

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

MAY 2026

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Capt Chris Haduck, Spanish Mackerel fishing in the Bay and Ocean

Fishing Tips: Virginia Saltwater Tournament, Matt Hargis and Virginia Artificial Reef Program, Hunter Smith, Virginia Marine Resources Commission

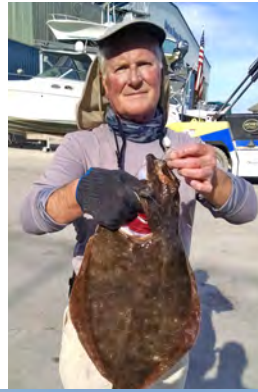
Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay: Tautog, Black Sea Bass, Croaker
- Chuckatuck/Brewers Creek: Blue Catfish
- James River/Chuckatuck Creek: Red Drum

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

It's with a deep sadness that I share that Ned Smith passed away on April 30th. Ned was a long time member and tremendous supporter of our club. Whether it was fishing at the Ocean View Community Pier with the kids, the Childrens headboat trips, with other members fishing Lynnhaven, the ER, Rudee, or Little Creek Ned was always there supporting the club. All of us will miss fishing with Ned. Please keep Michel and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Will



Publishers NOTES

Editor:
Wendy Bransom
NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

NAC OFFICERS

President:
Will Bransom

Vice President:
Henry Troutner

Treasurer:
Mike Hubert

Awards Program:
Ike Eisenhower

Events Coordinator:

Assistant Events Coordinator:
Wesley Waters

Membership:

Member at Large:
Alex Perez, Sr.

Webmaster:
Pat Hirsch
pfhirsch@yahoo.com

Contact us at;
NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com
Norfolk Anglers Club
P.O. Box 8422
Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



On The Cover: A great photo of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Support Vessel *Charybdis* in transit to sea and the CVOW project area. Thank you Capt Alex Perez for this month's cover shot.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Capt Chris Haduck, Spanish Mackerel fishing

This month we have Capt Chris Haduck joining us to share his tips and techniques on catching Spanish Mackerel in the Bay and along the Oceanfront. The season is quickly heating up and here's your chance to improve your game.



Important:

May 18th, 2026 at 7:00pm

NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk,

NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

www.NorfolkAnglersClub.com

Club Calendar

May

Mon-Wed, May 4-6; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Arlington, VA and Web Based

Mon, May 18th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Sat, May 23; 10:00am Ocean View Community Center Clean up Day

Tue, May 26th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

June

Mon, Jun 15th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Jun 23rd; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

Tue, Jun 23rd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Thur, Jun 25th; NPS Children's Surf Fishing Clinic, Back Bay WR

Tue, Jun 30th; Children's Headboat Trip and Cookout

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 30 April 2026

<u>Freshwater</u>		<u>Saltwater</u>	
<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Crappie	Russell Willoughby (2)	Speckled Trout	Stan Simmerman (1) Chirs Harris (1)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (2) Mike Rheinhart (8)	Red Drum	Chris Harris (2)
Chain Pickerel	Mike Rheinhart (1)		
White Perch	Andy Reid (1)		

****Virginia Saltwater Tournament (Saltwater) or Department of Wildlife Resources (Freshwater) Citation paperwork, North Carolina Dept of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) Citation Program paperwork, or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form must be submitted to;
NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com



offshore distance MATTERS

Sea Tow® is the only towing membership that doesn't limit offshore distance. Go the extra mile; we're standing by.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?



JOIN NOW & SAVE \$30
SEA TOW HAMPTON ROADS
757-496-1999

Offer expires December 31, 2026. Offer only valid with automatic renewal enrollment.

Coming in June!!

