

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MAY
2022

What's Inside

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

Fishing Tips: Spring and Early Summer Tuna Fishing with Captain Russ Kostinas & Captain Bobby Kostinas, *Top Notch Sportfishing Charters*

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay: Tautog
- Rudee Inlet: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Little Creek/Pretty Lake: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- James River/Chucktuck Creek: Puppy Drum
- North Carolina/Buxton: Shark
- Florida: Mutton & YellowTail Snapper, Tarpon, Bonefish, Barracuda, Snook, Redfish

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Welcome to our new members; Andrew Tomlin and family, Rich Como, Forest Woods, Ron Ramos and family, Bernie and Ama Migat, and Michael "Hutch" Hutchings and family. We're glad to have you with us!

Our next event is the club challenge among the Hampton Roads anglers clubs call the Hunt for the Hardheads. We've got very few members signed up and most of all we need Captains/Boats to participate.

If you're interested in a very flexible part-time opportunity supporting fisheries management check out the VMRC Job Announcement for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey/APAIS Seasonal Data Field Technician. APAIS is an important process in collecting recreational catch and level of effort information to better manage our fisheries. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how fisheries are managed and be directly involved in field data collection efforts.

Later this summer the Military Appreciation Day (MAD) - Tidewater Chapter will be hosting the Military Appreciation Day 2022 event on July 30th at Cobbs Marina. This is a wonderful event to show our support for the Active Duty military community. They need volunteer boat Captains to take Service Personnel out for a day of fishing as well as needing volunteers ashore to assist with the day's events.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Capt Colt North with Litigator Sportfishing

Its the time of year for fantastic Drum fishing in Hampton Roads and the Peninsula. Join us on May 16th to learn tips and techniques for Drum fishing in our area.



Important:

May 16th

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Club Calendar

May

Mon, May 9th, 6:00pm: Recreational Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB). The meeting will be held remotely using WebEx.

Sat, May 14th: Hunt for the Hardheads Tournament, Willoughby Harbor Marina

Mon, May 16th: Regular Club Meeting, Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Wed, May 18th, 4:00pm: Menhaden Management Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held remotely using WebEx.

June

Thurs, June 23rd, 8:00am-12:00pm, USFWS Kids Surf Fishing Class, Back Bay Wildlife Refuge



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:

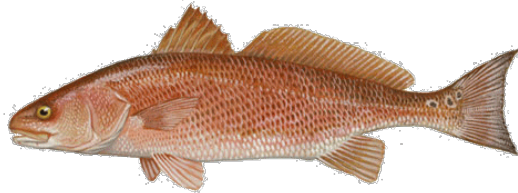
- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

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 - April 30, 2022

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (5) Russell Willoughby (6)	Shark	Kelly Hoggard (2)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (1)	Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1) George Langdon (1)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (8) Ned Smith (1) Bert Sainz (1) Louis Glaser (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

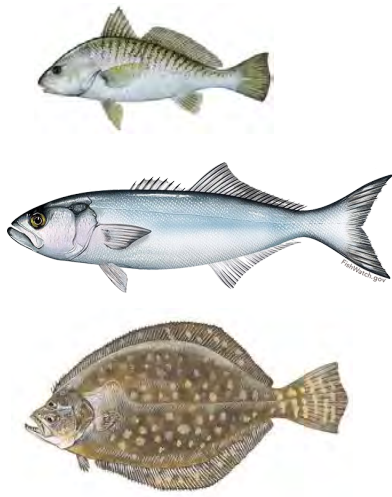
Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, as well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish paperwork is acceptable.



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



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from May 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- \$5 Entry Fee due before fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- This is a Total Length Tournament Only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$100 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$50 Gift Card
- All fishing must be in accordance with State fishing regulations for recreational anglers
- Entries must be submitted via the Norfolk Anglers Prize Fish Entry Form (Available at www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com) and submitted by email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com



"Hunt for the Hardheads"

Date: Saturday May 14, 2022

Location: Willoughby Harbor Marina,
1525 Bayville St., Norfolk

Measure In: Starts at 12:30pm ends at 1:30pm
Entry Fee: \$10.00 per Angler. (Includes Fishing,
Picnic, and Charitable Donation)
Picnic Only \$5.00



Tournament Notes

- Up to 20 Anglers per club (Must be Club Members), no restriction on fishing areas.
- Trailer Parking is available on both sides of Bayville Street, from the Marina to the Boat Ramp. Please, NO trailers in the Marina Parking Lot!
- Yellow Highlighted Area is the Tournament Area and Cookout
- Bring a chair, there are no picnic tables.
- Boat mooring is available on "D" Dock only. Be aware there are areas with submerged pilings (xxxx), most areas are roped off. Tie up on the seawall side of "D" Dock

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



Spring and Early Summer Tuna Fishing

Captain Russ Kostinas and Captain Bobby Kostinas, Top Notch Sport Fishing

The first thing Captains Russ and Bobby Kostinas will tell you about tuna fishing is "There's no wrong way, but there are some better ways for tuna fishing". Most tuna catches are lost at the boat, they shared. Always be prepared with a plan, rigging, and be ready for a fish of a lifetime.

