

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB WIRELINE

NOVEMBER 2016

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- Striped Bass in the James River

Angler Interests:

- Elizabeth River RiverFest rescheduled to Sunday, November 20th
- Virginia Safe Boating Courses still available
- Daylight Savings Ends November 6th at 2am



Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

The Club had another fantastic Fall Social and I'm glad so many had the opportunity to join us. Special Thanks to Bert Sainz and Ned Smith for helping with the setup and takedown days before and after the event.

Congratulations to the Club's 5-Fish Tournament winners. Many reports of undersized fish being caught but Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, and Spot made it to the measuring board.

The November meeting (14th) is the last opportunity to bring a new and un-wrapped toy for the Sea Tow Holiday Stuff-A-Boat Toy Drive. For each toy you donate you'll and get a chance to win a free Sea Tow 12 month membership!

Our next big Club event is the Holiday Party, which will take the place of our regular December meeting. Same place and time. I hope to see you there.

Will

MEETING

Guest Speaker:

Capt Max King, Fall Striper Fishing

Join us on Monday, November 14th, and hear Capt Max King share his expertise fishing for fall Rockfish.



Important:

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

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Sea Tow Hampton Roads and The Local Angler Clubs will be collecting toys this year for the "Stuff-a-Boat Toy Drive". We will be collecting toys that are new and un-giftwrapped. Last year we were able to collect over 700 toys due to the Angler Clubs tremendous participation. The only thing we are asking of club members is to bring a toy to your monthly Angler's Club meeting in the months of October and November. Sea Tow Hampton Roads will attend your meeting and collect the toys. If for some reason you don't make the monthly meetings, you can visit www.facebook.com/SeaTowHamptonRoads for locations where drop off boxes are available.



In December, we will invite all Clubs to our office for pizza and to fill the Sea Tow Boat with toys that we collected. We'll have The Marines from Toys for Tots come to the Sea Tow office to receive the toys. We would like to get a group shot of all clubs surrounding the Sea Tow boat stuffed with toys. This date will be determined when the time gets closer. *Every little bit helps and will make someone's holiday a little brighter.*



Thank-you again for your support.

If you have any questions you may contact Ed or Karen Schrader at 757-496-1999.



Speckled Trout fishing with Louis Glaser

Speckled Trout Fishing: When it comes to fall, there's nothing more Louis likes than catching Speckled Trout! Primarily fishing out of Little Creek in his Carolina Skiff, you'll often find Louis fishing the grass beds and jetties of Little Creek Inlet.

Tackle (Rods & Reels): A Shimano 7ft-7ft 2" Medium Power and Fast Action Spinning Rods (Shimano CSS-70MA & CSS-72MB) are what Louis prefers. Both Rods range in the 6-15 pound line class and lure weights up to 3/8oz-5/8oz. Louis advises, "You don't need or want a heavy rod when fishing for Specs, what you do want is a flexible tip to maintain feel of the lure and the strike." Louis suggested you select a rod with the power, action, and length that feels good for you. He pairs his rods with a Penn Battle 2000 Spinning Reel.

Leader & Lures: Louis likes to keep the leader short, up to a total length of 12 inches. He explains that a short leader won't allow the leader to braid knot to travel through the rod guides. Too long a leader will often cause you to cast the knot through the guides thereby cutting down on your casting distance and causing the knot to chafe. He likes to use a 15-17# leader with a small snap (Eagle Claw Dual Lock Snap - pictured right) to make changing out lures easier. Choices of leader material are fluorocarbon or a monofilament type material, which is not fluorocarbon but a nearly invisible leader material none the less. Both types of material work well. His main line is 10# or 15# PowerPro Braid but prefers 15# PowerPro to reduce the amount of "wind knots" you get casting on windy days.



When it comes to artificial lures, Louis prefers the Classic MirroLure 52MR, a Sinking Twitch-bait and the 27MR, a Suspending Twitch-bait. The sinking twitch-baits (52MR) will drop about 1 ft per second and are rigged with three treble hooks while the suspending twitch-baits (27MR) will sink to approximately 2-3 ft before suspending in the water column and have two treble hooks.