Oceanview Community Center Children's Headboat Fishing Trip and Cookout June 23rd and 29th



Children's Surf Fishing Clinic, Back Bay Wildlife Refuge June 25th





Club Members Tournament for 2026

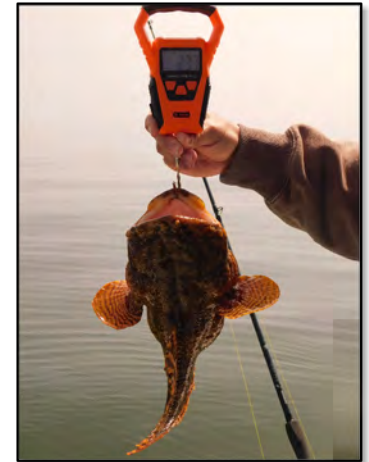


Redfish "Spots" Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026
- 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. Photo entries without a decal or measurement tape are not accepted.
- 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.

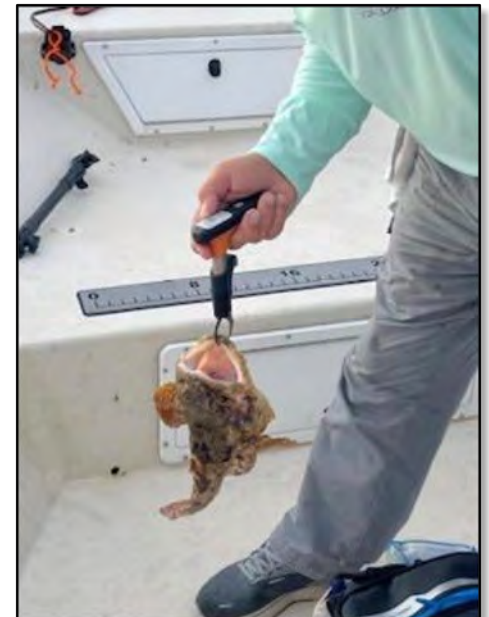
Entries:



Oyster Toadfish Tournament

Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026
- Awards determined by;
 1. Total Weight
 2. Date of catch
 3. Date of entry submission
- 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



Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr.
Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)

Entries: [John Curry \(1\)](#), [Marty Schriebl \(1\)](#)



Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament March - December 2026

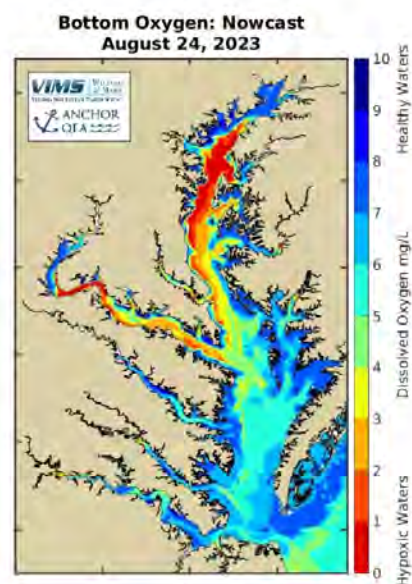


Revised Tournament Dates for 2026

- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from March 1st until December 31st
- Targeted Species is Speckled Trout (any length)
- Total Length Tournament Only
- \$10 Entry Fee due *before* fishing
- For fish caught in Virginia and/or North Carolina waters only
- Winner determined by; 1. Total Length of fish, 2. Date of Catch, 3. Date of entry submission
- 1st Place \$50 Gift Card and 2nd Place \$25 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

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

Use our forecasts and real-time "nowcasts" of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms, waves and other environmental factors within the Chesapeake Bay to help plan your fishing! Based on observations and computer models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and partners, these tools accurately predict the current status of important environmental variables and how they are likely to change in the short-term. Check out this free resource to have a more productive day on the water!



