

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MAY 2021

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Mark Lozier, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*, Rod and Reel setups for fishing our area

Fishing Tips; *RecFish: Engaging Recreational Anglers as Community Scientists* with Lisa Kellogg, PhD, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Fishing Reports;

- CBBT: Oyster Toadfish, Tautog
- HRBT: Puppy Drum
- Elizabeth River: Puppy Drum
- Lafayette River: Puppy Drum
- Freshwater/Lake Whitehurst: Crappie
- Little Creek/Pretty Lake: Speckled Trout
- Freshwater/Lake Cahoon: Chain Pickerel
- Elizabeth River: Puppy Drum, Rockfish
- James River: Puppy Drum, White Perch, Catfish
- North Carolina/Oregon Inlet: Yellowfin Tuna, Blackfin Tuna
- Florida Keys: Amberjack Tuna, Mahi, Tarpon, Barracuda, Bonefish
- Florida/Crystal River: Gag Grouper, Snook

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

It's with a heavy heart that I share with you, we lost Paul Harris on April 22nd. Paul was one of those club members you seldom found in the foreground of a photo. Paul was always behind the scenes helping to make whatever event we had possible. Whether it was our community center clean up events, the children's Headboat trip, or their pier fishing days, Paul was always behind the scenes making it happen. Please keep his wife Jackie and their family in mind.

- Will



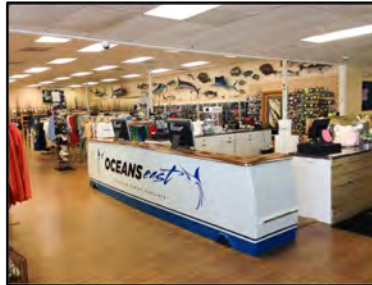
On The Cover:

This month's Cover photo comes from Corey Ferguson who was fishing out of Oregon Inlet, NC when he caught this yellowfin tuna.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mark Lozier, *Oceans East Bait & Tackle*
Rods & Reel Setups for fishing in our area

Have questions about how to rig for fishing in our area? How about the best rod & reel combinations for multiple species?



Join us on Zoom, Monday May 10th at 7:00pm.
To request a link to the meeting just email Wendy at NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com. Provide your name and email and she'll confirm and send a link a few hours before the meeting. She'll open the meeting about 30 minutes before the start time. There's nothing to download and no access code to enter.



Important:
MAY 10th NAC Meeting will
be on Zoom!

Publishers NOTES

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NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

May

Mon, May 10th, Club Meeting (On Zoom)
Mon, May 10th, VMRC Recreational Fishing
Advisory Board (RFAB) (Electronically)

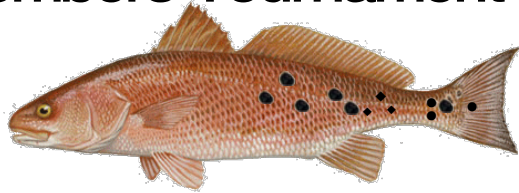
Sat, May 15th, Hunt for the Hardheads Club
Tournament (Portsmouth City Park)



**Paul W. Harris
1969-2021**



Club Members Tournament for 2021



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. *Entries received with decal and no measurement can only be judged by number of spots.
- Red Drum/Redfish up to 26 inches in length only and caught in Virginia and North Carolina waters
- Awards determined by 1st: number of Spots, 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50.00 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler.

Entries: Rusty Mitchell (1), William Ragulsky (1)



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- Awards determined by Total Weight and then by date of catch
- 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
- Weighing need not be on a certified scale and may be done by the angler, just try to avoid weighing fish on a pitching boat
- No entry fee (we would never charge a fee for catching Toads)
- 1st Place, 2nd Place, and Best Photo Winners get a Non-Tipping Oyster Toad Can Cooler from Oyster Toad Outfitters
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director



"AJ" Perez, the Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (OTTD)

Entries: Alex Perez, Sr. (1), Will Bransom (1)

OysterToads - Did you Know?

✓ Ugly has many names! The oyster toadfish, *Opsanus tau*, also known as the ugly toad, oyster cracker, oyster catcher, frogfish, and bar dog, is a Northwest Atlantic species of fish of the family *Batrachoididae*

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries
January 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (2)	Red Drum	Kelly Hoggard (2)
		Tautog	Will Bransom (1)

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



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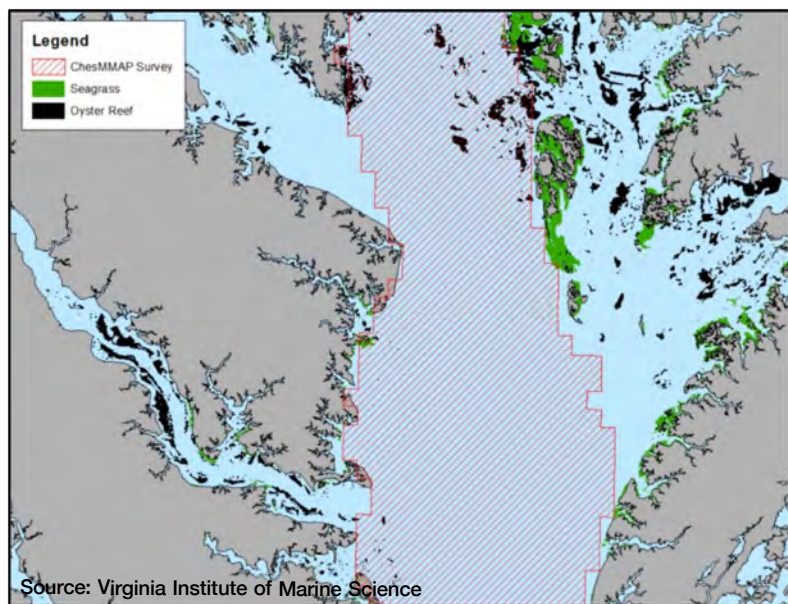
RecFish: Engaging Recreational Anglers as Community Scientists with M. Lisa Kellogg, PhD, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Imagine pointing a cell phone camera at a fish and instantly learning its species, size, whether it is legal to keep, and whether it is safe to eat. Then imagine being able to tap a single button to log a catch and share data on the catch to improve future fisheries science and management. RecFish is working towards building a free app that will do exactly that. RecFish is committed to developing an app that is accurate, user-friendly and so useful that it will become a valued part of every fishing trip.



