



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

OCTOBER 2022

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Susanna Musick, Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

Fishing Tips: Virginia Fishing on Light Tackle with Kendall Osbourne

Fishing Reports;

- James River: Puppy Drum, Black Drum, Speckled Trout
- Lynnhaven River: Puppy Drum
- Little Creek Inlet: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Flounder
- Elizabeth River: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout
- North Carolina/Freshwater: Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel
- North Carolina/Oriental: Red Drum
- North Carolina/Hatteras: Pompano, Red Drum, Bluefish,

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Our big event this month is our Member's Fall Social. This is an event for members and their families. It's an opportunity for us to get together in a social setting and have a great time. This year's event is on Saturday October 15th and we'll be having it at the Izaak Walton League Park Facilities in Chesapeake. We have reserved the grounds and club house facilities so this is a rain or shine event. If you'd like to go send an email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com. I'll give you a reply and we'll forward detailed directions to everyone who signed up. Want to help out before, during, or after the event? We welcome your assistance and any side dishes you'd like to bring. We plan on serving steamed crabs, oysters, clams., shrimp, and BBQ. We hope to see you there!

- Will



On The Cover:

Capitán Alex Perez reviving and releasing a 27" Red Drum in the Elizabeth River. Alex also tags for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Susanna Musick, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) on the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP).

Join us on October 17th to learn about the VGFTP and what it offers the saltwater fishing community. The Tagging program is a VIMS and VMRC cooperative effort that benefits Fisheries Management, Marine Science and Anglers.

Important:

October 17th

**NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk, VA**

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422



Club Calendar

October

Sat, Oct 15th: Norfolk Anglers Club Fall Social
(Membership Event). Izaak Walton
League facility in Chesapeake.

Thurs, Oct 13th: 4:00pm MRC Menhaden Management
Advisory Committee (MMAC) Meeting,
Fort Monroe

Mon, Oct 17th: Regular Club Meeting, Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk

Tues, Oct 18th: 5:00pm Finfish Management
Advisory Committee (MMAC) Meeting,
Fort Monroe

Tues, Oct 25th: Virginia Marine Resources
Commission Meeting, Fort Monroe

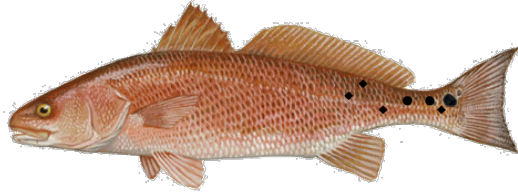


WTF?

What's This Fish?

Recently caught in Little Creek Inlet, but not with
hook & line. Do you know your fish?

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 - September 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)
		Cobia	Alex Perez, Sr (2)
		Red Drum	Kelly Hoggard (4)
		Blueline Tilefish	Jere Humphrey (1)
		Blue Marlin	Mike Hubert (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

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Virginia Fishing on Light Tackle