Technique Fishing for Speckled Trout is all about a slow lure retrieve. Selecting the right lure for the water depth and bottom conditions, like rocks, grass, sandy drop-off, etc., may require an angler try a number of different lures before discovering what the fish are biting on. Louis recommends having each angler on the boat start off by using different colors and lures. Once an angler knows what color/type the fish seem to prefer, then make the switch and start catching. Conditions often change with the tides, the amount of rain and run-off, the phase of the moon, or the presence of bait. Take the time to get dialed in to the fish and enjoy a day of catching.



While an over-the-shoulder cast gets you the distance, your retrieve should have your rod tip down or to the side, Louis recommends. Using twitch-baits with a slow retrieve anglers should occasionally employ a small twitch. This will cause the lure to dart to the side and imitate a distressed fish, which mimics an easy meal for the Trout. Twitching the rod to the side or down will give a more natural action to the lure and keep it around the same depth. If you raise your rod tip it'll cause the lure to rise, which isn't a normal or natural presentation.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Stalking Speckled Trout in Little Creek Louis has learned that often you'll find the smaller Trout in the deeper water. Somewhere in the 10-15ft depth the smaller Trout are less likely to become the target of predatory birds. Along Flats and in the grass beds you'll find the larger Trout where their size and camouflage works to their advantage. Depths range 2-4ft along the Flats depending on tidal flow and many areas include grass beds. Inside the Inlet and along the Jetties you'll often find anglers anchored just outside the channel and setting up to fish along the rocks and drop-offs. The channel can get quite deep and the drop along the east side of the channel can be dramatic from 2ft to 30ft.

Drifting, anchoring, or employing a trolling motor, one thing is a must - Be Quiet! Shut the motor off, no dropping things on the boat, no rattling the anchor chain along the gunnel, no music playing, etc. Don't create noise the fish aren't accustomed to.

Landing your Speckled Trout requires a bit of finesse. Trout have soft mouths, so cranking down on the drag and reeling them in is NOT a tactic to use. Use the drag to your advantage to keep enough pressure on the fish without tearing the hook set free. Once alongside the boat use a rubber mesh net to land the fish. Rubber nets have a tendency to lessen the tangles you'll get when using treble hooks. Handle the Trout gently and with wet hands and consider using a lip gripping tool and a pair of pliers to remove the hook. Treble hooks can be unforgiving and the last thing you want to be is hooked into the net and a thrashing fish.

Note: Little Creek Inlet is serviced by a number of marinas however, there's no public boat ramp from which to launch. JEB Little Creek/Ft Story has a boat ramp but is restricted to those having base access.



Image Courtesy of Google Maps

NORFOLK ANGLERS

CLUB



NAC Annual Picnic



The Norfolk Anglers Club 2016 Fall Picnic was great time! Everyone enjoyed visiting with each other and having a savory feast! Thanks to everyone who helped with setup and take down for the event. Oysters, Crab, Pork BBQ and Fried Fish were continually being provided by our busy cooks. Thanks to our members who also provided home cooked side dishes and delectable deserts. Great day with perfect weather and fellowship!







NAC 5 FISH TOURNAMENT



Our Club had the 5 Fish Tournament on 29 October. It was much later this year due to bad weather, making us cancel it twice. As the weather was somewhat better, we started off with chilly temps but it warmed up to the 70s. We had a southwesterly wind which increased as the day went on. Most everyone fished in protected waters of the Lynnhaven Inlet, Little Creek Inlet and Pretty Lake. A few folks made it out to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. With strengthening winds, a strong outgoing tide and murky water, our anglers had a challenging time getting on the fish. Most everyone reported catching undersized Specs and Puppy Drum, only a few made it to be measured, and no Croakers or Flounder were caught. First to get their fish measured was Alex Perez Jr, he ended up bringing in the 1st and 2nd place for Spot. Gary Waddell brought in 1st place for Speckled Trout and Russel Willoughby 1st place for Puppy Drum. The 1st place gift card was \$50.00, 2nd place was \$25.00, all from Oceans East . A very special Thank You for the volunteers who helped set up, cook and clean up. Everyone had a nice time visiting at the picnic. Will and Alex did a very good job cooking hotogs and hamburgers. Special thanks to Bert for the Johnsonville Hotogs. Thanks to all the members who came out for this fun event! - Wendy Bransom



Alex with his Spot 7.25" & 6.75"



Gary with his 17" Speckled Trout



Russel with his 18" Puppy Drum





Fishing Reports...