Rod & Reel Setup

Shimano and Penn reels are the standard for offshore tuna fishing but there a lot of other options. Russ shared, you don't need to go high end but you'll need a reel with sufficient drag, retrieve ratio, and line capacity to work the fish to the boat. Top Notch Sportfishing uses the Penn International 50W reels with 350 yards of 80# monofilament combined with 400 yards of 80# hollow braid backing. Capt Bobby Kostinas added the hollow braid is good for splicing the monofilament topshot inside of the braid to make a knotless union that feeds through the rod guides easily.



Bait Rigging

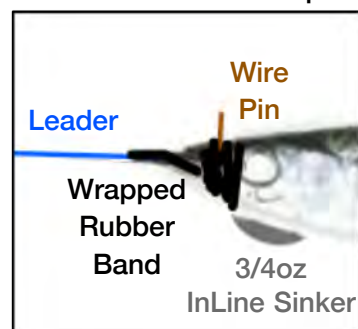
The most common trolling natural bait is Ballyhoo. Ballyhoo are available in frozen packs at the local bait & tackle shops year round and range in size from Small (7-8"), Medium (8-8.5"), Medium-Large (8.5-9"), Select (9-10"), and Horse (10-10.5"). Medium size is typical for fishing our area offshore.



There are many online articles and videos to describe how to handle and prepare ballyhoo as well as rigging options. A few things to remember when purchasing and handling ballyhoo. Buy ballyhoo packages that look fresh, signs of fresh ballyhoo are green "poop" and a lack of blood. Brown "poop" or blood can mean they may have been partially thawed and refrozen. Thaw the ballyhoo in their sealed package in cool water until they can be separated for preparation or out of the package in a heavy brine solution (never fresh water). You want to keep fresh water away from the ballyhoo, it can turn them soft and result in washing out while trolling. Use a salt/baking soda mixture to keep them preserved. It also helps to toughen the skin a bit and preserves the color. Top Notch Sportfishing uses the packaged Baitmasters "MagicBrine". MagicBrine has the right mixture of salt and other preservatives to keep the baits fresh.



Pin Rigs incorporate a small piece of wire from the crimp which secures the ballyhoo to the leader. The pin is the point you want the ballyhoo to be pulled from, never the hook. The hook should freely extend from the ballyhoo's belly to avoid causing the bait to bunch up on the hook. The ballyhoo is then secured to the pin using the rubber band method.



An "L" shaped thin #10 Wire crimped to the leader is pushed up through the ballyhoo's head. A rubber band is wrapped around the head and beak of the ballyhoo to securely attach it to the leader and pin. The rubber band rig is easy to use and works very well with ballyhoo rigged natural and with lures.



Find us on:
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Top Notch Sportfishing Charters

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

It's always best to prepare enough ballyhoo bait in advance and keep them cold, rigged and ready to go. Bobby stressed to keep prepared ballyhoo off of the ice. Use a piece of cardboard or better still a bait tray (photo right) so that the baits are never in direct contact with freshwater/ice. Fresh water can soften the bait and make it more prone to washing out. How long before you check the baits you've been trolling? Russ explained about 45-60 minutes is a good amount of time to check them. Take in one and make sure it's still swimming straight, not washed out, and then replace it if it's not right.



Setting up the Spread

There's lots of variations and personal preferences in setting up your trolling spread. Much depends on the equipment (rods/reels/outriggers) you have and how your boat is setup for trolling. A common technique most tuna charters employ is to stagger your baits diagonally outward from the transom. Not only does this place the baits in a larger area it also makes altering course easier with less risk of tangling lines and rigs. When making course adjustments remember to keep your spread in sight and avoid sharp turns that will cross lines.

Every tuna angler will have an assortment of teaser rigs, daisy chains, spreader bars, teaser birds, sea witch skirts and other trolling lures to mix and match for the right presentation of the day. Russ added, that setting out different colors on opposite sides of the boat will help dial in on the lure choice and colors the tuna prefer that day, and every day can be different.

Working from the outside inward, the Long Riggers are usually rigged with a single ballyhoo bait, with a plain skirt or trolling lure. On cloudy days Top Notch will select darker lure colors and on bright sunny days a lighter color. Also on hot and sunny days the long outrigger lures will be presented much further behind the boat than shown (diagram right). A typical positioning of the long outrigger lures is just past the fourth wake/wave line behind the boat. Inboard are the Short Outrigger line. They can be rigged with single lures or are often rigged with a artificial squid daisy chain. These are chains of 8 rubber squid (9" length) spaced about a foot apart. Attaching to the last daisy chain squid is a single lure, a squid of different color or a trolling lure positioned about three feet behind the chain and just past the third wake/wave. The Flat Lines run from the corner of the transom and will have a smaller daisy chain of 5 rubber squid (4" length) spaced two feet apart. Just like the Short Rigger a single rigged bait will trail attached to the last squid in the chain and be positioned closer to the boat just past the second wake/wave. Inboard of the transom is where Top Notch rigs their Spreader Bars. These teaser rigs have a small bird in front and a series of rubber squids staggered on each side. Just like the Daisy Chains the last squid is rigged with a following ballyhoo bait and a lure.