with Kendall Osbourne

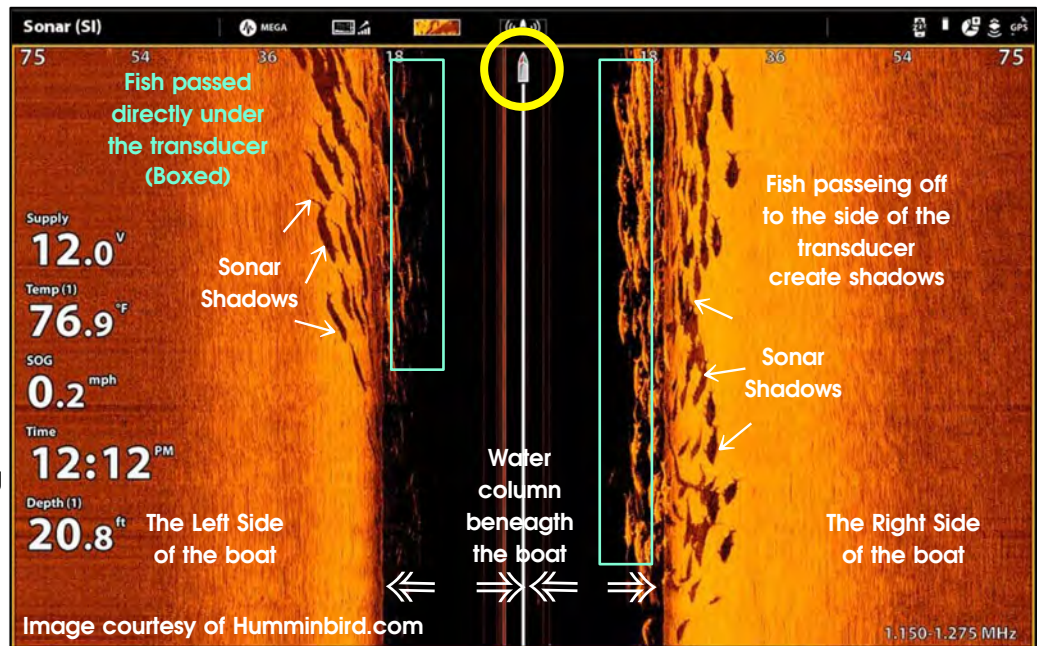
Kendall Osbourne spoke with the Norfolk Anglers Club on fishing across the seasons targeting salt and freshwater species. Kendall is an avid fly fisherman and light tackle angler who enjoys fishing along Virginia's Eastern Shore, Chesapeake Bay tributaries, and freshwater rivers.



Kendall shared getting comfortable and understanding your boats electronics, specifically a sidescan sonar, is valuable to spot schools of fish. Observing their movement patterns or the features they shelter against will be helpful in targeting them.

Features vary among electronic manufactures and once an angler understands some of the basics of side scan imagery, the concept is easily applied to different screens.

In the image (right) the vessel is located at the top center (circled in yellow). As the boat moves through the water the side scan constantly collects images on each side of the boat as well as downward. These "snap shots" create a constant moving image of what the sonar transducer sees *as it passes the objects*. Everything shown is what's behind the transducer.



In the image the darker color on each side of the boat represents the vertical water column from the surface directly down to the bottom. The copper color area outside the dark color represents what the transducer sees to each side of the boat, this is the side scan look extending away from the transducer. Objects, like structure or fish that pass *directly* under the boat will show in the darker area and often don't cast a shadow. However, if an object (structure or fish) pass to the *side* of the transducer it will show up as an object and then cast a shadow. The sonar shadows are caused because the side scan sonar can't see through an object in the water column or on the bottom. Shadows that are closer to the fish represent fish that are near the bottom. The further off the boat a fish is, the farther away the shadow will be. As proficiency increases with unit settings and reading the images, an angler will be able to pick out sunken trees, holes and the fish congregating in them, bottom contours, and other structure.

Kendall is primarily a fly fishing angler and shared a common lure type is the Clouser minnow. It's named for Bob Clouser, a Pennsylvania fly fisherman, a lure innovator, guide, and teacher. The Clouser Minnow tied by Kendall (photo right) feature a lure with the hook point facing up, tied with natural or colored hair, and may also incorporate a bit of synthetic flash streamer or feathers. They can have a small weighted eye to drop the lure down in the water column or not to keep it on the surface. Many fishing lures since the 80's have followed this design concept. It's one of the most successful lure styles for freshwater and saltwater fishing.



Norfolk Anglers Club

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Fishing Tips...

Fishing the Seasons

In January/February Kendall will look for the Speckled Trout and Red Drum that school up and move toward the back of the creeks. He shared that the water clarity in the winter is very good and sight casting on the fish in shallow water is very effective. He'll look for the smaller Red Drum at the low tide in shallow water. He shared an observation that the smaller Speckled Trout seem to tolerate the lower salinity far in the creeks than the larger Specs.