30 August: Nick Wright and I powered out to the Little Creek Jetty for a few hours of Speckled Trout fishing. Winds were manageable and the bite started immediately. We began fishing with jigs and plastic in the shallow water and later throw 27 mirrolures in the deeper water (used a 15-20 count to get the mirrolures deeper in the water). We finished the day with 12 between 17 and 21. Also had a few small specks and pups. Took some home for eating and released the rest. *September has been a good month for the specks in Little Creek. Hope the bite continues!* - Ned Smith



Remember this memory: 26 October 2015: Found the *Elusive Spot* in Lynnhaven!

One year later: They did not show up in numbers again this year on the inside of Lynnhaven Inlet. Where are they hiding? - James Robinson

19 October: Between my deployment on the USCGC Bear and other reasons, Mary and I have not gotten in a lot of fishing.

I was fooling around the boat on Friday the 14th of October and did a little casting from the end of the dock into Little Creek. The Speckled Trout were very active and I caught one on just about every cast. I even had a double header as I was fishing a white lead head with a green gulp swimming mullet and above that I had a small fly as a teaser. Unfortunately all the Speckled Trout were under size, about 10" to 12". While fishing, I also caught a big croaker and a very small flounder.

We did get out Monday the 17th of October with my daughter Kate. We fished the 2nd. Island for about 3 1/2 hours to check out the tog bite. There seems to be some Tautog and plenty of toadfish around. We caught 8 Tautog, only 2 of which were keepers, and plenty of toadfish. Kate also caught a small Black Drum which when she first brought it out of the water, I thought it was a Sheephead. I had caught about 140 fiddlers on Sunday and went through almost all of them. I think the water needs to cool down a little more as the temperature was 67'.
- Henry Troutner





29 September: Russell and I have been fishing the Lynnhaven several times this year looking for keeper size (over 18 inches) Puppy Drum to eat. Last year all we could find was throwback sized ones. And even this year it has been the same both in the Lynnhaven and Little Creek areas. The pups are everywhere but not big enough to keep. But today was different from the beginning. Thunderstorms were lurching close but not immediately threatening after rain in the morning and by 8am it stopped.

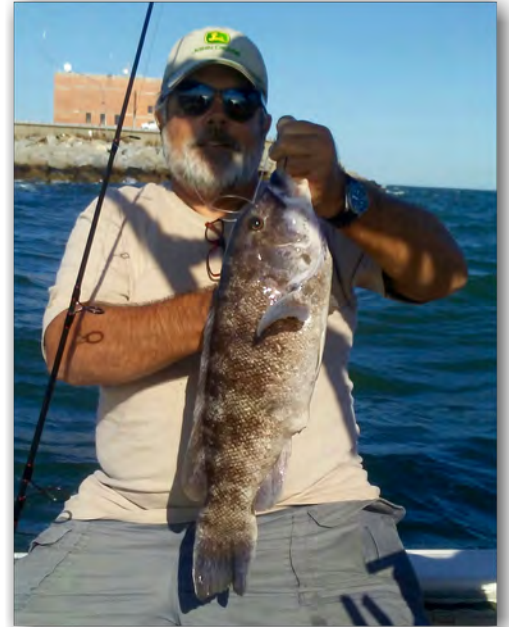


At Crab Creek it was two hours before the high tide but the water amount was two feet above normal. The New Moon was the next day and a NE 18 mph wind was keeping the tidal water in the Lynnhaven. That meant we could fish areas longer that were too shallow to normally fish which was what we were hoping for. We began exploring areas of the Western Branch for signs of bait but didn't see much nor did we catch anything for a while but eventually once we went to familiar locations Russell got the first fish on cut mullet on the bottom which was the 19 inch in the picture. His first keeper of the year.

He then caught several undersized pups but the bite wasn't steady. So we moved to a more familiar and favorite area off of Brown Cove as we found the water still very high despite of it being past the high tide time. But this was the place to be. Russell and I then caught one after another mostly of 14 to 17 inch pups on cut mullet and Gulp white swim tails. I caught my first keeper of the day at 18 then a 19 inch which we weighed at 2 lb. 10 oz. a great start of the fall season. All total Russell caught 10 and I caught 5 with the two 19 inch fish being the biggest for us both.

