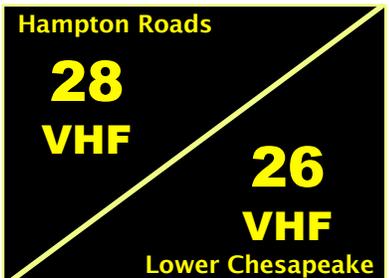
A no-cost Trophy Season Permit is required to participate in the Spring Trophy Season. Additional Trophy Season Regulations: Catch Report Required; no possession of 36" or greater striped bass in the Spawning Reaches May 1 through June 15. Trophy Season regulations apply in Virginia's Territorial Sea and the Chesapeake Bay and its Virginia tributary rivers, except for the tributary rivers emptying into the Potomac River. Permit can be obtained online or at a MRC Licensing Agent. Visit the Virginia Marine Resource Commission website for a complete listing of all recreational fishing regulations and reporting requirements at <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/>

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Angler Interests

Marine Flea Market; Saturday May 5, 2018



Saturday, May 5th at Vinings Landing Marine Center, 8166 Shore Dr, Norfolk, VA; The Southern Bay Cruz Club is hosting at Marine Flea Market from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Admission is FREE. Interested in participating as a vendor? Contact Pete Holt (757)621-2609

Old Dominion University Alumni Association Monarch Cobia Classic; July 19 - 21, 2018



The Old Dominion University Alumni Association will host its second annual Monarch Cobia Classic in partnership with the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association July 19 - 21, 2018 at The Marina at Marina Shores in Virginia Beach. The goal of the partnership is to create the largest Cobia Tournament on the East Coast. The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the ODU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and research of Cobia through the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

New Regulations for Recreational Blueline Tilefish in 2018



At their April Commission VMRC established the recreational Blueline Tilefish season from May 1st through October 31st and adopted the following possession Limits

Private Vessel: 3 Blueline Tilefish per person/per trip

For-Hire Vessel (OUPV) with a valid Tilefish Charter/Party Permit: 5 Blueline Tilefish per person/per trip

For-Hire Vessel with a valid Tilefish Charter/Party Permit AND a current USCG Safety Inspection Sticker; 7 Blueline Tilefish per person



Anglers are reminded that a Tilefish/Grouper Landing Permit is required for the harvest of Tilefish (Golden and Blueline) in Virginia waters. Visit the Virginia Marine Resource Commission website for a complete listing of all recreational fishing regulations and reporting requirements at <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/>

4 VAC 20-1120-31. RECREATIONAL PERMIT AND MANDATORY REPORTING: Any private recreational fishing vessel, charter boat or head boat, must obtain a Tilefish and Grouper Landing Permit, for that vessel, from the Marine Resources Commission in order to possess aboard, or land any tilefish or grouper, harvested recreationally. If the vessel is USCG or DGIF registered this no-cost permit can be obtained online or at a MRC Licensing Agent.



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