Photo: by Will Bransom

Decisions in fisheries management are driven by science. Data collection efforts in support of Fishery Management Plans are long-term studies and extensive in scope. One recent study found a mismatch in diet of White Perch feeding on oyster reefs in Harris Creek, MD and data collected by Virginia Institute of Marine Science ChesMMAAP survey program. The ChesMMAAP Survey is one of the world's most extensive fisheries surveys and uses a trawl to collect fish in areas with at least 9 feet of water.



Source: Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Due to the minimum depth limitations for the trawl survey in the Chesapeake Bay, areas with shallow oyster reefs and seagrass were largely excluded. The challenge existed to acquire data in areas not surveyed by previous efforts.

The staff at the VIMS identified a unique opportunity applying community science concepts based on the eBird app from the Cornell Lab for Ornithology and adapting it to recreational angling community. Initial funding for concept development came from the VIMS Dean & Director's Innovation Funds. Subsequent funding has been provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and VIMS Innovation Fund for proof of concept, website, and app development.

The RecFish app presents an opportunity to involve the recreational angling community in supporting fisheries management through data collection. In 2017, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimated 8.6 million saltwater anglers took 202 million fishing trips generating \$73.8 billion in sales impacts, \$41.5 billion in value-added impacts, \$24.7 billion in income impacts, and supporting 487,000 U.S. jobs (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>). Along with the economic benefits the recreational fishing community represents, the impact of recreational angling community's contribution to fisheries management in terms of accurate data collection could be equally great.

RecFish app development encompasses a three phase approach: 1) Develop machine learning models for species identification, 2) Develop an app that allows users to upload photos of fish they catch directly from their phone, and 3) Develop the first version of the full-featured RecFish app. Recreational angling community support is needed during every phase of development and implementation. Developing the machine learning models






Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

requires thousands of photos of each species modeled. Digital photos, ideally of the entire fish (but +95% of the fish visible will work) are needed to assess the accuracy of the models. What's needed are photos of every fish species! They can be held up or laid on the deck. Fish identification modeling is planned for more than 270 species found in the Chesapeake Bay during the year.

The RecFish app, once fielded as a full-feature application, will permit an angler using a smart phone to open the app and use it to identify a fish, determine if the fish is legal, get consumption advisory information from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), capture a photo, enter their information into their personal logbook, and, if desired, upload their catch information to cloud. The RecFish app will automatically identify the fish, provide length measurement, display estimated weight information based on species' length, and provide consumption advisory information.

	Regulatory Check: automatic feature to determine if catch is legal based on location, date, and species.
	Consumption Advisory: automatic feature to determine if catch is safe to eat.
	One Touch to capture information.
	One Touch to record catch in anglers personal fishing logbook.
	One Touch to upload information to the RecFish cloud.



Within the RecFish app, anglers will have the option to select location filters, and choose whether or not to disclose the harvest location. From a scientific standpoint, knowing the general body of water is sufficient however, some anglers may want to document and share more detailed information.

The initial focus of RecFish is the Chesapeake Bay fishery. The Bay represents a variety of ecosystems, from full strength seawater in the lower bay to tidal fresh waters in the upper bay and tributaries. There's deep water channels, oyster reefs, wreck sites, artificial reefs, areas of sea grass, and saltwater marsh along with brackish water of the tributaries. There's 270 species of fish in the bay while only 30 are considered year around resident species. There's also a history of introduced species within the Chesapeake Bay dating back to the 1800's. Most notable in the estuaries feeding the bay are the Blue Catfish in the James, Rappahannock, and Mattaponi rivers. In the northern Bay there's the Northern Snakehead. The benefit of anglers sharing catch information through the RecFish app is that scientists may gain insight on fish populations in areas not traditionally sampled because of logistical challenges or cost.



RecFish - What's in it for the Angler? A full feature RecFish app will provide a resource for anglers of every experience level. For anglers not familiar with the hundreds of species in the bay, it will provide an automatic ID function and many other benefits. For experienced anglers, it's a convenient logbook to easily document species, location, length, and estimated weight. As RecFish develops additional features and benefits may be possible and may expand to areas outside the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast.

