



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

OCTOBER 2020

## What's Inside

\*\*\* October meeting on ZOOM, Guest Speaker Mark Lozier, Speckled Trout Fishing

\*\*\* Fishing Tips with Capitán Alex Perez, *Hook Shot Fishing*, Virginia Spanish and King Mackerel Fishing

### Fishing Reports;

- James River: Striped Bass, Puppy Drum
- Little Creek: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Rudee Inlet: Flounder, Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- Lynnhaven Inlet: Puppy Drum

### Angler Interests;

- Reminder; Make your VMRC Cobia Permit reporting whether you fished or not. Deadline is October 21st
- New APP From MAFMC for Recreational Tilefish Reporting
- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Commercial Project Update



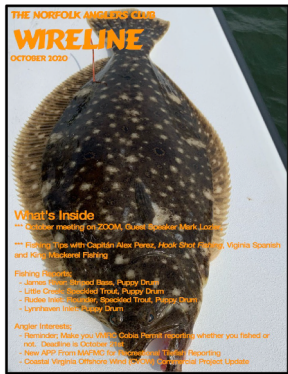
# Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Thanks to everyone for attending the September meeting on Zoom. It was a great success and many thanks to Captain Alex Perez for sharing his expertise with Mackerel fishing and to Wendy Bransom for making the Zoom meeting a success. For our October meeting we're going to host the meeting on Zoom. In the next two weeks, get in touch with Wendy so she can forward a link for you to join the conference. The online meeting is open to everyone, you'll just need to have a link to join. If you have questions about using the program get in touch with Wendy and she'll answer all your questions. Zoom is free to download and use at <https://zoom.us/> but you don't need to download the application to participate.

Remember to submit your Freshwater or Saltwater Citations or Club Prize Fish entries. For more information see page 3 for the current submissions and how to enter your prize fish.

- Will



On the Cover: Flounder photo compliments of Norfolk Angler Club member Alex Perez, Sr. Alex and his Son AJ were fishing along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge when AJ caught this nice flounder. Alex's fishing report is in this edition of the *Wireline*.



## Meeting

Our next Club meeting is scheduled for October 12th will be a video networked meeting on Zoom.

We have Mark Lozier joining us to discuss Speckled Trout fishing from a different perspective. There are many factors that influence your success on the water with Speckled Trout. Gathering as much information and reviewing conditions before you go can improve your time on the water. Things like tidal information, how current flows and changes in your area, feed cycles/moon phases all influence how fish react. Mark will share his insight on these factors and share some of the new products on the market for trout fishing.

**Important:**  
**October NAC Meeting will be on Zoom**

## Publishers NOTES

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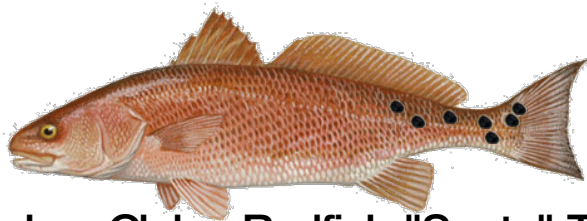
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Norfolk Anglers Club

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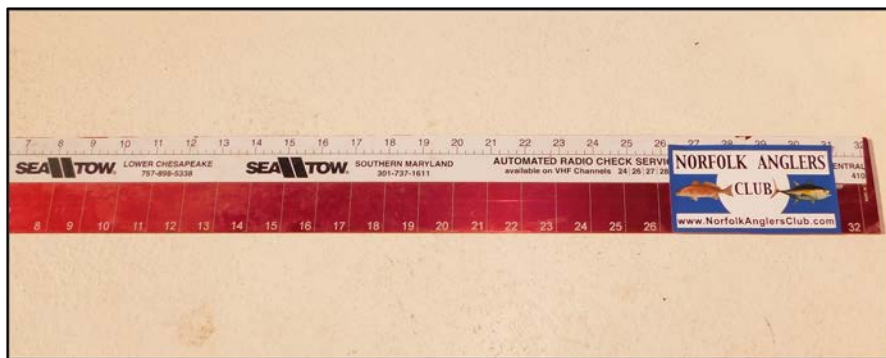
## Norfolk Anglers Club - Redfish "Spots" Tournament

### Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between March 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020
- Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device\* showing the total length of the fish. See NAC Prize Fish Contest Rules for measuring info. \*Entries received with decal and no measurement can only be judged by number of spots.
- Red Drum/Redfish up to 26 inches in length only and caught in Virginia and North Carolina waters
- Awards determined by 1st: number of Spots, 2nd: Largest Fish up to 26 inches, 3rd: Date of Catch
- Entries submitted on the Club Prize Fish Entry Form with photo (can be sent electronically to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com)
- No entry fee except the cost of the decal (\$1)
- \$50 Gift Card to the 1st Place Angler, \$25 Gift Card for the 2nd Place Angler and presented at the Club Holiday Party in December

\*\*\*Entries received as of September 30, 2020\*\*\*

Bert Sainz (2), James Eisenhower (3), Will Bransom (2), Alex Perez (2), Ned Smith (1)



### Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries January 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)	Shark	Greg Rogers (1)
	James Eisenhower (1)		
Largemouth Bass	James Eisenhower (1)	Blueline Tilefish	James Eisenhower (2)
	Russel Willoughby (1)	Flounder	Louis Glaser (2) Alex Perez, Jr. (1)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (3)	Cobia	Alex Perez (1)

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



# Norfolk Anglers Club

[www.norfolkanglersclub.com](http://www.norfolkanglersclub.com)

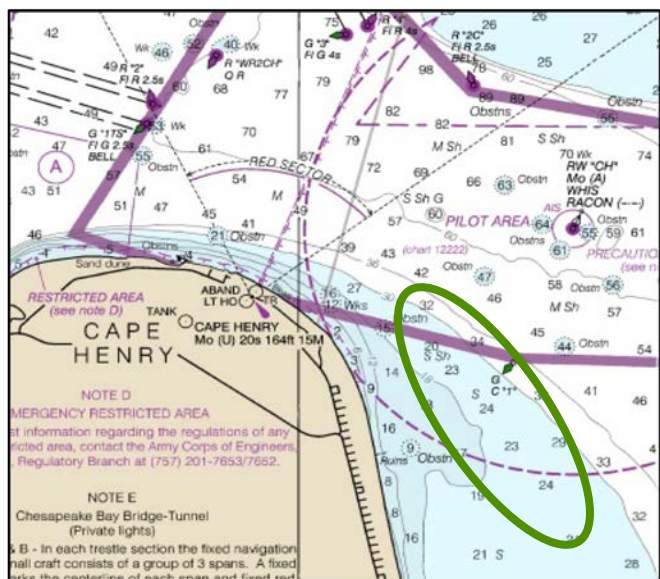
## Fishing Tips...



### Virginia Spanish Mackerel and King Mackerel fishing with Captain Alex Perez, Hook Shot Fishing

In late spring when the water temperature hits the mid to upper 70 degree mark, around mid-May, it's a good time to begin your Spanish Mackerel fishing season. Popular areas to target Spanish Macs are the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands, inshore wrecks, inside the Bay from York Spit northward to the state line, and along the oceanfront.

Captain Alex Perez with *Hook Shot Fishing* advises to look for the schools of bait, like bunker (menhaden) and glass minnows. Spanish Mackerel will work these bait schools into a frenzy and often you'll spot the mackerel jumping or "greyhounding" across the water. Once you locate an area with bait fish you'll likely pick up a few Spanish Mackerel before the school moves off. Try and remain focused on the direction the bait are moving, which is usually with the current. Circle around to get back in front of the school and get on the mackerel again. Water quality is another important consideration, he adds. Avoid the dirty water and focus on clear water and current breaks. Lots of rain will result in poor water clarity as it flows out of the rivers and inlets. If you're fishing the oceanfront move further off the shore until you've got cleaner water and then fish that water. Current breaks are those areas where a tidal current might run into another moving body of water either driven by wind or the natural outflow of the Chesapeake Bay or tributaries.



The area southeast of Cape Henry near the green Can buoy is very popular for trolling for Spanish Mackerel. It has many things going for it; shallow water (15-20ft), nearby structure (wreck debris), good current flow and with an incoming tide of good water clarity. The area along the CBBT islands is another area to target these fish. The islands produce a natural break in the tidal current creating changing currents and eddies which will hold bait fish. Troll the up current side of the island at 5-6 knots and work the areas around the ends of the islands. Don't just troll around the islands but the entire 17nm of the bridge pilings, the CBBT is a man-made artificial reef that holds fish.

Trolling with the small ClarkSpoons (00) is the most often method used for Spanish Mackerel. ClarkSpoons come in Silver and Gold colors, some with pink, green, blue, or yellow reflective tape added.