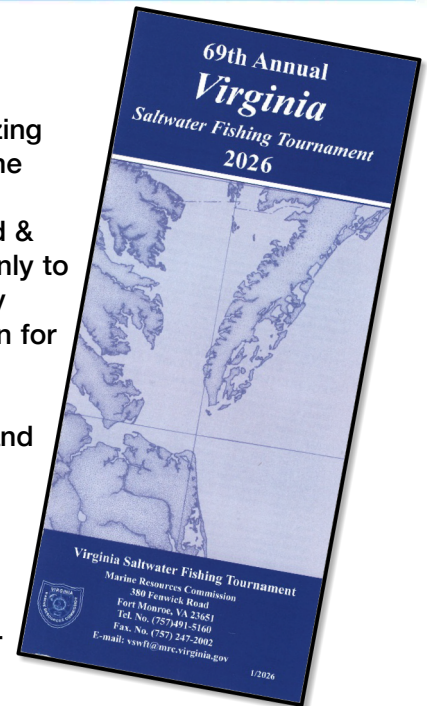
<https://www.vims.edu/cbefsf/>



Virginia's Saltwater Tournament

Matt Hargis, Virginia Marine Resources Commission

The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament is a long-running Marine Resources Commission program established in 1958 to promote recreational fishing by recognizing anglers for their trophy catches. More than thirty saltwater species are included in the tournament and even more species under the Junior Angler Expert Angler Awards Program. The Junior Expert Angler Awards Program is for young anglers 15 years old & younger and focused on a catch & release qualifying species. Junior anglers need only to catch their qualifying species and use a QR Code to share their catch & release entry with the Saltwater Tournament. They're eligible for one Saltwater Tournament Citation for each of the species per year. Starting in 2026 the Saltwater Tournament included additional species that Junior Anglers may catch fishing close to shore or on piers. They include: Atlantic Pufferfish, Oyster Toadfish, Pinfish, Sea Robins, many others and some of the Saltwater Tournament species at smaller sizes under the Youth Citation Program.



VIRGINIA ADULT RELEASE CITATION	
Here's what you need to land (and release) to qualify:	
Fish Species	Length
Bilfish (Marlin, Stafffish, Spearfish, Swordfish)	No Required Minimum Length
Sharks (any)*	72 inches
Tuna, Bluefin*	60 inches
Cobia	50 inches
Amberjack	50 inches
Drum: Black or Red	46 inches
Striped Bass	44 inches
Crevalle Jack	40 inches
Bluefish	36 inches
Tarpon*	36 inches
False Albacore	32 inches
Gray Trout	24 inches
Flounder	26 inches
Spanish Mackerel	26 inches
Speckled Trout	24 inches
Sheepshead	24 inches
Tautog	23 inches
Spadefish	22 inches
Gray Triggerfish	20 inches
Croaker	20 inches
Kingfish (Roundhead)	16 inches
Pompano	16 inches
Spot	13 inches

Actual measured lengths required for all species except for those marked with asterisk (*). Estimated length may be used for species marked with asterisk. Length measurements for live releases only.

- Download and complete form
- Submission must include photo and/or witness verification

For 2026 the Saltwater Tournament reduced the minimum size and weight for Gray Trout from 30 inches or 9 lbs to 24 inches or 5 lbs and now matches the qualifying minimums for Speckled Trout.

The goal of the Virginia Saltwater tournament and these recent updates is to involve more anglers in the program, recognize the younger anglers with a Citation Program customized for them, and make catch & release Citation reporting easier and online for everyone.

Catch & release anglers will no longer be required to fill out tournament citation paperwork at an authorized tackle shop or marina when using the QR code to register a qualifying catch. Once opening the QR code an applicant will be taken to an online entry portal to enter their information, the catch, and certification information or photos. Either a witness certification (also online) or a photo of the fish on a measuring device if fishing alone. The fish length must be clearly visible on the measuring device showing its total length. For anglers seeking a Saltwater Tournament Citation based on weight entries will have to be processed and weighed at an authorized weight station.

VIRGINIA YOUTH CITATION	
Here's what you need to land (and release) to qualify:	
Fish Species	Length
Atlantic Puffer	8 inches
Oyster Toad, Spot, Pinfish, Hogfish	10 inches
Bluefish, Croaker, Kingfish	12 inches
Sea Robin	14 inches
Speckled Trout, Gray Trout, Spadefish	16 inches
Red Drum, Houndfish, Tautog, Sheepshead	18 inches
Flounder	2 inches over current regulation
Cobia, Amberjack	36 inches
Sharks	42 inches

All other species follow standard state regulations.

READY TO CLAIM YOUR AWARD?
Download and complete the Junior Citation Form.