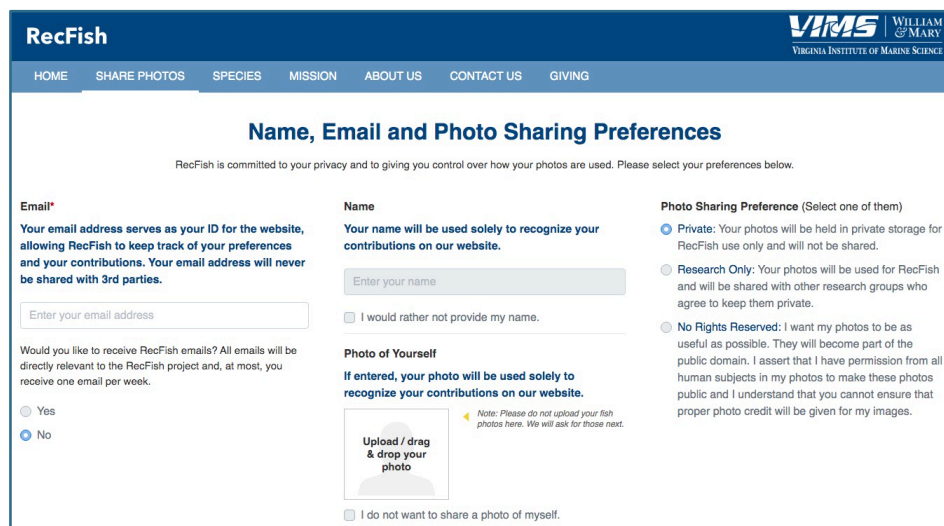
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Fishing Tips...

How the Recreational Angling Community can help!

RecFish needs anglers to share their fishing photos to develop the hundreds of machine learning models. Anglers can submit photos by visiting the RecFish website at www.recfish.org creating a logon ID and selecting



RecFish VIMS | WILLIAM & MARY VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

HOME SHARE PHOTOS SPECIES MISSION ABOUT US CONTACT US GIVING

Name, Email and Photo Sharing Preferences

RecFish is committed to your privacy and to giving you control over how your photos are used. Please select your preferences below.

Email*
Your email address serves as your ID for the website, allowing RecFish to keep track of your preferences and your contributions. Your email address will never be shared with 3rd parties.

Enter your email address

Would you like to receive RecFish emails? All emails will be directly relevant to the RecFish project and, at most, you receive one email per week.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Name
Your name will be used solely to recognize your contributions on our website.

Enter your name

☐ I would rather not provide my name.

Photo of Yourself
If entered, your photo will be used solely to recognize your contributions on our website.

Upload / drag & drop your photo

☐ I do not want to share a photo of myself.

Photo Sharing Preference (Select one of them)

☒ **Private:** Your photos will be held in private storage for RecFish use only and will not be shared.

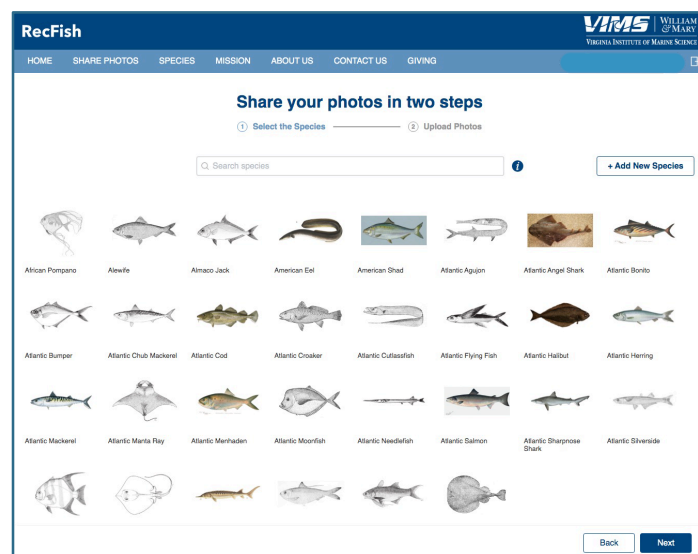
☐ **Research Only:** Your photos will be used for RecFish and will be shared with other research groups who agree to keep them private.

☐ **No Rights Reserved:** I want my photos to be as useful as possible. They will become part of the public domain. I assert that I have permission from all human subjects in my photos to make these photos public and I understand that you cannot ensure that proper photo credit will be given for my images.

their sharing preferences. Anglers may select a "Private" sharing option where photos will only be used by RecFish, a "Research Only" option where photos may be shared with other research groups who agree to keep them private, or "No Rights Reserved".

Sharing photos may be submitted mixed and the RecFish staff will sort them out or by individual species. Take photos with at least 95% of the fish and features exposed. Don't forget to submit photos of the fish you don't usually pose with, such as Oystertoads, Lizardfish, etc.

Remember that all 270 species in the Bay are being modeled, including so called "trash fish" and invasive species. Documenting these species are equally important as other species.