This was the best catch of pups this season for us even with the smaller pups being in the majority. The small pups fought hard and were biting one after another frequently tangled up our PowerPro lines making netting the fish a challenge. In fact, at one point, Russell had one on and I did too as I was netting my big fish of the day. Then when the action slowed, we found we were out of frozen mullet and switched to Gulp and caught a few more. The tide was heading out and we were only in 2 foot of water, time to go. Finished the fishing day looking for spot at the tennis courts but only found two keeper sized before the steady rain started. In all it was a great Puppy Drum day. More fish caught than we ever could want and they will only get bigger and bite better with the coming colder weather. - Dr James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

We made three trips for Tautog this month at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Islands. After striking out at the 2nd and 3rd on Oct 19th, we gave the 4th a try on Oct 20th (after another short unfruitful stop at the 2nd) and managed to get our 9 fish limit there in water from 12'-14' on the Ocean side using Blue Crabs for bait. On the 26th, I headed straight back there and we got another 9 fish limit plus a couple of slot Puppy Drum. We were once again fishing the Ocean side in about 12'-15'. The Toadfish and Sea Bass are still around so we were taking 2 dozen crabs for 3 people. Here's a tip for those still trying to figure out how to best use the fat in the hood. I rig one rod with a Mustad #6 3x treble hook and whenever I have a few hoods lying on the table I will grab that rod, put a small piece of crab on one hook and then attach the fat to the other two hooks. By using a small (but strong) treble hook, the fat stays on and hang ups are not an issue (unless you hook a big one like I did on the 26th that stripped off some line and got into the rocks!) - Mike Griffith



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I waited this month to write up my fishing trips hoping I could sneak one last trip out before the end of the month. However, the weather didn't cooperate. This month our free time and the weather did not match up.

We did get out to the Elizabeth river Friday 21 October and found a couple of small stripers hiding on the old coal docks that were up to 16 inches. They were holding tight on the structure so we lost a few bass assassins and 1/8 ounce jig heads on the submerged structure. - Alex Perez Sr



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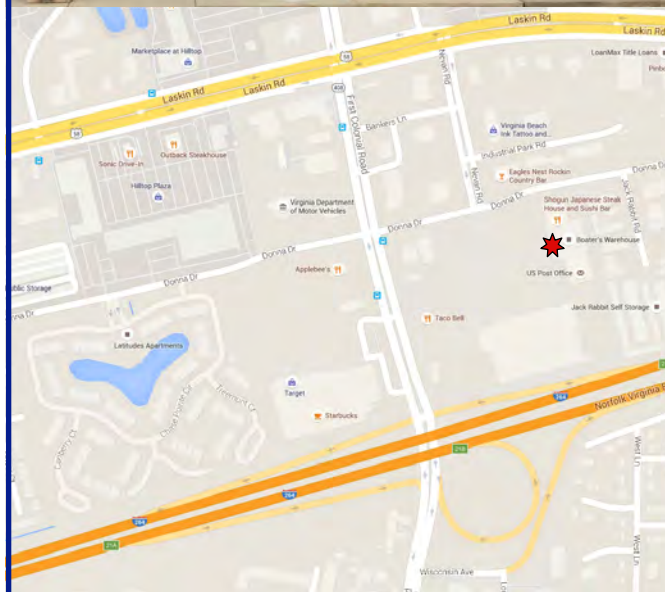
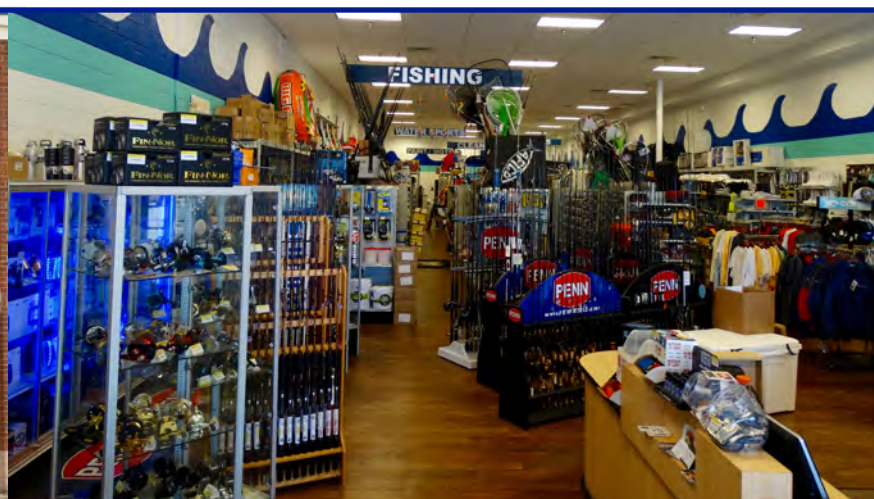
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26 October: We fished the James River Bridge With George Langdon and John Curry from the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 05-09. We fished the outgoing tide on the up current side of the James River Bridge. Trolled Stretch 20 & 25's dark colors and caught about a dozen stripers. Most were 17 to 19 inches. We did manage two keepers at 22 & 24". One of the best days Striper fishing in the last of couple years for me. - Henry Troutner