Alex recommends checking your ClarkSpoons for corrosion on the hook shanks before using them. It's not uncommon to find oxidation (corrosion) and it represents a weak point in your fishing rig. ClarkSpoons makes a repair kit to replace the hook and includes the screw to refasten the hook to the spoon. Eagleclaw (O'Shaughnessy 2/0 {254SS-2/0}) also has a hook that will work as a replacement on the ClarkSpoons.

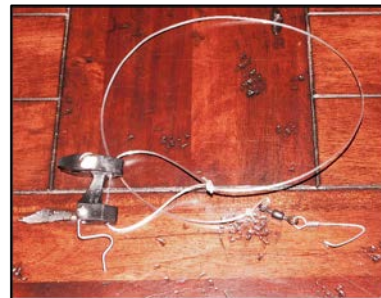
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## Fishing Tips...

Trolling for Spanish Mackerel can be done with in-line sinkers, planers, and a surface teaser bird. *Hook Shot Fishing's* #1 choice is to use 1oz-3oz in-line sinkers to get the spoon down in the water column. Rigging an in-line sinker involves tying a rig to the #00 ClarkSpoon with monofilament line and placing a Ball Bearing Coastlock Swivel to connect to the sinker. Alex stressed the importance of using ball bearing swivels over standard barrel swivels to keep the rig from twisting and tangling during a day of trolling.

The in-line sinker rig is the only rig that's connected to a release clip attached to the rear cleat with about 24 inches of leader material. The use of the release clip is two-fold; it provides a small amount of "drop back" when tripped and it also provides an alert that the line has been hit. When using two in-line rigs on the boat they should always be differing weights to cover more of the water column but also to minimize tangling the leader. Monofilament leader is used on nearly every rig and will vary between 20-30# test. The Planer Rig uses a longer

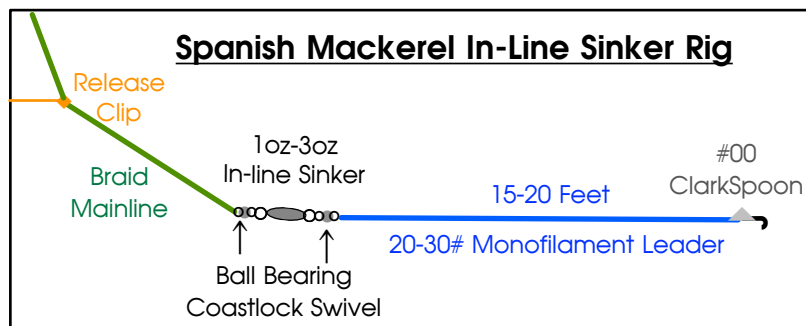


leader than the other rigs at almost twice the length. The longer leader length keeps the spoon lure further away from the planer and lessens the chance it will get "hit" by a hungry Mackerel. Alex prefers to use the "Old Salty" Planers over the more common Sea Striker brand. In his experience the Old Salty planers are easier to trip before retrieving them. He cautioned to be very careful retrieving planers. The loads on a planer are enormous and if it

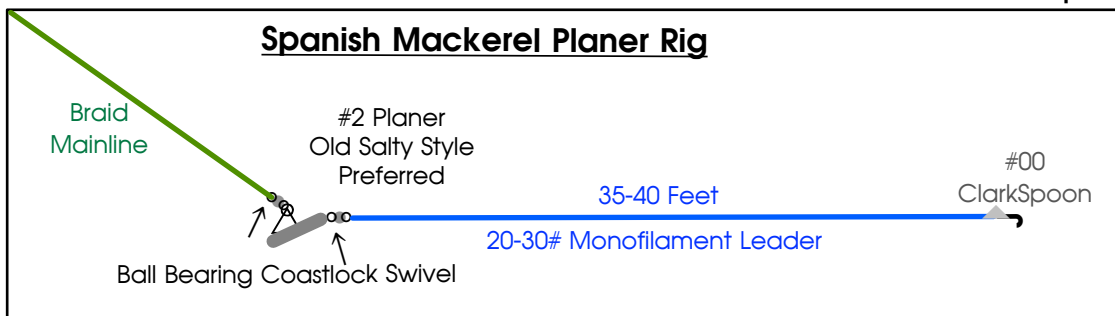
comes out of the water before it's "tripped" it will come rocketing directly toward the rod tip and the angler holding the rod. Trolling speeds are 5-6 knots and it's important to maintain this speed over the ground as you work up or down current.