Late February and March the Nottoway River near Franklin, VA offers great Shad fishing. Launch out of the Hercules Landing Public Boat Ramp (26556 Shady Brook Trail) where there's a dock and plenty of parking (no restrooms). Shad lures include a common "shad dart" or other small colorful lures or the Clouser Minnow. The Nottoway is a beautiful river to fish but it isn't the kind of waterway for a larger center consol boat. Smaller skiffs are ideal. Anglers will find a variety of species in the Nottoway and they need to know the species if they're going to keep them. Four of species found in the Nottoway are the American Shad, Hickory Shad, Blueback Herring, and Alewife (photo bottom). Of these

four species only the Hickory Shad may be possessed. Since 2012, there's been a statewide moratorium on both Alewife & Blueback Herring and later a moratorium on American Shad.

Many other species can be found in the Nottoway River, namely bass (both largemouth and smallmouth) and catfish, bluegill, redbreast & redear sunfish, Roanoke bass, yellow perch, and black crappie are also common.

American Shad



Hickory Shad



Photo Courtesy of Virginia DWR/Alan Weaver

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Fishing Tips...

Late March and April will find Kendall stalking the larger Red Drum around Fisherman's Island on the Eastern Shore. There are a few public boat ramps to launch from; Kiptopeake State Park, Wise Point, and Oyster Public Boat Ramp are three of the most popular. For more information on boat launch facilities and any applicable fees visit the Northhampton County website at <https://co.northampton.va.us/visitors>.

Kendall shared fishing the shallow water and cuts of Fishermans Inlet between Raccoon Island and Fishermans Island can produce lots of action. He's found that fish caught in shallow water fight harder than the same species caught in deeper water. He attributes that to a shallow water fish being limited to the water around them and no water beneath them for safety. He's found larger red drum, rockfish, and speckled trout in the shallow cuts around sand bars and the islands. He emphasized that when you observe the fish on the bottom whatever lure you select make sure it's on the bottom. He uses a large Clouser Minnow lure to get them to strike.

If fishing around the Eastern Shore Barrier Islands it's a good idea to review the visitation policies if you intend on beaching or going ashore. Shore visitation is heavily regulated on some barrier islands to preserve the natural habitat and protect wildlife. Visit *Explore our Seaside - Virginia Eastern Shore* at <https://exploreourseaside.org/> for more information and visitation policies.



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Fishing Tips...

In the heat of summer (June-August) when it's the most miserable conditions (hot days - calm wind - biting flies) for a human to fish is when you'll find Kendall fishing for tarpon on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

It seems when the conditions are the worst the tarpon like it best. Armed with his fly rod and Clouser flies Kendall will make his way to the shallow cut throughs, grass beds, and marsh flats for tarpon.



Tarpon migrate into the Virginia coastal water each year likely following the baitfish and will remain for a couple of months before migrating back south to Florida around late August or September. Tarpon are easily spooked, as Kendall explained the tarpon know you're there and the slightest mistake can shut them down. The challenge is to entice their feeding instinct to kick in. A light wind day with just a slight ripple on the water is ideal to mask your lure entering the water. Tarpon can be found bottom feeding, finning on the surface at times, or hunting the grass beds along the marsh. The challenge is enticing the bite while battling the eelgrass beds that are prevalent among the inner barrier islands. Even the so-called weedless rigs will foul with grass along the marsh edges.

If you're fortunate to hook a tarpon expect a hard fight, perhaps an aerial display, and lots of head shaking. Losing a tarpon during the fight is expected. They fight hard and should be respected. The fish in Virginia tend to be on the larger size so after a fight be sure to fully revive the fish before releasing it. Take your photos of the fish in the water and resist the urge to bring it in the boat.

Fighting and Releasing Fish

Many anglers would be surprised just how hard they can fight a fish on light tackle. A quick fight is beneficial for the fish as it's not exhausted to the point of not surviving after release. Kendall advised that most line failures are at the knot or from line abrasion. He routinely fights large fish with light tackle and a preset drag. How much drag? That depends on each angler's preference but using a scale to measure it and record how that setting works out is a good practice for consistency.