- Release Only
- VSWFT Rules Apply
- One Citation per Species per Calendar Year
- Submission must include photo and/or witness verification

Supported by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Development Fund

**NEW
YOUTH
PROGRAM!**

Virginia Junior Expert Angler Awards Program



Reel In the New Junior Expert Angler Award from VSFT!



Catch & release a junior citation species at or above the youth minimum length to earn a Junior Expert Angler Award!

Open to all anglers 15 & under. No entry fee —just fishing fun and a chance to shine!

VSFT
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament



Scan to Learn More and Submit Your Catches!

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

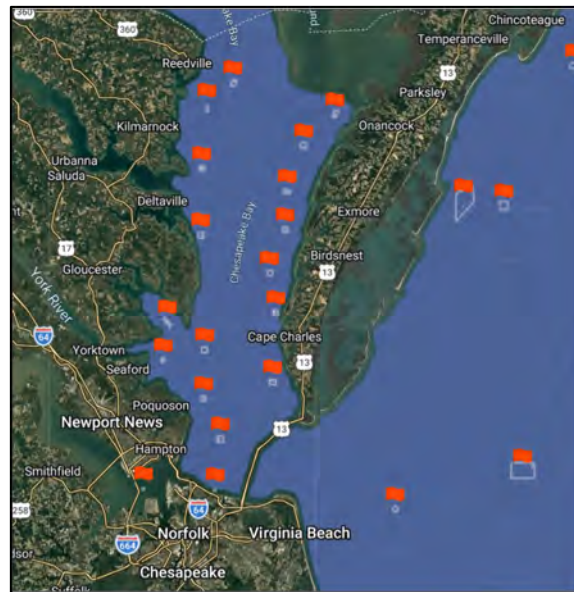
Fishing Tips...



Virginia's Artificial Reef Program

James "Hunter" Smith, Virginia marine Resources Commission

The Virginia Artificial Reef Program consists of 18 Chesapeake Bay reefs and 5 Ocean reef sites. Maintenance and improvement of these sites receives funding from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund support by the purchase of Virginia Saltwater Licenses. By far, the largest deployment and building occurred at the ocean reef sites in the 1970's with the sinking of WWII Liberty Ships, the USCGC Cuyahoga, an Ocean Tug, Vietnam era landing craft and other structure at the Triangle and Parramore Reef site. Present day government requirements for cleaning and preparing of large vessels like those make new deployments exceptionally rare and prohibitively expensive. With many of the established Chesapeake Bay reef sites subject to time, tide, and dynamic bay conditions the need to replenish those site is an ongoing effort. That effort is made somewhat easier with the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion and the generous donations from local businesses. Still, it's no easy task to coordinate material donations, carefully inspect the material to ensure it meets the strict requirements for placing the material in the Chesapeake Bay and



then coordinating the deployment location.



In July 2025, the program with Seaward Marine deployed 600 tons of concrete pipe and structures at the York Spit Reef. The program is currently work to acquire and deploy material from the HRBT expansion at Bluefish Rock Reef and Back River Reef sites as early as spring 2026. When complete, the program estimates more than 117,000 tons of material will be deployed from the HRBT expansion project on local reef sites.



Their future planning efforts involve acquiring material from the middle peninsula Willoughby, and Chincoteague for reef replenishment in those areas. One of the most covered reef site is the Newport News Middle Ground Reef which is east of the Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel.



To make locating the program's artificial reefs easier, the Marine Resources Commission created the "VMRC Maps" mobile application which may be downloaded to Android and IOS operating devices.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