Casting to Spanish Mackerel is another tactic when you find them around the CBBT. It's also one of the only techniques where you'll find *Hook Shot Fishing* using Fluorocarbon Leader consistently. Alex will cast a silver Gotcha plug with the first hook removed and rig a short #20 Fluoro leader with a perfection loop knot. Removing the first hook minimizes the chances of fouling the mainline during the cast.

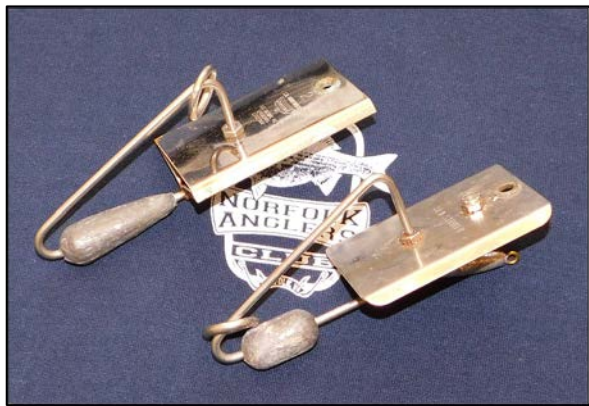
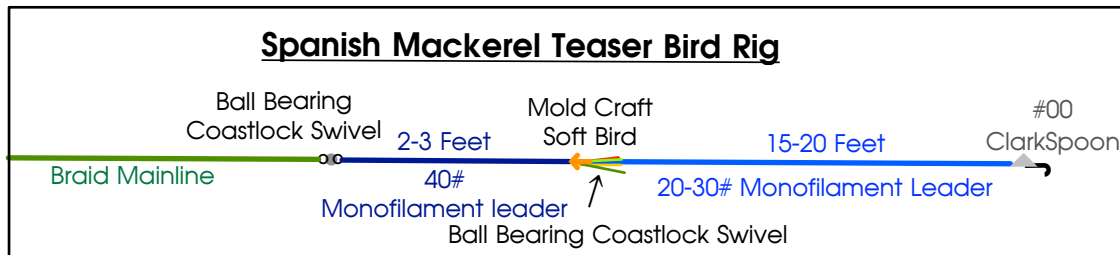
### Spanish Mackerel In-Line Sinker Rig



### Spanish Mackerel Planer Rig



### Spanish Mackerel Teaser Bird Rig





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## Fishing Tips...

"When fishing for King Mackerel everything has to be *right*". Unlike Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel are powerful and very fast, Captain Perez stressed. From the end of June to late September and sometimes into October anglers can try their skill at King Mackerel. They're a structure oriented fish so look for them in areas holding bait such as, rock piles, inshore wrecks, and irregular bottom contours.

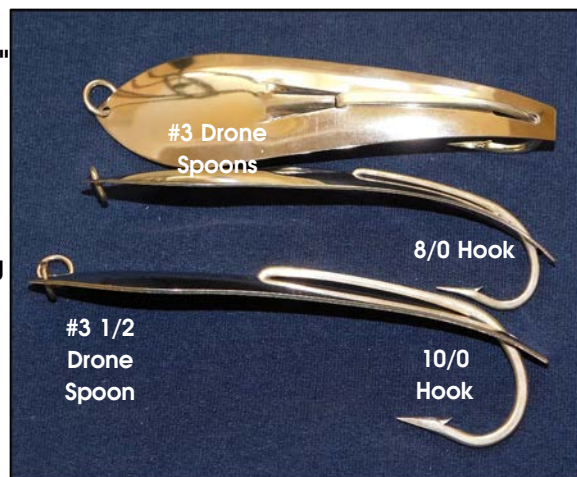
For targeting a large class King Mackerel, live bait is best but he recommends trolling areas with artificial lures first to locate the Kings and then switch over to live bait.

The #1 King Mackerel Lure is the #3 or #3 1/2 Drone Spoon rigged with a 40-50ft leader of 50# monofilament and towed behind a #4 Planer. Remember to rig with heavier duty (130#) ball bearing swivels and for all Mackerel rigging go with the black color swivels. Mackerel, Spanish and King, have been known to hit shiny swivels and planers. *Hook Shot Fishing* likes to use the Rapala Saltwater X-Rap Magnum 20 in the gold bunker/menhaden color (XRMAG20 BNK) which will dive to a depth of 20 ft and incorporates a rattle. Rig with a short, 12-18" single strand wire leader of #5 or #7 wire tied with a Haywire Twist and a SPRO #4 swivel.