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH AT 2AM



**Mon – Sat: 9:00am – 7:00pm
Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm**



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26 October: Speckled Trout fishing with Louis this week has been tough with the wind howling most days this month and fish have mostly been small since Matthew came through. But Louis and I did manage to get four keepers 14-18 inch in the Pretty Lake.

That day fishing Little Creek was only producing the throwbacks and wind was making casting hard this day, Pretty Lake offered less wind. After traveling around for a while, we found that they were hitting our MR 27's and 17's best. This was on the beginning of the incoming tide.

I hope we can find them again because when Ned joined us the next day we only found small ones and we managed to catch about 50 but not one keeper. But the small ones hit hard and are fun to catch.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



18 October:
Tagged fifteen
specks and one
puppy. One nice
keeper. Last of
incoming
yesterday.

James Robinson



27 October: Wrong species, no spots!



19 October: Finally got a keeper puppy after tagging two shorts and over 40 small Trout



8 October:
Two
keepers
and seven
T and R
shorts.
Tough
conditions

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6 October: Fished in Lynnhaven on a messy Thursday. It was windy, drizzling, and the water was very muddy. I Got three nice keepers, tagged a few plus this little puppy!
- James Robinson



20 October: Will and I fished Little Creek for a few hours on a very nice morning. We tagged and released about two dozen Speckled Trout, the largest being 14". We were fishing on our new 16 Foot Carolina Skiff that we aquired from a nice gentleman in Accomac, VA. We were running the skiff for the first time and it ran fantastic! really enjoyed driving the skiff, it provides a better view on the water for me than the Parker.



We were using 3/16oz Z-man Trout Eyes with ElaZtech Trout Trick soft tails. We saw several of our fellow Norfolk Anglers Club Members out fishing, nobody could pass up fishing, the weather was perfect! Now that we have our new skiff, there no stopping me in the skinny water! - Wendy Bransom

Angler Interests

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



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

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

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

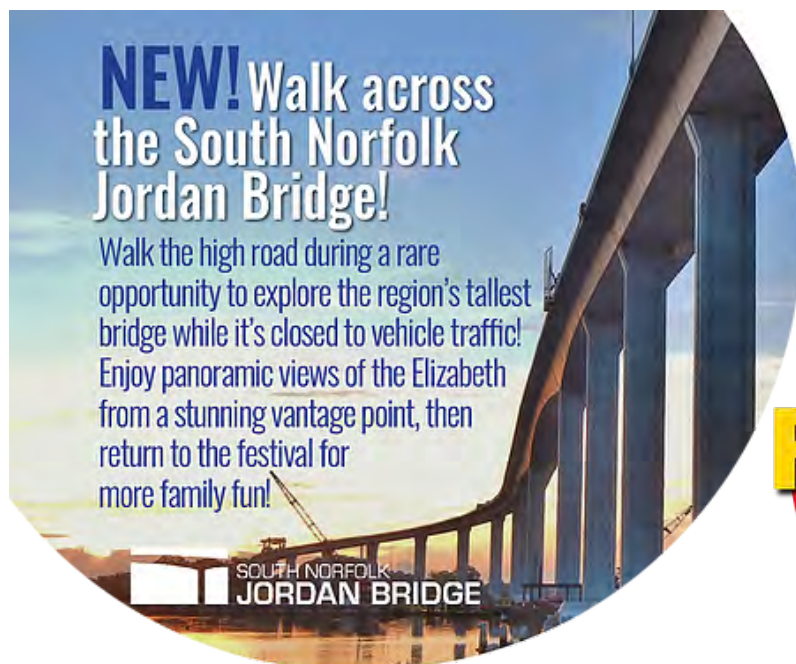
VMRC Agency News: Reminder



October 4, 2016: Here is a reminder: You must possess a Commercial Registration License (CRL) in order to sell what you catch in tidal waters. This applies to any species. While some shrimp have been landed in recent weeks, recreational anglers are reminded that anyone holding a valid saltwater recreational fishing license may use a cast net, if the angler does not hold a paid recreational license then use of a cast net requires a license. Commercial watermen are reminded that trawling is prohibited in Virginia waters.