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Share your photos in two steps

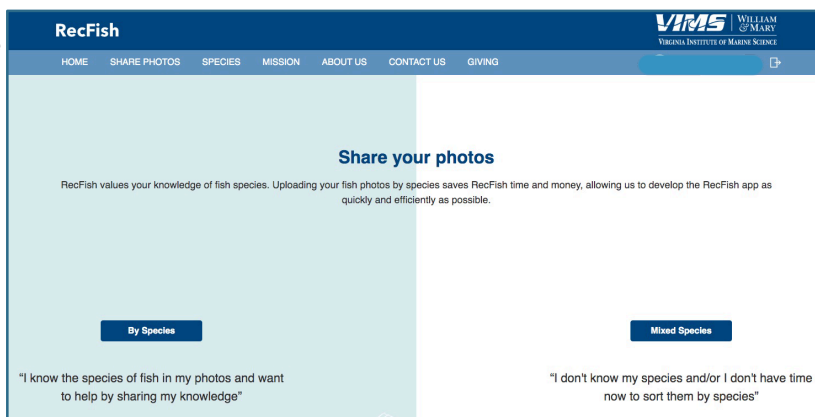
1 Select the Species 2 Upload Photos

Q Search species

+ Add New Species

African Pompano, Alewife, Atlantic Jack, American Eel, American Shad, Atlantic Agnion, Atlantic Angel Shark, Atlantic Bonito, Atlantic Bumper, Atlantic Chub Mackerel, Atlantic Cod, Atlantic Croaker, Atlantic Cutthroatfish, Atlantic Flying Fish, Atlantic Halibut, Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel, Atlantic Maria Ray, Atlantic Menhaden, Atlantic Moonfish, Atlantic Needlefish, Atlantic Salmon, Atlantic Sharpnose Shark, Atlantic Silverside

Back Next



RecFish VIMS | WILLIAM & MARY VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

HOME SHARE PHOTOS SPECIES MISSION ABOUT US CONTACT US GIVING

Share your photos

RecFish values your knowledge of fish species. Uploading your fish photos by species saves RecFish time and money, allowing us to develop the RecFish app as quickly and efficiently as possible.

By Species **Mixed Species**

"I know the species of fish in my photos and want to help by sharing my knowledge"

"I don't know my species and/or I don't have time now to sort them by species"

Already 40 machine learning models have been developed and have a greater than 91% accuracy. Developing additional models will take THOUSANDS of photos of *each species* to achieve that same level of accuracy. With support from the recreational angling community the RecFish app will move forward and provide anglers of every experience level a useful tool to identify and log their catch.

** Development of the RecFish app is in collaboration with Eric Hilton (VIMS Fisheries Department), Rob Quartel (VIMS Innovation Fund Workshop), Jennifer C. Dryer and Sarah C. Muffelman (VIMS), Dharmesh Trivedi, Harshil Shah, and the staff at DXFactor. Funding for the RecFish effort is provided by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Dean & Director's Innovation Find and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Fishing Reports...

18 APR: I went tautog fishing on a Sunday and caught a few. The biggest one was 21 inches. All were females. They went back since they were full of eggs.

- Tripp Seed



15 APR: SEATOW to the Rescue!

I decided to go back out after being skunked by Taylor Lyne in Pretty Lake. I ended up catching 2 trout and then it was time to go home.

My motor wouldn't start. I discovered a crack in the primer bulb. I called Ed at SEATOW right away. Ed said, "No problem, I'll be there in about 45 minutes."

I put my 27MR mirrOlure on and caught the 3rd trout at 32 inches. Ed then arrived and towed me to the dock.

What great services! I would not have any others towing service.

Thanks Ed Schrader at Sea Tow Hampton Roads!
- Louis Glaser

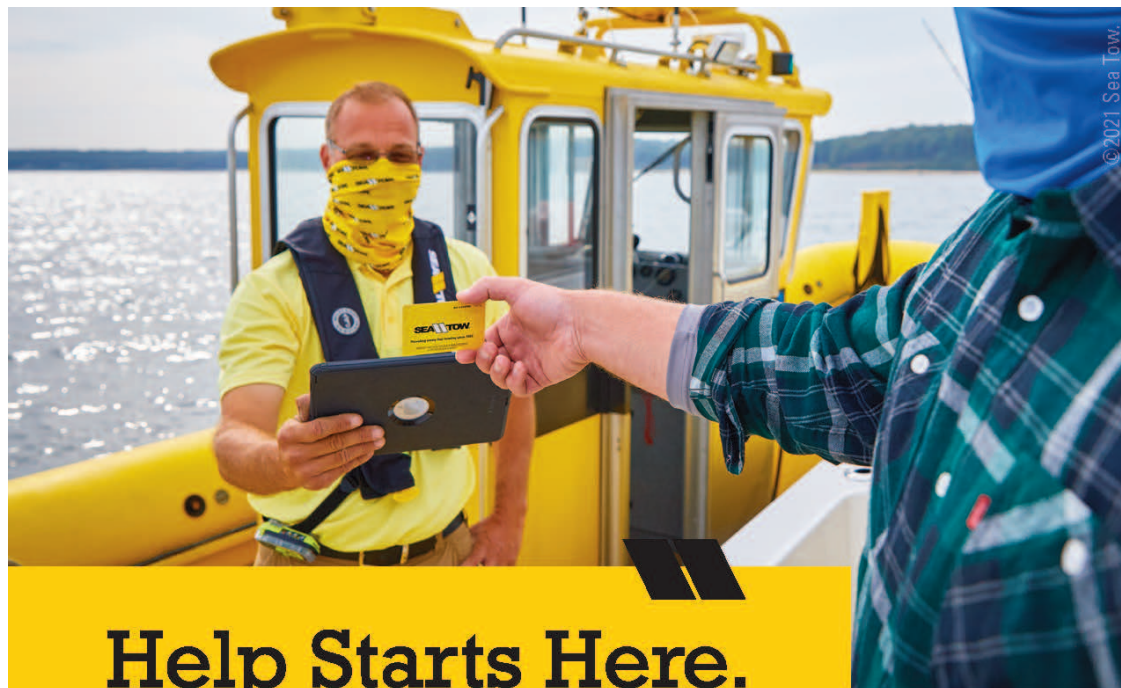




17 APR: Mike Burton and I spent several hours on the Lafayette and northern portion of the Elizabeth Rivers on a Saturday. Water temperature was about 61, throughout most of that area. Hoosier Cruiser was visiting Norfolk Marine (and has since been ransomed), so we were in Mike's 20-foot Panga and with its sweet remote control-rigged electric trolling motor. It was the better choice anyway for the shallow water we fished.