When trolling for King Mackerel, use a hardy

live bait like a small (8-10") bluefish or mullet. Even with a good circulating live well menhaden aren't a good choice as they won't last. For live bait rigging, *Hook Shot Fishing* will use #5 single strand wire and Haywire Twists to rig two 4/0-6/0 live bait hooks together with about 8" between them and a short leader. The leader holds a #4 SPRO swivel and ties to 4-5 feet of 50# monofilament shock leader. Some anglers will use #4 treble hooks and they work fine, Alex advised, but when using treble hooks back off the drag settings until you have a good hookset on a King. Live bait trolling speed is a slow 1.5-2 knots.



### King Mackerel Live Bait Rig



### King Mackerel Planer Rig



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# Fishing Reports...



23 Sep: 3X Limit Day with Louis Glaser and Bert Sainz

I went fishing in the Little Creek at daybreak with Louis and Bert. This was after about 5 days with NE winds blowing from the leftover from a hurricane in the Gulf. So, it started out a little windy but that didn't interfere with the topwater action. We started catching almost at the first cast. But after boating a couple in the boat, the topwater action died down, so we repositioned and found the motherlode. Catching one after another almost at ever cast mostly using 52MRs with Bert using a Paul Brown that was really deadly. All three of us caught a 22 inch speckled trout as our biggest. We ended up catching over 30 fish of course only kept our limit. The littlest one caught was 18 inches. Bert got a 22 inch puppy drum that ran him all around the boat. Water temp had gone down to 68 degrees. Definitely one of our best days catching. We left them still biting.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



9 Sep:  
Lynnhaven  
puppies! Lots  
caught "10."  
I kept three. It  
was a  
Tuesday,  
overcast and a  
little windy.  
High tide was  
at 1:30 P.M.

- Jerry Hughes



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back."





13 Sep: Alex Perez and I had an opportunity to fish the morning in Rudee Inlet. On previous trips we'd try a number of areas in Lake Rudee and Lake Wesley however, this trip we decided to stay in Lake Rudee.

We started in the creek behind the Aquarium on a falling tide using topwater lures. Though we had a few hits and observed something chasing the minnows, Alex was able to reel in the only Puppy Drum in the creek. The 18 inch Red Drum was tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. We moved over to the dock and creek outflow by the VB Fireboat and again tried topwater lures before switching over to suspending lures and jig-heads. We had little luck in that spot before moving on.

We set up by the oyster bed and again worked a few topwater casts before giving suspending lures a chance. We had our best luck pitching jig-heads and caught a few undersized flounders, croakers, and a lizardfish. We brought along a bunch of mud minnows and swapped out the Gulp tails for minnows. Although Gulp tails work great, everything hits them, bite their tails off, and you're left with a bunch of Gulp bodies for your next offshore trip. You can always put a piece of the body on a hook with squid. Gulp still works to entice bites.

The mud minnows were the ticket, and by-the-way they're a whole lot cheaper than Gulp tails. We caught most of our fish with jig-heads and minnows. They're pretty hardy and will stay on the hook during a long cast.

In the end we tagged and released 4 Red Drum up to 18 inches (most were 11-14 inches), 2 Flounder 14-18 inches, and a 13 inch Speckled Trout. We also had a number of undersized Flounder that were too small to tag for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Will Bransom





13 Sep: Jess, Tim and Grand Daughter Blake were down for the weekend. Sunday afternoon, Tim and I got out for a couple hours fishing. We launched my little skiff at Jones Creek at about noon and were targeting drum. After a couple unsuccessful stops, we arrived at the bridge at Capt. Chuck-A-Muck's. There was very little current on the restaurant side of the creek and after a few tries, we moved to the other side where the current was moving pretty strong. We drifted down the pilings just bouncing jigs off the bottom, not casting and retrieving. Just as we drifted past the last down current piling a 22 inch striper picked up my jig on the drop. Another pass and at the same spot I got a 19 1/2 inch. The next couple of passed nothing so we moved to another set of pilings, made a few drifts and with no results, and returned to the set we caught fish. This drift Tim and I both hooked up but I lost my fish. Tim landed an 18 inch.