Elizabeth River RiverFest: Sunday November 20th at Paradise Creek Nature Park

The 2016 RiverFest moves to Paradise Creek nature Park this year. Riverfest runs from 11:00am to 4:00pm, with a walk across the Jordan Bridge available from 1:00-3:00pm. Lots of fun and exciting things for adults and kids, and it's all FREE!



Paradise Creek Nature Park is open year round, dawn to dusk, 1141 Victory Blvd, Portsmouth, VA



**Rescheduled
to
Sunday
November 20th**

Angler Interests

Virginia Marine Resource Commission Meeting Tuesday November 1st:



November 1, 2016: The Virginia Marine Resource Commission will hold its regular meeting and consider a *Request for Public Hearing* for Amendments to permitting and required reporting for the taking of Striped Bass, Tilefish & Grouper, and Cobia.

The Tilefish & Grouper Landing Permit is a landing permit issued to the vessel/ with required reporting of Tilefish & Grouper catches. Anglers fishing under the vessel's landing permit need not acquire their own permit and all reporting is done through the vessel permit.

The Spring Striped Bass Trophy Permit is an *Individual* landing permit for the taking of Striped Bass during the Spring Trophy season and also carries a required reporting requirement.

New for the 2016 season was the Cobia Landing Permit, VMRC created it as a voluntary vessel/ permit, with a voluntary reporting requirement. Not surprisingly, making this a voluntary vessel permit with an optional reporting requirement didn't produce significant results.

The Norfolk Anglers Club proposed the creation of the Cobia Landing Permit in September 2015 to VMRC's FinFish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) and later to the Commission itself. The club's position was to create a free and accessible online *Individual* Landing Permit with a mandatory reporting requirement (exactly the same as the Striped Bass Spring Trophy Landing Permit) to provide VMRC Fisheries Managers with data specific to Virginia waters. Information such as; the number of anglers declared to be fishing Cobia in Commonwealth waters and monthly catch & release data are valuable data points in assessing Virginia's contribution to the total Atlantic Cobia catch. Existing methods by NOAA Fisheries, namely the Marine Recreational Information Program or MRIP, apply random sampling of anglers at public locations to determine recreational catch and effort. Following the 2015 Atlantic Cobia season and the actions of Federal Fisheries Managers applying available but limited harvest data (MRIP) something had to be done.

If the Commission approves the Request for Public Hearing there'll be a future Commission meeting to consider options to move forward regarding the permitting of these catches.

Virginia Safe Boating Courses: www.dgif.virginia.org



Some Anglers have asked about completing their Virginia Safe Boating requirement. Though the deadline of July 1st has come and gone, there still are a few courses offered locally. The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Website (www.dgif.virginia.gov) will list available courses and any associated fees (if applicable). Follow the link to *Boating* and *Boating Safety & Education* to find a DGIF sponsored course in our area. Most courses are FREE or include a small charge to cover the cost of materials.

As of October 30th:

Suffolk Fire Station 5: Saturday, November 5th 9:00am-2:00pm (Plus 2 additional days) 20 of 20 Seats OPEN.
Cost \$30 per person, see the DGIF information page for additional comments.

Hampton Bass Pro Shops: Saturday, November 19th 9:00am-5:00pm (1 Day) 15 of 25 Seats OPEN

BLUE PLANET FORUM

EXPLORING THE BAY  AND BEYOND

Menhaden Matter

An Expert Panel Exploring Key Virginia Fisheries

Speakers include:

Dick Russell

Author of *Striper Wars*

Jack Travelstead

Former Virginia Marine
Resources Commissioner

Moderated by:

Will Baker

President, Chesapeake
Bay Foundation



Tuesday, December 6 • 6:30–8:30 p.m.
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Blue Planet Forum's mission is to educate and engage citizens on important environmental issues affecting Hampton Roads and the region.

Admission is free, but please register at
cbf.org/blueplanet

Questions? Contact CBF at blueplanet@cbf.org or 757/622-1964

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