In the center of the spread is the "Way Far Back" rig. It runs past the propeller wash and far enough back to clear water. It almost always has a teaser bird or daisy chain with a rigged bait trailing. The purpose of the bird/chain is two-fold. It draws attention of the tuna and it aids the crew in seeing just how far back it is. Just like the Long Outriggers on bright sunny days it may be further back and on cloudy days it would be closer in.



Your tuna spread should be equally staggered on each side, doing this roughly mimics a school of bait fish. If a tuna comes into the spread and attacks and misses the Flat Line lure there's other lures just outside and behind. Staggering the baits diagonally outward aligns with the light dashed red line forming a "M" and presents the best coverage of the area behind the boat.

www.TopNotchCharterFishing.com

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Trolling Speed: approximately 6.5 knots

Staggering baits makes turning easier without tangling lines

Once hooked up keep moving - don't stop to retrieve fish

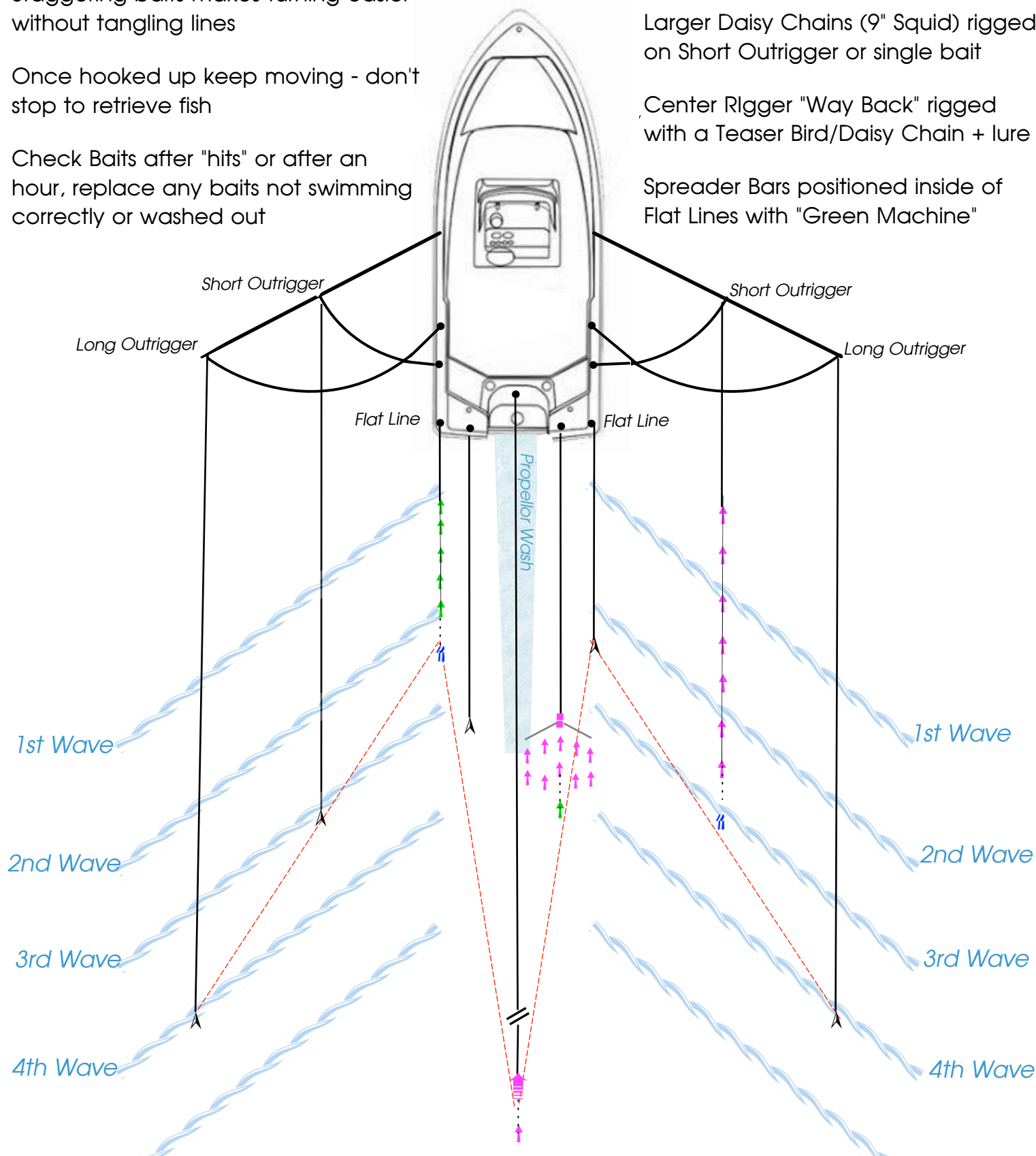
Check Baits after "hits" or after an hour, replace any baits not swimming correctly or washed out