Tim needed to head home and the delicious smell from Capt. Chuck-A-Mucks was getting to us so we called it a day. Of course all fish were released.



We were using 1/4 oz jigs, Tim's was white with a pink squiggle tail and I had an electric chicken paddle tail.

- Henry Troutner

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24-inch Flounder

16 Sep: On a Wednesday, AJ and I left Lynnhaven Inlet around 3:00 P.M. to see if we could find early evening Drum before the poor weekend weather kept us land locked in. We arrived at the Yancey Wreck and started fishing for Croaker using Squid FishBites on an over/under rig for bait.

While I navigated the drifts over the wreck, AJ kept busy trying to catch enough croaker to use for Red Drum bait. He struggled to catch small Grey Trout, and to our surprise, two keeper sized Flounder.



Running out of time, we were only able to catch three Croaker and went to set up for Drum near the first island. There were no Drum on this trip but the sharks kept us busy.

- Alex Perez



18-inch Flounder



Bait was minnows on a top/bottom rig used for perch.

- Henry Troutner

19 Sep: John Curry wanted to catch some white perch for the table and invited Mary and I. We caught a few but, the highlight of the trip was John landing this 25 inch Red Drum.







17 Sep: My Personal Best Speckled Trout so far!

I went fishing with Louis and Taz at daybreak. Started really slow on topwater lures, but we moved around several times. Finally when we switched to 27MR's. Taz hooked up a big one that measured 23.5 inches. Shortly later, while he was getting that out of the net, I casted in the same general direction and I hooked my present PB (personal best) which measure 23.5 inches and I released it for a club minimum. Each was on different colored 27's. Not long after that Louis hooked a 22 inch speckled trout. Then we started catching more in the 18-20 inch range. We ended the morning with 12 trout between us. A great day on the water for sure!

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



26 -27 Sep: Bert and I fished in Little Creek Saturday evening until dark, Sunday morning until noon and Monday morning until 1:00 P.M. All fish were caught and released. We fished both incoming and outgoing tides with okay winds. On Saturday, we caught 12 speckled trout up to 19 inches and 2 pups, one was 20 inches. We used everything in our arsenal, 17, 27, 52MR top water, and gulps. Pups were caught on gulps. On Sunday, the bite was slow until the last of the outgoing tide. We caught several nice speckled trouts up to 22 inches.



Most were caught on the deep water slope. We also had 3 small pups.

Monday morning was a slow fishing day. The first speckled trout was caught 3 1/2 hours into the trip. A big bait ball came in the creek and soon after the bite was on. We picked up 5 speckled trouts between 18 inches and 21 1/2 inches in an hour and lost several more at the boat. All the speckled trout were fat boys.

- Ned Smith

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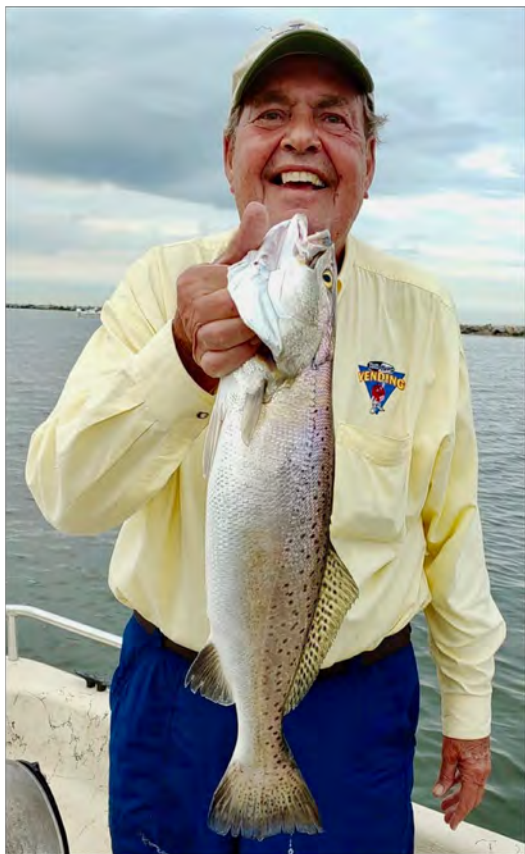




26 Sep: Fished with Burt and Scott in the afternoon in Little Creek on an incoming tide. Ended up catching 20 speckled trout with the largest 22 inches. All trout were caught on 17 and 27 MirrOlures. Water temperature was 69 degrees, depth was 4 feet. - Louis Glaser



23 Sep: It was my first time out in a while. I'm holding the biggest of six pups. - James Robinson



27 Sep: Fished with nephews in Little Creek for speckled trout in the afternoon. It was very sporadic. We ended up with 7 of which 3 on topwater. The largest was 23 inches. We had 4 feet of water, and water temperature was 71 degrees.