It was a great day to be on the water fishing, but not the best for catching. We worked several of our normal haunts with soft baits (mostly Gulps) for about three hours and ended up with a pair of puppy drum, the larger being about 24" - see photo with Mike Burton's big grin.

- Mike Davis



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SEA TOW

7 APR: On a Wednesday afternoon, I went tautog fishing with my Cousin, Christian, at the CBBT for a couple hours. Since he is active duty Navy, we launched at the Little Creek Base.

After a smooth ride out, we had a mild outgoing current. We used blue crab and caught 4, only one of which was a keeper at 19". Surprisingly no toadfish.

- Henry Troutner



12 APR: Our Grand Daughter, Blake, was visiting from Charlottesville. She wanted to go fishing one afternoon, so Mary, Blake and I ran over to Troy's house to fish from his dock on Brewer's Creek. She caught 4 catfish and 1 white perch.



11APR: John Curry, Troy Lane and I fished the Chuckatuck River for puppy drum. We started about an hour before high tide using popping corks with gulp shrimp, and paddle tails. We ended up catching 4 drum and 2 or 3 catfish.

Troy landing a beautiful 25 inch and the other 3 were short. It was a beautiful day, but the winds picked up mid-morning.

Troy keeps saying he's going to join the club, but procrastinates. Check out the drum he caught earlier this week with 18 spots. Probably would have won the "SPOT" contact. Shame on him.

- Henry Troutner

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25 MAR: After a rough windy two weeks of colder weather, we got a warm couple of days so we decided to look for crappie and bass in Lake Whitehurst. It was a windy day out of the South and warm, so we found a cove with less wind. Right off the bat, Russell had a nice flathead catfish on his floating jig.

I had my first fish of the day and it was a crappie monster at 15.25 inches and weighing 1.6 lbs. So, I released her to get the state release citation. Next it was Russell who got a really nice crappie at 13.25 inch. From that point of time, we went back and forth catching one big one after another until we had 13 in the cooler all over a pound each.

All the males were dark black and females were full of eggs. A true sign of spawning. Hopefully, we will get back into them before they finish spawning.
- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



10 MAR: Russel and I headed to Lake Cahoon in Suffolk on a beautiful day, the first dry one in weeks. We started in the end of the lake where you have to get through a R/R tunnel where there was barely room for us to get through requiring us to lie in the floor of his john boat.

We started trolling and I was lucky enough to hook and land a nice chain pickerel that was 21.5 inches and 1.9 lbs. Unfortunately, that was the only fish we caught the whole day. But it was still a lovely day of fishing.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



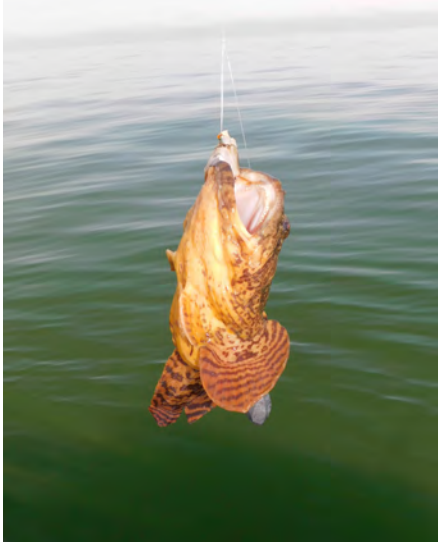
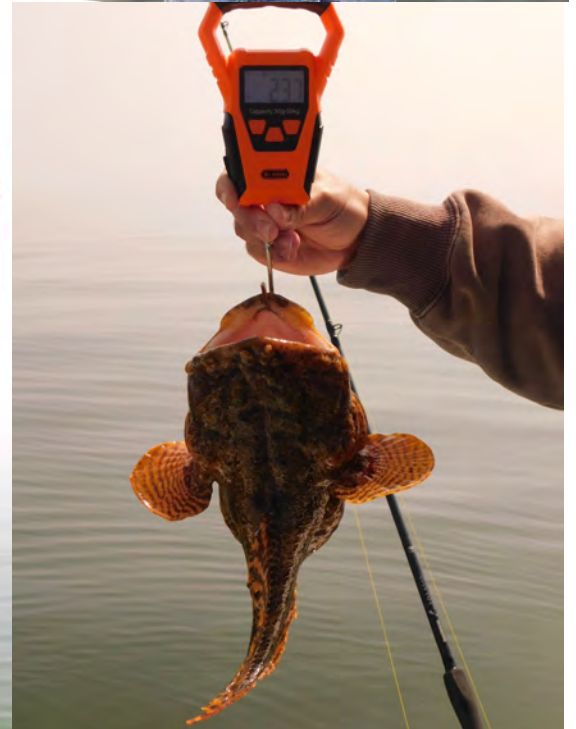
Apr 10: I was fortunate to get invited by Captain Alex Perez for a day of Taug fishing along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Conditions were near perfect around the pilings, tunnels, and rock piles for Tautog fishing. When it comes to fishing for Taugs, I'll admit, I'm not generally known as the "Taug guy". OysterToads, well, they're entirely a different story for me! No problem getting them on the hook around the CBBT.