Small Daisy Chains (4" Squid) rigged
on Flat Lines (one or both sides)

Larger Daisy Chains (9" Squid) rigged on Short Outrigger or single bait

Center Rigger "Way Back" rigged
with a Teaser Bird/Daisy Chain + lure

Spreader Bars positioned inside of Flat Lines with "Green Machine"



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

JULY 30, 2022

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



BOAT & TROOP REGISTRATION

Boats: Starting May 15

Troops: Starting June 1

Via our web page

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

FACEBOOK.COM/MADVA

CUSTOM ROD RAFFLE

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

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

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

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

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

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SPONSORSHIP TIERS

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GOLD: \$500-\$999

SILVER: \$200 - \$499

See back for details!



JULY 30, 2022

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

BOAT REGISTRATION

Our boat captains are invaluable – whether you're a seasoned, licensed Captain with a 43' sportfisher or a weekend fisherman with a 19' skiff, the troops could use your services! Starting **May 15**, you can go to our web site and provide some basic information such as your contact information, boat make and size, intentions for inshore/offshore fishing, # of troops that you can support, and your planned launch/return location. We will have a Captain's dinner meeting at Cobb's Marina the evening before the event, where we will distribute our Captain's buckets full of goodies and provide some important event information for everyone. In each bucket will be a **FREE** raffle ticket for a custom rod, provided by Richard Wasdin of Reel Blessed Custom Fishing Rods! Contact our Boat Coordinator for more information.

TROOP REGISTRATION

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

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

VOLUNTEER/DONOR/SPONSOR INFORMATION

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



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

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

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

President: Debra Wade
wadedebra1@gmail.com

Vice President: Lisa Dunn
dunnsells757@gmail.com

Treasurer: Shelby King
shelby.king@militaryappreciationday.net

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

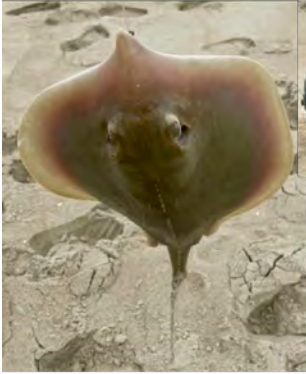
Event/Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Carroll
lisa.carroll@militaryappreciationday.net



Fishing Reports...

11-15 APR: Made a trip down to Buxton, North Carolina. I surf fished from ramps 43 and 44. Winds were 15-20 mph with the temperature at 59 degrees.

Managed a 10-pound stingray and a few Northern puffer fish. Using 13-foot Vega H heavy rod paired with Daiwa 30H saltist. I used a 20-pound suffix mono with 50-pound shock leader. I also used cut mullet with fresh shrimp for bait.



Saw lots of sharks being caught. Action was slow, but wasn't skunked like some I saw fishing.
- Bill Holland



12 APR: Pretty Lake was very slow. Took my girl Hai Edison trout fishing for a couple of hours. Hai caught this 18-inch speckled trout on a 27MR which was released. I was using 4-inch padded tale which yielded no bites. Been a really challenging past week. Water temperature was 60 degrees and depth were 7 feet. Tight lines! - Louis Glaser



12 APR: Fran saved the day with a nice Mutton Snapper. A few small yellow tails rounded us off.

- James Robinson



GREAT FISHING IN RUDEE

8, 9, 11 & 13 APR: Bert Sainz and I fished four days in Rudee Lake; Doug Wilburn was with us for two days. We put in at Owls Creek ramp at 7:00 am each day.

Over the four-day period we caught 45 Puppy Drum and 7 Speckled Trout. We had 8 - 10 pups over 26 inches and 1 over 29 inches. Bait of choice varied from 4-inch rubber, 18MR and 27MR, and spoons. One very interesting note was that Doug caught a 27-inch pup with a 12-inch eel in its gut. Some of the pups had sea lice on their bodies; I'm guessing that they recently came in from the ocean.



The largest Speckled Trout was 22 inches. Water was generally clear and temperature ranged from 54 to 60 degrees. Winds were fairly low in the early morning, but picked up later.

- Ned Smith



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12 APR: John Curry invited Mary and I for an early evening trip on the Chuckatuck. We left the dock at 5:00 PM and returned about 7:00 PM. Mary caught the only drum, a 17 inches which was released. This was our first drum of the season and was caught on a minnow fished on a 1/8oz jig. I lost a good fish on a 17MR.