For fish you plan to release always shorten the fight, handle them in the water, and ensure they're fully revived before letting them go. If they must be brought in the boat use a rubberized knotless net, handle with wet hands/gloves or wet rag, never put hands in the gills or lift by grabbing the jaw. Supporting the body of a large fish is important to minimizing injury to the fish and returning them quickly to the water will greatly improve their chance of survival.



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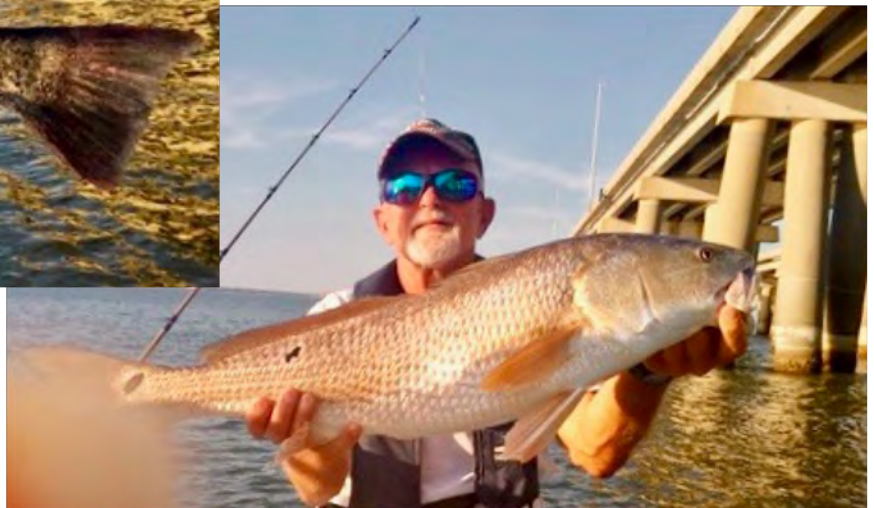
October 15, 2022



SCAN ME

Fishing Reports...

1 SEP: After Kait and Kevin finished work, they joined Mary and me for a couple of hours fishing on the James River. They both work at the Newport News Ship Yard, and we launch at Huntingdon Park; how convenient. We fished from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and landed three over-slot Reds (Mary 32", Kevin 28" and my 30") and broke three off. We've been losing a high percentage of fish, breaking the line on the bridge pilings. Kevin also caught a Speckled Trout, and I landed a 30" Black Drum. Bait was crabs and minnows, fished on a top and bottom rig with the lower hook having a 20" leader right on the bottom. - Mary and Henry Troutner



Late September: Scott Diggs and I caught a 50" and a 44" Red Drum near Oriental, North Carolina. We fished around Menhaden pods in 10 feet of water using jigs and paddle tail Z Mans.

- Steve Anderson



5 SEP: Mary and I took my neighbor's grandson, Cameron, fishing on the James River. We were joined by NAC member Alex Perez, who wanted to tag some of the Reds we've been catching. We only fished for a couple of hours of outgoing current, and although the bite was slow, we did manage a few fish. Cameron's 1st Red, a 24", was kept for the dinner table, and his 2nd was tagged and released by Alex. Meanwhile, Mary caught a 14" Speckled Trout which Alex also tagged. My only fish was a 3' ray which we cut off after bringing it next to the boat—beautiful day on the water and home by noon for Labor Day cookout.

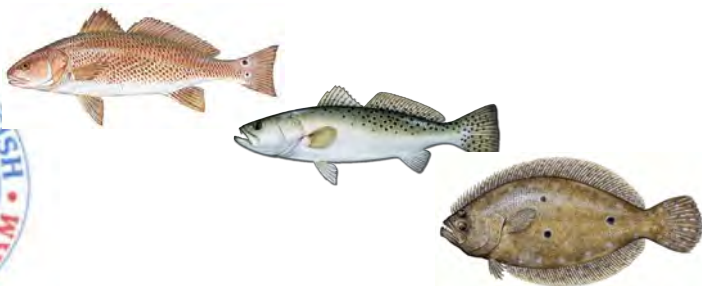
- Mary and Henry Troutners



28 SEP: Lynnhaven cut mullet.

- Jerry Hughes

18 Sep: Fished on Little Creek with Ned Smith on the falling tide. We fished the jetties with jig heads and 27MR lures without much success. There were a few speckled trout caught but little constant action. We moved over near the Condos and picked up a few fish. Ned landed two undersized speckled trout and a flounder and I caught two puppy drum 14.5-15.5 inches. We were using jig heads with gulp tails. Water temp was 78.8 degrees. All the fish were tagged for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. - Will Bransom