Alex was a fantastic coach for catching taugs. We tried different rigs and baited each with quartered blue crab until he figured out what I could catch Taugs on. Alex landed 3 nice Taugs and I landed a nice 21.25" male for the our Anglers Club Prize Fish Program. We tagged all the Taugs and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.



Thank You Alex! For a great day on *Hook Shot*.

- Will Bransom





April 14, Mary's niece was visiting from Pennsylvania and wanted to fish. The Shamrock is ready but the wind was not cooperating to fish the CBBT, so we ran to Surry and caught a bunch of catfish. Crew was Mary, Kait, Kevin & Corrine. - Henry Troutner



18 APR: I fished on a Sunday out of Oregon Inlet. We were underway by 3:30 am. We headed to the 350 line and worked north.

We had lots of action in the morning with constant knockdowns, but couldn't get anything hooked up until much later in the day. We managed a blackfin tuna and a 37 lb yellowfin tuna, both caught on Islander lures. - Corey Ferguson

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5 APR: First day out after the winter. Fished with my nephew and Bert Sainz in the morning in Pretty Lake after getting a good report from a friend. We ended up catching 5 specks with the largest just under 23 inches. Water temperature was 53, depth was 6 feet. All specks were caught on silver color 27MR MirrOlure. *It was great to get out on the water!*



15 APR: Fished with Taylor Lyne in Pretty Lake in the morning for specks. Finally, he showed me how to catch one. Two bites, one fish that was caught on Catch 2000 MirrOlure. - Louis Glaser



2-7 APR: Bert and I fished Little Creek, Lynnhaven River and the Elizabeth River, respectively. On the 2nd, we fished Little Creek for 3 hours and got no bites. On the 6th, we went to the back of Lynnhaven and caught an 18 inch speckled trout.



Finally on the 7th, we ventured to the Elizabeth River, fished for 3 1/2 hours and caught a small puppy drum and striper and a 19 inch speck. Nobody said that fishing was easy.

- Ned Smith



17 APR: Billy Ragulsky and I went scouting the Elizabeth and Lafayette Rivers for anything that would bite a lure or fly.

We checked a few oyster beds and channels using artificials during the incoming tide. We were only able to find one Puppy Drum at 16 inches before ending the day. - Alex Perez Sr.



Puppy Drum, tagged and released

Billy on the fly!

18 APR: We fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) using live Blue Crab on the end of the outgoing tide through the flood tide. We ended up catching 15 Tautog, 11 through 16 inches. The best action happened during the outgoing tide. Water temperature was 56 degrees. All fish were tagged and released, to include a previously tagged fish, for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. - Alex Perez Sr.



A few of the tagged and released Puppy Drum.



A few tagged and released Tautog



19 APR: On a late Monday morning and afternoon, I fished the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) during the outgoing tide. Using Zman Streakz on 1/4-ounce jig heads, I caught six Puppy Drum from 22 to 24 inches. All fish were near the rocks of the HRBT island. - Alex Perez Sr.



12 APR. I fished in Islamorada, Florida. Islamorada is known as the sport fishing capital of the world, hosting the largest fishing fleet per square mile from around the globe.

I took a Blue Heaven charter trip. Here is a picture of an amberjack that I caught off of Islamorada and pictures of our whole catch of amberjack and mahi with the guys I fished with. We caught at least 20 more mahi that we couldn't keep. We also hooked several more AJ's but sharks and barracuda ate them.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



FLORIDA KEYS



For the 6th year Mike and I headed to our favorite cottage on Little Torch Key in the Florida Keys. Our cottage is located 28 miles east of Key West....an absolutely perfect location.

The first day we were there, we were sitting on the dock and a manatee decided to pay us a visit. He floated by and there he was looking up at us on our dock. Such a gentle giant.

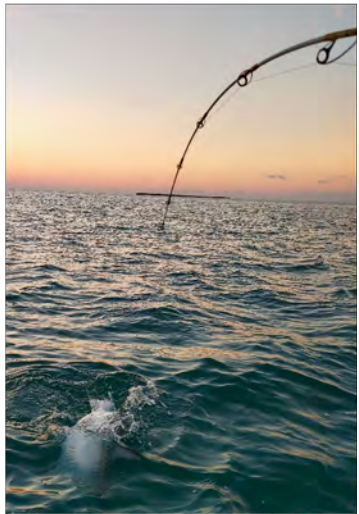
Mike and I went out with Capt. Pat Bracher 4 – 3/4 day trips over our 2 weeks to fish for Tarpon,



Tarpon are caught in 10-15 feet deep channels and Bonefish and Permit are caught on 1.5-2 feet deep flats. I'm going to give highlights of the 4 days. Each day we met Capt Pat at Cudjoe Key Marina at 5:45 AM.

Day 1

We went 3 miles out to fish a channel for Tarpon. Capt Pat threw out 4 lines with green crabs. I got a bite and lost bait, but then hooked a 115 lb Tarpon. It took about 25 minutes to bring him in. We went to the flats for permit and/or bonefish but no luck. There were lots of sharks though.