After mentioning several times, "I would have liked to have seen that fish," Mary coldly said "Get over it." John used this trip to test out his GPS trolling motors ability to follow a track. It worked great and freed him up to just worry fishing as we slowly moved along the shoreline the perfect distance to fish.

20 APR: Mary, Evy the fishing dog and I gave the shad run one last try. Although it is about over, we did manage to catch about a dozen in a couple hours. Small silver or gold spoons with a shad dart 18 inches above on a dropper loop.
- Henry and Mary Troutner



1 APR: Very very WINDY! Fished 2 1/2 hours with Gerardo Lopez in Pretty Lake with white caps. Bite was on and we caught around 20 speckled trout using rubber baits. Going out, wind was 25 to 30 knots and told Gerardo you don't know until you try. Glad we stayed. Water temperature 62 depth 7 feet. - Louis Glaser



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15 APR: I wreck fished in the Chesapeake Bay on a Friday. Using quartered Blue Crab, I fished the beginning of the outgoing current and two hours into it catching 17 Tautog up to 16 inches. I didn't mind catching the smaller fish since I was able to tag and release all but two for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.



The two that weren't tagged were already tagged. One being tagged by me the year earlier.

- Alex Perez



16 APR: Bert Sainz took Burt Whitt and I into Rudee. He put us on some nice Reds. No trout and didn't see anybody catch them. Bert caught a big boy which is 30 inches or more. Bert revived it to fight another day. Reds caught on rubber.

- Louis Glaser



14 APR: Fished with Jerry Gaines in Pretty Lake in the morning under windy conditions. We managed two trout using paddle tails (4 inches).

Finally saw some bait. Maybe things get better. Water temperature was 67 and depth 7 feet. - Louis Glaser





3 APR: Fished from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the afternoon with Bert Sainz in Pretty Lake. Ended up catching eight with the largest 23 1/2 inches which we released with others. Odd today that a lot were caught bouncing off the bottom four-inch panel tails.

- Louis Glaser



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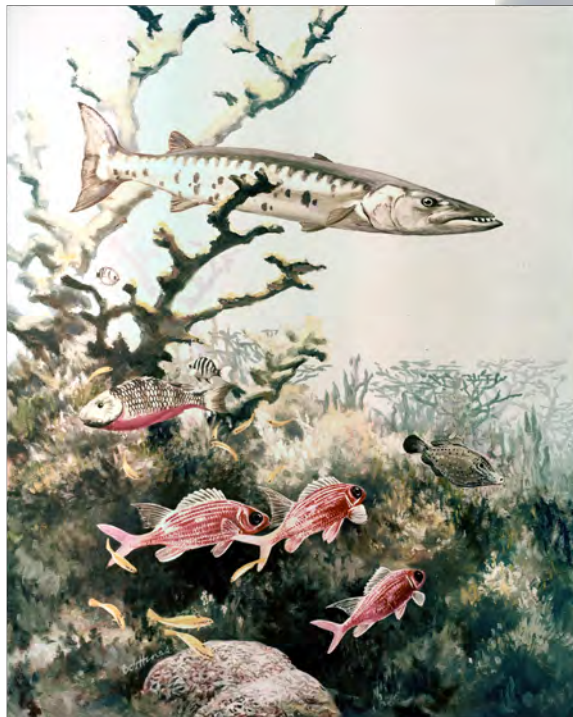


19 APR: Michel and I went guide fishing for tarpon, bonefish, and barracuda. The trip started at 5:30 am and ended at 11:30 am. We fished for tarpon until 8 am and then went to the flats to sight- cast for bonefish and barracuda.

Winds were 15 to 20 knots. We anchored in a channel for the tarpon bite using live crab; Mike got the only bite and hooked up on a big tarpon. It took her 25 minutes to get the fish beside the boat for pictures and a release. Pat, our guide, said it was 140 pounds.



Mike was worn out and we left soon after to go on the flats. Pat got us to the flats and started poling. I was on the bow throwing a 12" orange soft body bait on a 1/2 oz jig head and retrieving it fast. In 1.5 hours, I threw over 100 times, had many barracuda chasing or hitting the bait; caught 6. More trips are planned. - Ned Smith



Barracuda, Reef and Fishes and Photo by Robert W. Hines, USFWS on Pixnio



5 APR: Kathy and I really enjoyed our time last year in Crystal River Florida at the Plantation but we really didn't get time to look around the area so we decided to go back this year.

Crystal River is the home of the manatees with spring fed rivers and hundreds of mangrove islands with crystal clear water that snook love, so they were my target species with secondary target of red drum and spotted seatrout (speckled trout).

I booked two half day trips with Captain Glen Touchton whom I fished with last year when he put me on my first snook. On that trip my

personal best was a 29 inches, actually the first one I had ever hooked. You can only keep snook in Florida between 28 - 32 inches, one per day.