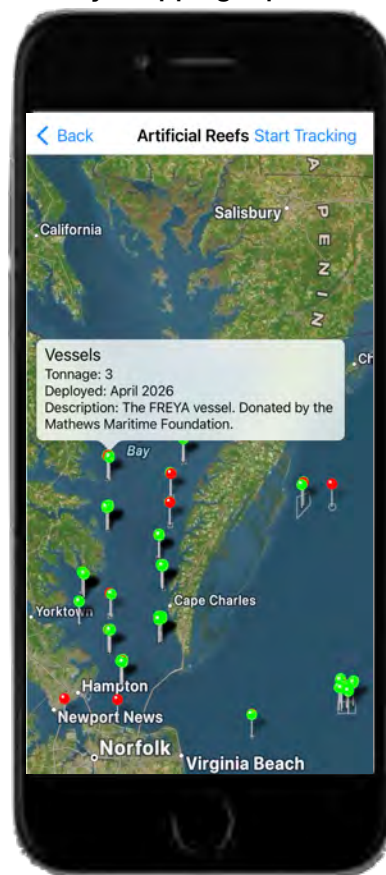
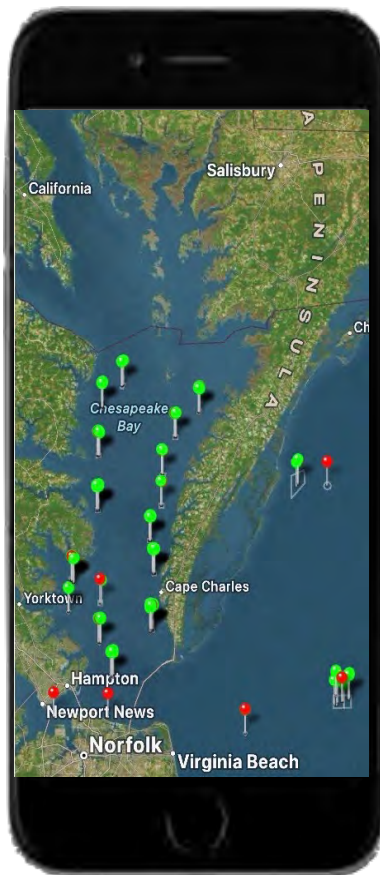
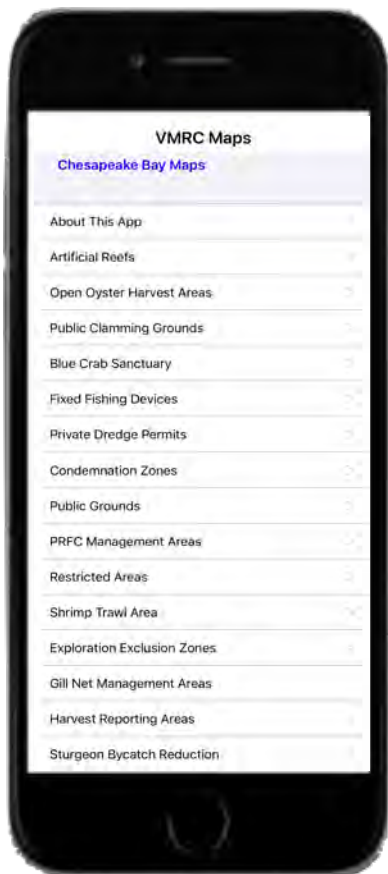
VMRC
MAPS

The VMRC MAPS mobile app provides a wealth of information on mobile devices and can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store. While using VMRC MAPS if location services are active on your device you'll see a blue dot representing your location as you navigate the maps. Users are reminded that this app is not intended for navigation and urges boaters to use approved government navigation charts and information to safely navigate the waterways.

VMRC MAPS has a number of categories of interest to users. Virginia's artificial reef locations are highlighted with a Red Pin at the center of the reef site and Green Pins denote reef material deployment with a description and date of placement. VMRC is working to update deployment locations with GPS data to make locating the structure easier for anglers.

In addition to Artificial Reef information there's a lot of other useful information available such as Open Oyster Harvest Area, Public Clamming Grounds, Condemned Shellfish Areas, Restricted Areas, and Fixed Fishing Devices such as Pound Nets, and Staked Gill Nets, Blue Crab Sanctuary, and so much more!

While using the app users can select the *options* feature to change the mapping type and select Magnetic or True Heading, and mark a location by dropping a pin.





**August 8
2026**



**Save
the
Date!**



Fishing Reports

April 24: There was a weather window with wind forecast at 5kts to 10kts. I invited Dave Steale and Mark Hasket to go and both agreed. The wind was higher than forecast early but calmed nicely and the morning and early afternoon wore on.