Day 2

We started the day fishing in a channel for Tarpon. The wind was blowing 15 mph from the NE. Within 1 hour I hooked a tarpon. It took 15-20 minutes to bring him in and this guy was about 100 lbs. We went back to our original anchorage and tried again but no more bites. Next over to the Gulf side for Permit but no luck. Back to Atlantic side flats where we caught 3 bonefish and a few bonnet head sharks.

The most fun of the day was when Pat took us to a flat where he poled and looked for barracuda, bonefish and/or permit. I would be stationed on the bow of the boat when Pat would yell, "Ned cast your lure as far as you can at 3:00 and reel like hell." I threw a 10 inch curly tail bait with 2 hooks attached, and hooked and landed both barracuda using this bait. One jumped 5 feet out of the water. Each was 10-15 lbs. *Whew!!! What fighters!!* I hooked a huge bonefish but didn't land him.



Day 3

Winds 15-25 mph SW when we started fishing for Tarpon. 2-2.5 foot waves rocked the boat when Mike got a fish on. With a belt on and me holding on to keep her from going overboard, she fought the fish for about 20 minutes, and finally reeled in a 100 lb Tarpon. A shark was following the tarpon, so she reeled like hell to bring in the big guy. We went back to our original anchorage and started again and Mike had a fish on again. She tried to handle this one on her own, but turned it over to me to bring this one in. Another 100-115 lb tarpon. Next was flats fishing where we set anchor and caught 9 bonefish as well as 1/2 dozen bonnet head sharks.



Day 4

Finally we had less wind and calmer seas. We fished for Tarpon and I had a bite that took my green crab. Mike got a fish on while it was still dark. Capt Pat released the anchor to chase her fish. This Tarpon ran off so much line, we could see the backing on the line. Mike had her belt on and I was holding her for dear life while she reeled....it seems like forever.



Thank goodness we both workout all the time. After 20 or more minutes of Mike reeling and me holding her up, she was able to reel in the leader which means a catch. The 120 lb Tarpon finally broke the line after jumping a number of times. Great day!!

Around 8:30 we went to flats for bonefish and/or permit. We caught 12 bonefish of a nice 4-5 lb size and numerous bonnet head sharks as well as sting rays. All-in-all we had a great 2 weeks on Little Torch Key in Florida. Next year is just around the corner.

- Ned and Mike Smith

Vacation in Florida: Crystal River

After seeing a "Flats Class" fishing show where C.A. Richardson caught gag groupers with guide Brandon Branch in the Crystal River area in 10 feet of water, I just had to try it. Kathy and I had been thinking of vacation in Florida, so I called Captain Brandon to see if he could take me out the second week of April. Turns out he couldn't but a fellow charter captain might. So, I called Captain Glenn Touchton and set up a half day charter for April 6. All released since gag season doesn't open till June.

We stayed at The Plantation a major hotel right on the Crystal River where manatees live year around. I booked a half day flats charter with Capt. Glen Touchton who fishes for gag grouper in shallow water right outside of the Crystal River. I also wanted to catch snook which I had never fished for in the past and it was in season in that area. Capt. Touchton had a 24 feet. NauticStar center console that was ideally suited for flats fishing.



We headed out of The Plantation at Crystal River at 7:30 am in a chilly but clear day and flat calm. We first headed out of the river into the Gulf about 5 miles out to catch live bait he had in traps and also caught them on Sabiki rigs. We started catching gags by trolling large deep diving plugs in about 7-10 foot of water. I

quickly hooked up my first gag which was keeper size at about 8 lbs but gags weren't in season so we released them all. I ended up catching 6 gags and the biggest was 13 lbs. at 28 inches pictured here.

These gags really fight hard and try to get you hooked in the structure they live around, but I was able to only lose one to a broken leader. After fighting him for about 5 minutes, he was in the net. He was 26 inches and about 8 lbs.

After 45 mph and a half an hour later, we were into crystal clear 2 feet water around the mangrove tree islands during the second part of the day. Glenn moved silently with his electric motor within 30 feet of a mango tree island looking for snook. In no time, he spotted a small school and had me cast in front of the big one.

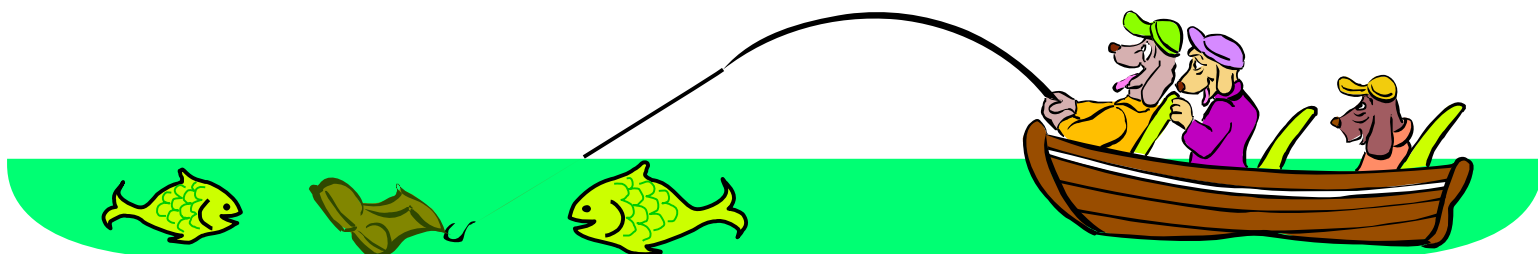
They look like shadows on the grass but I soon got the image in my head, so I could sight them as well. With my first cast of my spinning rig with a live threadfin herring, I put right in front of a nice one that almost immediately gulped the bait and set the hook for me. It then went airborne dancing on his tail in the shallow water. It went airborne twice, but couldn't throw the 6/0 circle hook. *They fight hard!*



That 29-inch slot snook was to be my dinner at The Plantation that night. I hooked up 6 more each about 27 inches and I even hooked a bigger one that broke the 20 lb line.