The weather had been really bad the week before; it was still very windy on this morning. Water level was really low giving us only 18 inches to two foot around the mangroves. With the high winds it made really hard to catch threadfin herring for live bait using sabicki rigs, but he managed to get us two dozen from the gulf.

At the mangroves the low water and high winds made it necessary to position with wind to our backs. On the first cast, I had a solid snook on that measured out at 29.5 inches, my personal best and a guaranteed meal to be cooked for dinner at The Plantation at Crystal River (like we did last year). He fought like they usually do, airing several times and repeatedly trying to hide in the mangroves. We kept at this place and I promptly hooked up four more all slot fish, but none bigger than my first caught.

I actually lost the biggest one that jumped right at the boat and threw the hook. My guide said he was probably over slot 32 plus inches. When the school moved on, we decided to look for trout or reds but despite working several islands we just didn't find any. The winds by this time were running 18-25 mph so we headed in.

-Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



8 APR: Despite hoping for the weather to cooperate, it decided to stay the same with west winds 15-20 which again created low water. We even left the Plantation at 6:00 am before daybreak to avoid the wind predicted later, but no such luck. This time Captain Glen decided we'd use pinfish which he had in several traps he'd set previously in the Gulf.

We had 30+ in no time then headed for the mangrove islands again. Low water was worse even when the prediction was for full high tide. But we persisted using the pinfish and rubber baits as well. Fishing live bait in the flats of Florida amounts to casting the baitfish close to the mangroves after quietly approaching the island with the electric trolling motor in about 12-18 inches of water. You can see the baitfish and you just have to keep the line as tight as possible without pulling or directing the bait.

After about 2 hours fishing, I noted my pinfish was heading steadily towards me and right behind him was a huge fish. My guide said he thought it might be a shark but as soon as he grabbed my bait he took off on a long run; typical of big red drum. Thank goodness Captain Glen had bought brand new Shimano Stradic 4000 reels and matched them with 7 feet 6-inch Star rods medium power, fast action. Since this red pushed that drag to the limit and with only 10-pound braid as a main line, I was not going to try to bring it in like I would here at home with 50 lbs braid and a medium heavy rod. But thank goodness that drag was as smooth as any reel I've ever used. After running back and forth and around the boat a few times, he decided to try to go into the mangroves, but I managed to angle him away from them. As he seemed to tire out and I got him closer to the boat Captain Glen tried to net him. Each time he got close to the net he pulled away. But finally, I got him to head straight for the net, but as his head went in, he lunged and tore right through the net and took off on another run.

So, now I had a running over slot red drum with a net hanging on the braid as I again carefully attempted to ease him back to the boat. With no back up net lipping him with Boga grips was the only solution. And amazingly Captain Glen was able to do this in no time. I was by this time exhausted and could hardly hold that fish for pictures. He measured 35 inches and weighed 20 pounds on the boga grips.

After that fish, we kept at that place and I soon hooked a snook. He provided a good fight, but not as hard as that red. However this time, we could only get it in the boat with boga grips, so I had to fight him until we were sure he was tired and stopped tailing in the shallow water. This snook was 28.5 inches a slot fish and dinner for another day. The bite seemed to die, so we worked several more islands to no avail.

I really felt lucky to have both of my targets done, so in we went. Overall, not as many fish caught as last year, but still my targets were caught and the whole trip otherwise went without a hitch.

Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower





NOAA FISHERIES

Marine Recreational Information Program

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is the state-regional-federal partnership responsible for developing, improving, and implementing surveys that measure how many trips recreational anglers take and how many fish they catch.

Measuring Recreational Catch: The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

How does NOAA Fisheries collect information about recreational catch?

From Maine to Mississippi and in Hawaii, state agencies work with the Marine Recreational Information Program to conduct angler interviews at public fishing access sites. These interviews are part of the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS), and inform our estimates of total recreational catch.

To conduct the APAIS, specially trained field interviewers visit marinas, boat ramps, beaches, and piers, and survey anglers as they complete their fishing trips. Interviewers weigh and measure fish that were harvested, and collect information about fish that were released. State agencies coordinate in-person, on-site data collection, while regional fisheries information networks provide data storage and quality control. Interviewers play no role in law enforcement, and must keep the information anglers share confidential.

How many anglers are surveyed each year? What happens to the information they share?

In 2019, field interviewers intercepted about 95,000 angler trips on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and about 2,800 angler trips in Hawaii. Data from our catch surveys are combined with data from our effort surveys to produce an estimate of total recreational catch. These estimates are combined with commercial catch data, biological research, and information collected from direct observations of fisheries to help scientists assess the health of fish stocks. Through a public process that includes angler input, fisheries managers use these assessments to set fishing regulations that balance access to the resource with maintaining its sustainability.

How does this survey benefit me?

Our understanding of saltwater recreational catch depends on complete and accurate data provided by recreational anglers. Taking a few minutes to share information about your fishing trip is one of the most important contributions

you can make to fisheries science, management, and the sustainability of a great American pastime. When you share information about your fishing trip with field interviewers, you are playing an important role in supporting sustainable fishing opportunities.