Current predictions were good at both the CBBT and Cape Henry wreck, we chose the CBBT. We anchored at the 2nd island to a slow bite. There was a bite on the bay side but they were all shorts. We moved to the Big D with no luck at all. we fished a few fruitless piers and moved to the sailboat. As we approached it we found Jere Humphery pulling up to it just in front of us, so we tried a few more piers with no joy. Jere called a few minutes later and invited us to come anchor next to them as the bite was HOT!

Jere had a limit and went to check other spots. We had 3 keepers and a gift fish from Jere making 4. We left the fish biting but not as hot as before due to a current change. Our bait was female blue crab exclusively. It was great to get out on such a nice day!

- Mike Hubert



2955 Virginia Beach Blvd #107

NEW HOURS

SUN: 6AM-6PM
MON: 8AM-8PM
TUE: 8AM-8PM
WED: 8AM-8PM
THU: 8AM-8PM
FRI: 6AM-8PM
SAT: 6AM-8PM

LIVE BAIT

- FIDDLERS ✓
- BLOODWORMS ✓
- BLUE CRABS ✓
- SHINERS (FRESHWATER MINNOWS) ✓
- GUDGEONS (SALTWATER MINNOWS) ✓
- EELS ✓
- NIGHTCRAWLERS ✓
- RED WIGGLERS ✓

FROZEN BAIT

- SQUID(TUBE, BOX)
- SHRIMP
- SAND FLEAS
- PEELER CRABS
- FINGER MULLET
- BLUE CRAB
- EEL
- SHAD

757-227-6333

April 18: I launched from Willoughby boat ramp and ran to the Thimble Shoal Lighthouse with a half dozen of live Blue Crab for bait. Fishing the incoming tide I wasn't able to get any bites so I moved to the East Ocean View Reef and anchored on a patch that looked promising.

On my first drop, using a three ounce bank sinker tied on a dropper loop rig with a 3/0 hook, I hook up and reel in my first fish of 2026, an Oyster Toad. It would be one of many. After the fifth or sixth one, I felt like a castaway on a raft surrounded by Oyster Toads. Somewhere in the Toad blitz, I managed to catch three Tautog up to 16 inches. My last stop of the day was the rocks of Fort Wool where I found one more Tautog at 15.5 inches. All Tautog were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



April: I've been fishing the upper Eastern Shore for Flounder for a couple weeks. The bite has been slow but a pretty good ratio of shorts to keepers. I'm using 1/2 ounce jig heads and 6 inch jerk shads. Fishing Sea Side creeks close to the inlet. I've heard of good reports from Wachapreague to Chincoteague. - Rich Califf



Margie & Ray's
Seafood Restaurant Crab House & Raw Bar
1240 Sandbridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA
(757) 426-2397
MargieAndRays.com

April 29: The weather forecast was 5 to 10kts for the 29 so Dave Steele, Mark Hasket and I took another meat trip for Tog. The current conditions a 6am were 9 kts gusting to 11. The wind was greater than that forecasted but looked good-not great from the dirt!

We left Little Creek at about 730AM and even in the sheltered creek it was obvious the conditions were far worse than predicted but we went anyway hoping for the wind to lay down as expected. That didn't happen to any appreciable extent.

The first plan was hit the Cape Henry wreck but with the SE wind and an incoming tide we canex'd that early. We had good success at the sailboat a week before so went there. The seas were high and had a confused chop on top of that so at about the 8-mile marker after a slow ride we were forced to look for water that was fishable. the leeward side of the 2nd was the only option, so we anchored there. fishing was slow but we caught tog but they were all short. We hit about 10 good spots but only got short tog and some bycatch. Dave Steele did manage a 4 foot shark at the sailboat after the wind laid down and Mark caught a 2.3 pound toadfish. All total we had about 12 tog, 1 cunner, 1 shark, 2 croaker and some OTs.