- Louis Glaser



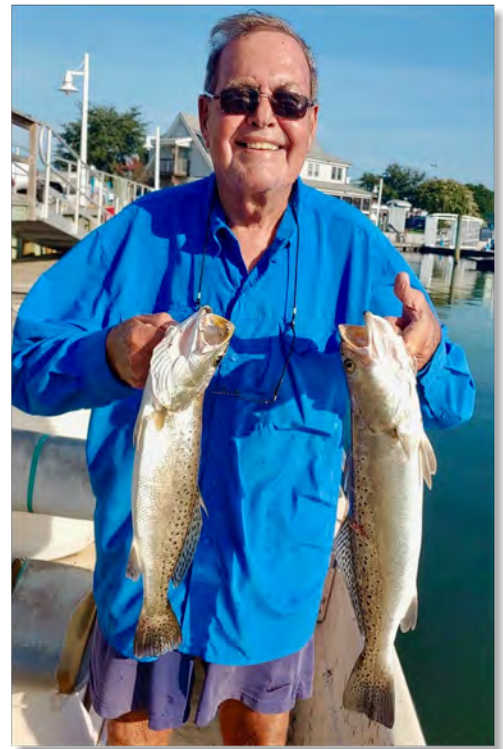




2 Sep: I fished with my Nephew Austin in Little Creek for 2 hours going for speckled trout. We ended up catching 2 on a Saltwater Super.



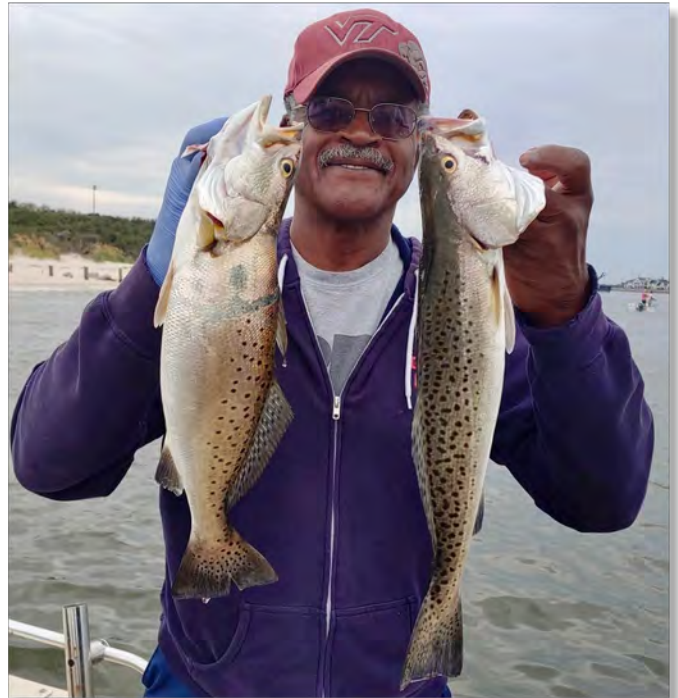
- Louis Glaser



11 Sep: We fished early in the morning in Little Creek for speckled trout using only topwater lures. Ended up with 6 trout and 1 puppy. The largest trout was 21 inches. Water temperature was 80 degrees, depth was 4 feet.



24 Sep: I fished with my friend Jerry in Little Creek for speckled trout. We Ended up catching our limit using mostly 27MR MirrOlures. Water temp 68 degrees and depth 5 feet. All caught incoming tide.



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28 Sep: I fished the James River with my daughter and caught striped bass all afternoon on gulp lures. All were released. The largest was 20 inches.

- Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



# Angler Interests

## Mid-Atlantic Council Announces New Mobile App for Recreational Tilefish Reporting



Mid-Atlantic Council Announces New Mobile App for Recreational Tilefish Reporting eFin Logbook Provides Anglers a Simple and Convenient Reporting Tool NOAA Fisheries recently implemented new permitting and reporting requirements for recreational tilefish fishermen.