How do interviewers decide where to go?

Field interviewers are assigned to visit public fishing access sites during specific times of day. We use standard statistical methods to select sites that will produce a representative sample of fishing trips.

What is an interviewer's daily assignment like?

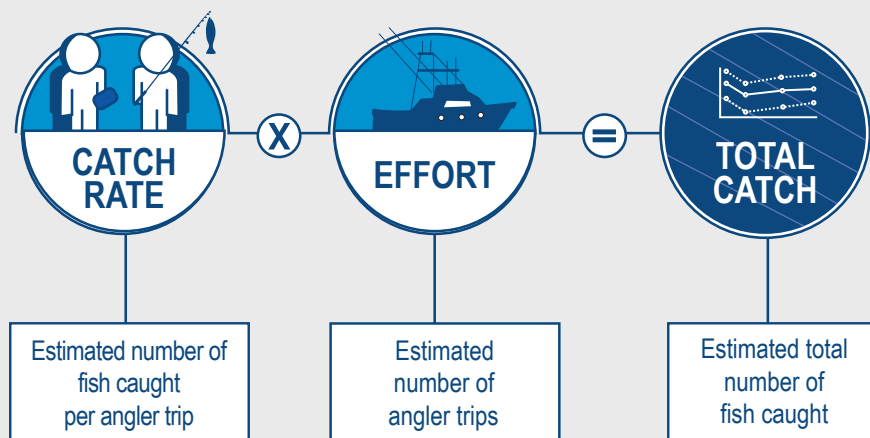
Field interviewers conduct surveys during all times of day, and work the entire length of their six-hour assignment. This means you may see an interviewer at night, or working at a site where fishing activity is low.

Each sampling assignment includes a date, a time interval, one or two sites that should be sampled, and the order in which these sites should be visited.



LEARN MORE
countryfish.noaa.gov

How do you use the APAIS to estimate total catch?



While the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey is used to collect data about the number of fish anglers catch, the Fishing Effort Survey and For-Hire Survey are used to collect data about the number of trips anglers take. Three additional surveys, known collectively as the Large Pelagics Survey, collect recreational catch and effort data for tuna, sharks, billfishes, swordfish, and other offshore species. Catch and effort data are combined to estimate total catch, which informs scientific stock assessments and the public process of setting rules and regulations to support healthy and productive recreational fisheries.

Why do interviewers work at sites where fishing activity is low?

Strict adherence to survey design is critical to collecting statistically sound data. This means field interviewers must follow their predetermined schedule until their work for the day is complete.

While field interviewers do not work when the weather poses a threat to their safety, they do work when the weather is bad or when fishing activity is low. Documenting low-activity sites gives us a complete picture of what's happening—or not—on the water.

Why do interviewers survey anglers who didn't catch any fish?

Our sample needs to be representative of all saltwater fishing trips, regardless of how many fish, if any, were caught. If we only sampled trips where anglers caught fish, our catch estimates would be biased (and likely, too high).

Why do interviewers survey anglers who are visiting from out of town?

Interviewing both resident and visiting anglers ensures our sample is representative of all saltwater fishing trips. It also gives us the information we need to adjust the effort data we collect through our mail survey of coastal households. In other words, if we didn't use the APAIS to gather information from

out-of-state residents, we wouldn't be able to account for the fish those anglers catch or the trips they take.

Why does it matter what one angler reports?

The success of our surveys relies on the participation of the people we sample. Because it's not practical or possible for us to intercept the millions of recreational anglers fishing along the coast, each trip we do sample may represent dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of trips.

Why should I participate more than once?

Even if you've been surveyed before, the unique characteristics of your most recent fishing trip haven't been incorporated into our data. No two fishing trips are alike, and our survey is designed to capture those differences.

Why haven't I been interviewed?

With millions of fishing trips taking place each year, it's not possible to intercept every trip that occurs or to gather information from every angler who fishes. While no two fishing trips are the same, the statistical process that drives the selection of sampling sites ensures the anglers we do interview are representative of the wider recreational fishing community.

What can I do to help?

If you're asked to participate in a recreational fishing survey, we encourage you to provide complete and accurate information, even if you didn't fish, or didn't catch anything. This will help us produce more accurate estimates of recreational catch. You can also encourage other anglers to participate in recreational fishing surveys; voice your support for state, regional, and national data collection programs; or get involved in fisheries management through your state marine fisheries agency, interstate marine fisheries commission, or regional fishery management council.