- Mike Hubert



April 18: John Curry, Marty Schriegl, Mary & I headed to the Back River Reef in the Shamrock looking for Tog. The weatherman got it right with a calm morning and strong winds picking up after noon. The Back River Reef consist of a lot of small structure spread out over a few square miles. The VMRC web page has a good map marking where & what types of structure was dumped. We moved from piece to piece picking up a dozen Tog, mostly females, all short, tagged & released. We had a few big Toads including a 2.99 lb John caught & a 2.35 Marty got. Highlights were Mary getting a double header on the last drop and Marty catching a Tog we tagged 20 minutes earlier.

- Henry Troutner



 **West Marine**[®]
We make boating more fun![®]

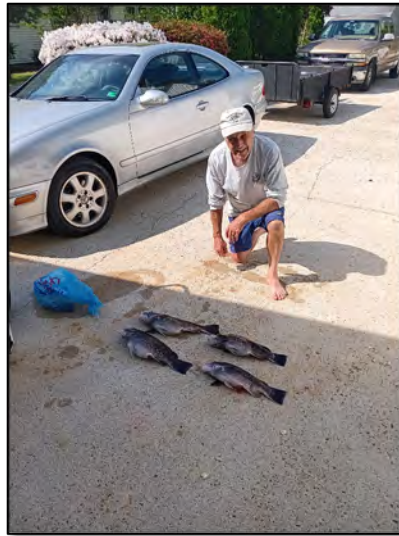
April 1: Two of the Chuckatuck crew Henry Troutner and George Langdon took my boat to the mouth of Brewers Creek to try for some Puppy Drum. It was a windy day but we found a calm spot. No luck with the Drum but we did manage one cat fish. Looking forward to a good year fishing with friends.

- John Curry



April 15: Fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel pilings for a few hours with blue crab. Had to work though a lot of undersized tautog.

- Jere Humphrey



April 23: Fished the Chesapeake Baby Bridge Tunnel pilings and structure with Eddie Hwang for a few hours with blue crab. Caught some nice keeper sized tautog. Got to see fellow Norfolk Angler Mike Hubert out fishing the CBBT.

- Jere Humphrey



April 23: Fished with Jennifer for a few hours along the Bay Bridge Tunnel and brought home some nice Taugs. Donated the carcasses to the Marine Collection Program. - Jere Humphrey



April 10: James Tran, Mary & I launched the Shamrock out of Lynnhaven to check on the Tog bite. We started at the 2nd Island where Tran caught a short. We moved to the Big D and again Tran caught another short. With the current slowing we ran to the Cape Henry Wreck. There we had a pretty good bite landing 12 Tog. Unfortunately only one was legal. He went into the cooler while all the others had been tagged & released. Bait was Blue Crab, Fiddlers, and a few Shrimp, Tog were caught on all.

- Henry Troutner



April 6: The wind started to die down around noon so Mary & I took the skiff to the mouth of the Chuckatuck to try for Red Drum. We fished the inside shore of Ragged Island with Z-Man paddle tails and minnows. After 1 1/2 hours I finally hooked up with a nice 33" Red on a Brown/Pink Z-Man. First Red for the season. Hopefully more to come. Fished tagged & released.

- Henry Troutner





Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

**Last Revised
April 2026**



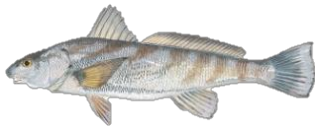
Atlantic Croaker

- 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: 5 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

- Minimum Size Limit: 43 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
- Season: June 15 - September 20
- Gaffing prohibited



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: Jan 1-May 31: 16 inches
Jun 1-Dec 31: 17.5 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: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-31 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 11 - Dec 31



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"
- Closed Season April 1 to June 30, 2026



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

It goes without saying that our members and their families are what makes our club what it is. Our Annual Awards Banquet was a great opportunity to come together and recognize our anglers successes and enjoy a fantastic evening hosted by the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. The evening wouldn't have been the same without our Host's generosity or the generosity of our many sponsors. If you have the opportunity to visit these businesses please thank them for their continued support!