All recreational vessel operators (including for-hire operators using their vessels on recreational trips) targeting or retaining golden or blueline tilefish from Virginia to Maine are now required to obtain a free permit from NOAA Fisheries and submit electronic vessel trip reports (eVTRs) within 24 hours of returning to port.

A new app has been released to make the reporting process easy and convenient. Harbor Light Software's eFin Logbook has received certification from NOAA Fisheries as an approved application through which anglers can report their trips. Funded by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, eFin Logbook is a user-friendly application designed specifically for recreational tilefish anglers. The app is available for use on all Apple and Android mobile devices (iPhone, iPad, Android phone, and Android tablet).

"During our initial outreach efforts, many anglers told us that the existing NOAA-approved reporting systems were too complicated for recreational reporting," said Mid-Atlantic Council Executive Director Chris Moore. "Recreational stakeholders are generally supportive of the need for improved data collection on tilefish but have stressed the need for a simpler, more user-friendly interface. In response to this feedback, we collaborated with Harbor Light Software on the development of eFin Logbook, the first NOAA-approved electronic reporting system designed specifically for recreational fishermen."

At present, eFin Logbook can only be used by tilefish recreational anglers to satisfy reporting requirements. Future modifications may expand its capabilities to other reporting and personal fishing log applications. For-hire operators, many of whom have other reporting requirements, are encouraged to choose different software. To learn more about other electronic reporting options and decide which one is right for you, visit the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region Electronic Reporting Web Page.

To get started with eFin Logbook: Obtain a [free permit from NOAA Fisheries](#), download the app from the Apple or Google Play store for free (search for "eFin Logbook"), and you will be all set to begin reporting your tilefish trips. For more information and instructions on how to get started with eFin Logbook, visit: <https://www.harborlightsoftware.com/efin-logbook>.

### Reminder: Cobia Permit Holders, report your harvest or lack of participation in the Cobia season



**Deadline is October 21, 2020:** If you hold a 2020 Recreational Cobia Permit, you MUST report by the deadline. If you do not report by the deadline of October 21, 2020, you will NOT be eligible for a Recreational Cobia Permit in 2021. Your ineligibility will expire in 2022. There are no exceptions.

VMRC will accept reports only by form (<https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/Forms/>) or through the Virginia Saltwater Journal. VMRC will not accept any reports by phone. If you submit a report on the Virginia Saltwater Journal, you will receive an auto-generated confirmation email of the report that we encourage you to keep for your records. If you have technical issues submitting reports on the Virginia Saltwater Journal, please call VMRC staff for assistance before the reporting deadline.



# Angler Interests

## Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Commercial Project Update for September 2020:



As our offshore work on the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) projects continues into the Fall of 2020, we remain committed to maintaining communications with the fishing community and other mariners in the area via these periodic updates. All mariners are encouraged to contact Dominion Energy's Fisheries Liaisons with any specific questions about the status of the projects in relation to fisheries.

CVOW Pilot Project (CVOW-P) commissioning activities are expected to be complete within the September 2020 timeframe. Once commissioning activities are complete, the buoys marking the restricted access construction zone will be removed. Until that time, access to the area remains restricted to project service vessels, including the *Siem Dorado*, the *Gaspee* and the *Delta Escape*. The newly built *Windserve Odyssey*, a Jones-Act Compliant crew transfer vessel (CTV), will also be deployed on the site in the near future. The CVOW-P turbines and the export cable route are now displayed on the updated NOAA Nautical Charts (Chart#s 12200 and 12221).



Offshore survey activities for the Commercial Project (CVOW-C) are expected to continue through the October 2020 timeframe. The survey vessel(s) *Kommandor Iona* and *Minerva Uno* will join the group of existing survey vessels operating in the area, which include the *Sarah Bordelon*, *Marcelle Bordelon*, *Dina Polaris* and the *Northstar Commander*. The *Minerva Uno* will be completing operations along the export cable route and the *Kommandor Iona* will work within the commercial lease area. Activities will be conducted 24/7; please consult the Fifth Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners for additional information on vessel activity.

Vessel Details are as follows:



### Kommandor Iona

Call Sign: GAAK  
MMSI: 235003070  
IMO: 8401999  
Flag: United Kingdom  
LOA: 238 ft Beam: 49 ft



### Minerva Uno

Call Sign: IZVM  
MMSI: 247080700  
IMO: 9262077  
Flag: Marshall Islands  
LOA: 155 ft Beam: 30 ft





Norfolk  
Anglers  
Club