Angler Interests

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Job Announcements



MRIP (Marine Recreational Information Program) Seasonal Data Field Technician

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will conduct the field portion of the MRIP. This program includes the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey/APAIS and requires face-to-face interviews with marine recreational anglers. Field staff will travel to assigned sites to interview anglers about their fishing experiences, collect a variety of information, and weigh, measure,

and identify fish by species name that the anglers have caught. Assigned sites can include beaches, piers, docks/jetties, and access points for private charter and head boats, including marinas, boat ramps and other points of entry to marine waters. Field staff is responsible for entering this data on a Samsung tablet while speaking with anglers at these sites. Paper forms may be used in the event that the tablet becomes non-functioning. There will be a 2-day training in the actual MRIP procedures including a Fish ID test and a Procedures Test. After becoming qualified to conduct the APAIS there will be on-site training to get the applicant comfortable conducting the survey.

Qualifications: Must be 21 years old. Must have a valid Virginia driver's license and access to a personal vehicle; personal vehicle use is reimbursed at 57.5 cents per mile, be willing to travel a reasonable distance to reach assigned sites; be available on weekends and weekdays, with additional availability during some evenings and nights. Individuals should be comfortable approaching and speaking with strangers; handling, measuring, and weighing fish; and working outside for extended periods of time in variable weather conditions. Must demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and follow prescribed procedures. Must be computer savvy in Word and Excel, and be able to copy, scan and send data from home.

Knowledge of fish species with experience in the area of recreational angling and familiarity of marine waterways in their local area is required.

Location and Hours: The seasonal data technicians may be required to work a minimum of three (3) 6 hour shifts a week although this is not a guarantee; must have flexible availability and be able to work any and all of the following shifts: 2am – 8am; 8am -2pm; 11am – 5pm; 2 pm-8 pm and 8pm – 2am; regular weekend work will be required and seasonal staff may be required to work up to 12 hours each weekend. The 2am-8am and 8pm-2 am are infrequent and always conducted with 2 Interviewers.

Those interested may contact Jeff Allen at 757-325-8994 or email at; allenfoxhilllure@cox.net

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.

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!

Angler Interests

Recreational Regulation Changes in 2022



At the April 26th meeting the Marine Resources Commission voted to establish the recreational fishing regulations in 2022 for Scup (Porgy), Summer Flounder, and Black Sea Bass.

Scup/Porgy: The minimum size of scup harvested by recreational fishing gear including, hook and line, rod and reel, spear, and gig shall be nine inches in total length.

Summer Flounder: The minimum size of summer flounder harvested by recreational fishing gear, including hook and line, rod and reel, spear and gig, shall be 16 inches in total length, except that the minimum size of summer flounder harvested in the Potomac River tributaries shall be the same as established by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for the mainstem Potomac River.

Recreational Possession Limit: 4 fish per person per day.

Black Sea Bass: The minimum size of black sea bass harvested by recreational gear, including hook and line, rod and reel, spear and gig, shall be 13 inches in total length.

The open recreational fishing season shall be from May 15 through December 11, 2022.

Reminder on Tilefish Regulations

Blueline Tilefish season opens on May 1st through Oct 31st for federal waters off Virginia and northward (Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council area). Possession limits are 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. Additionally, a NMFS/GARFO permit is required to fish tilefish and comes with a reporting requirement.

Golden Tilefish allow the possession limit of eight (8) fish per person. The NMFS/GARFO permit applies to golden tilefish as well.

If you fish in federal waters off North Carolina, regulations differ and it's advised to check current regulations before departing.

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License Requirements

Individual license required in Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries, and Virginia ocean waters unless fishing on licensed pier, licensed charter boat or licensed private boat; or specifically exempted. Click on link to see specific information on licensing requirements, license fees, or license agents.

Cast Net.....License is not required to use cast net to catch small quantities of mullet, menhaden, or minnows for personal use (fish may not be sold, traded or bartered). Note too that saltwater recreational fishing license holders may also use a cast net to keep other species of fish for personal use without buying an additional cast net license. Code of Virginia § 28.2-302.1 says the recreational saltwater license may be used for recreational, non-commercial use of a rod-and-reel (hook and line), handline, spear or gig, cast net, or up to two eel pots.

Measurements.....Size limits are in total length. Total length means the length of a fish measured from the most forward projection of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the tip of the longer lobe of the tail (caudal) fin, measured with the tail compressed along the midline, using a straight-line measure, not measured over the curve of the body. Snout means the most forward projection from a fish's head that includes the upper and lower jaw.

Altering fish while on board boat.....alteration of fish such that the fish can not be identified or properly measured may not be legal. Consult Regulation 4 VAC 20-580 for more information.

Snagging.....Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any fish.

No Sale.....Sale or barter of recreationally caught fish is prohibited.

Spearfishing summary of recreational spearfishing

Select Recreational Fishing Regulations

May 2022



Atlantic Croaker

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



Spot

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



Kingfish

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



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

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



Bluefish

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



Spanish Mackerel

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



King Mackerel

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



Cobia (Permit Required)

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



Summer Flounder

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



Striped Bass

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

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

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

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

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

Coastal Season

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

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



Spadefish

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



Sheepshead

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



Black Sea Bass

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



Tautog

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



Speckled Trout

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



Red Drum

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



Black Drum

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