All told, I got two fish we never can catch in Virginia. Only one snook can be kept 28–34 inch slot sized. The Plantation on Crystal River restaurant fixed the snook three ways for us that evening.

- Dr. James W. Ike
Eisenhower



Angler Interests

May 1st: Blueline Tilefish Season Opens



Blueline Tilefish season opens May 1st and remains through Oct 31st. Remember to get your NOAA/NMFS Tilefish Permit and meet the reporting requirement. Golden Tilefish remain open year around with an 8 per person per day possession limit, remember that Blueline Tilefish possession limits vary. Three (3) fish per person on a recreational vessel; five (5) fish per person on a USCG uninspected for-hire vessel; seven (7) fish per person on a USCG inspected for hire vessel.

May 15th: Black Sea Bass Season Opens




The regular season for Black Sea Bass opens on May 15th through May 31st. It will reopen on June 16 through Dec 31st. Unlike the earlier February season, the regular season doesn't require special permitting or reporting requirements. Be certain to check current regulations for fishing in federal waters with NOAA/NMFS at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/black-sea-bass#recreational>




Warming up but water is still quite cold:






THINK 60 – Cold Water Danger


For Today April 28th 2021



Before you go on the water...

- ✓ Always wear a life jacket
- ✓ Plan for the worst case scenario
- ✓ Prepare to be immersed in cold water
- ✓ Make sure your vessel is in good condition
- ✓ Check the weather forecast at: weather.gov/akq, including winds, waves and water temperatures
- ✓ Tell someone where you are going and when you will return





Cold Water Kills!

The "Paddle Craft Cold Water Risk" program is established in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard

- ✓ Dress for the water temperature, NOT the air temperature. This includes a wetsuit or drysuit
- ✓ Have a cell phone, radio, or other means of communication
- ✓ Other emergency items include: whistles, smoke flares, devices allowing you to be seen or heard

weather.gov/akq | [/NWSWakefieldVA](https://www.facebook.com/NWSWakefieldVA) | [@NWSWakefieldVA](https://twitter.com/NWSWakefieldVA) | [/NWSWakefieldVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNWSWakefieldVA) | 4/28/2021 6:24 AM

Norfolk Anglers Club

Angler Interests

WANTED!

We're always looking for photos for the cover of the Wireline! Here's a few tips to take great photos of your fishing adventures;

- Vertically orient the camera (portrait)

- Vertically orient the camera (portrait)
- Remember to remove your sunglasses/buffs
- Avoid the shadows from rods and rigging
- Take photos with and without camera flash
- Avoid cluttering the photos, keep it simple
- Action photos landing the fish are great!
- Keep the sun behind the camera
- Scenic shots are great too!
- *Take LOTS of PICTURES!*



Operation Paddle Smart: "If Found" Stickers available



When the Coast guard or local emergency responders receive a report or discover a paddle craft adrift, there is no way to determine if the vessel was washed off of a beach during high tide or was separated from its owner during the course of a boating accident. In these situations, the Coast Guard has to assume the owner is in trouble and needs assistance until it can find evidence to support otherwise. As a result the Coast Guard and local harbor masters spend hundreds of thousands of tax dollars per year searching for potential people in distress when there was no one in danger to begin with.

To combat this growing problem, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary have launched Operation Paddle Smart. The cornerstone of Paddle Smart is providing owners of kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, and other unregistered watercraft a free "If Found" sticker for their boat to help reduce the number of unnecessary search and rescue cases.

The stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker. The "If Found" sticker should be placed in a highly visible location inside the vessel's cockpit or near the operators station. The stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker.

The Norfolk Anglers Club was provided some of these "If Found" stickers by the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9 from Smithfield, VA. If you would like to have one just send us an email with your name & address to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com. We'll send it to you free!

Vessel Identification Sticker for Canoe, Kayak or Rowboat

IF FOUND - CONTACT

Name: _____

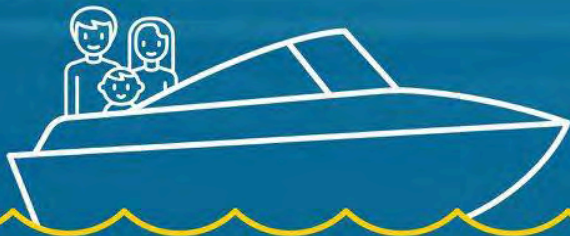
Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Use waterproof marker



Social Distancing When Boating



Only boat with those in your immediate household.



No beaching your boat right next to someone else.



Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.



No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

No guests on your boat!

This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies.

Go right from your house to the boat and back –

no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air; but enjoy it while boating responsibly.

Social distancing is the best way to stay safe.

SEA TOW