Rudee TOURS



SOUTHLAND Restaurant & Catering



THE ONLY FULL SERVICE BAIT & TACKLE SHOP IN GREAT BRIDGE
100% OFF RODS & REELS
Hurry. Limited Time Offer! See location for details.
757-546-9770
Gail's BAIT & TACKLE
800 S. Battlefield Blvd.#104, Chesapeake, VA 23322



West Marine®
We make boating more fun!®



Heads-N-Tails



FOGO DE CHÃO®



Angler Interests



Black Sea Bass and Flounder Regulations, Proposed Tarpon Regulations

Black Sea Bass Regulations set for 2026 and 2027

At their April 21st Commission Meeting, VMRC established Black Sea Bass regulations for 2026 and 2027 Regular Seasons at 13.0" Total Length fish and a possession limit of 15 fish per person with a 2026 Regular Season from May 11 through December 31, with no mid-season closure. The initial 10 days from May 1 to May 10 serves as the payback for the 2026 Special February Sea Bass Season. The 2027 Sea Bass season was also set at 13.0" minimum size and 15 fish per person from April 1 through December 31, 2027. However, anglers should know that if the Commission opens a Special February Sea Bass season any recreational harvest during that time must be paid back during the regular season which could mean a delayed start or mid-season closed to be determined later based on harvest. These regulations apply to Virginia Waters and Federal waters out to 200nm.

Summer Flounder Regulations set for 2026

At their April 21st Commission Meeting, VMRC established Summer Flounder regulations for Virginia waters or Federal Waters when landing in Virginia at 16.0" (Jan 1 - May 31) and 17.5" (Jun 1 - Dec 31) and a possession limit of 4 fish per person.

Proposed Virginia Tarpon Regulations

At the May 26th Commission meeting the Marine Resources Commission will consider recreational and commercial regulations for Tarpon caught in Virginia waters. Proposed regulations include;

The purpose of this chapter is to control the harvest of and minimize the negative impacts to the migratory Atlantic tarpon that enter Virginia's territorial waters.

Recreational fishing: General

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to possess Atlantic tarpon at any time. Any Atlantic tarpon caught shall be returned to the water immediately.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to gaff or attempt to gaff an Atlantic tarpon.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to spear or attempt to spear an Atlantic tarpon.
- D. Any person fishing recreationally for Atlantic tarpon shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Commercial fishery prohibition.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, harvest, land, or possess tarpon for commercial purposes, including being offered or intended for sale, barter, or trade, at any time.

***Anglers are encouraged to share their Public Comments at the May 26th Commission Meeting or submit them online when a Public Comment period opens 10 days prior to the meeting.

Angler Interests



Virginia Junior Expert Angler Awards Program

Are you 15 or younger and love fishing in Virginia's saltwater? You could earn your very own Junior Expert Angler Citation Plaque - just by catching and releasing some of our amazing saltwater species.

Whether you're fishing off a pier, the beach, or from a boat leaving a Virginia port, your saltwater adventure could land you official recognition from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

To earn your Junior Expert Angler Award, here's what you'll need to do:

- Be 15 or younger on January 1st of the year you're fishing
- Catch and release qualifying saltwater species with rod and reel
- Fish must be caught in Virginia Marine waters, the Chesapeake Bay, or the Atlantic Ocean (and boats must launch and return to Virginia)
- Get a witness to each catch and complete the Junior Citation Form
- Submit your form by December 31st of the same year
- There's no entry fee - just fun and recognition

Fish Species Youth Citation Length

Atlantic Puffer 8 inches, Oyster Toad, Spot, Pinfish, Hogfish 10 inches, Bluefish, Croaker, Kingfish 12 inches
Sea Robin 14 inches, Speckled & Grey Trout 16 inches, Red Drum, Houndfish 18 inches, Flounder 22 inches

Go to the VMRC Website and download your Junior Citation Form and mail or email it to;
Mail to: Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, Building 96, 380 Fenwick Road, Ft. Monroe, VA 23651
Email scanned form to: Virginia Saltwater Tournament Director at Matt.Hargis@mrc.virginia.gov

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 harbormasters 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 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. We'll have some at the next meeting.





Norfolk
Anglers
Club