16 Sep: Alex Perez and I headed out of Haven Creek Boat Ramp on the Lafayette River for an early afternoon trip for speckled trout and puppy drum. We tried inside the Lafayette at the beginning of the ebb tide and after discussing out options changed locations to an area closer to the Elizabeth River. We were fishing 27MR and jig head with gulp tails. Alex hooked into a hard fighting 27 inch puppy drum that gave quite the aerial display. We caught two more speckled trout before moving back into the Lafayette River.

With the sun getting low we started back toward the ramp but not before stopping at the Hampton Blvd bridge to try the moving water around the pilings. Even after the sun set and fishing the light lines we didn't have any luck.

- Will Bransom



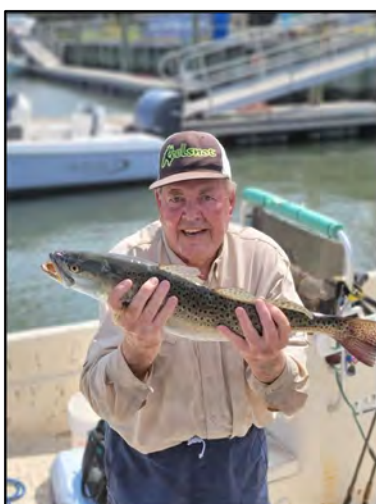


28 Sep: Jennifer and I headed down to a friends lake in Halifax, NC for a day of fishing. We fished minnows and were looking for the crappie when Jennifer dropped her line under a fallen tree. Her line went tight right away and it was game on with the crappie. The school was hanging out under the tree branches. We also boated largemouth bass and a chain pickerel.

- Jere Humphrey

13 Sep: Fished this morning in Little Creek with Hai Edison looking for specs. Ended up with 5 with 2 well over 20". Water temp 79 and depth 5ft. Just starting to show up.

- Louis Glaser



4 Sep: Hai Edison learning how to drive the boat. Instructor by Captain Louis Glaser.

Hai Edison học cách lái thuyền. Người hướng dẫn của Thuyền trưởng Louis Glaser.



15 Sep: Mixed bag fished with Douglas Wilburn , Bert Sainz in Little Creek and ended up with 10 specks and a single flounder using MirrOlures. Largest speckled trout was 23 1/2" and released by Bert. Water temperature is still pretty warm at 80 degrees.

- Louis Glaser



21 SEP: It was another beautiful day. George Langdon took John Curry and me fishing on the James River. Never underestimate luck. We were fishing out of the same boat, using the same bait, but the fish gods were smiling at me. I managed to catch 4 Red Drum; 1 short, 30", 31" and 36", a 17" Speckle Trout, and a 3.40 lb. Toadfish. George and John did catch numerous Bluefish and a couple of rays. We were fishing minnows and crab on bottom rigs.

- Henry Troutner



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19 SEP: It was a beautiful day, so Mary, Kait, George and Linda Langdon, and I fished the James River in the Shamrock. We usually like to fish the outgoing current, but other commitments had us fishing what little incoming current there was. The tidal coefficient was 25. Although we did not catch any large Reds, we did manage to land a short Red, a short and 22" Speckled Trout, two short Flounder, 1 Croaker, two small Sea Bass, 6-8 Bluefish, and a large ray. We were fishing top and bottom rigs with minnows and shedders. - Henry Troutner



13 SEP: Louis Glaser, his girlfriend Hai, and I went looking for trout or reds on Tuesday despite the 15-20 mph winds out of the South. We headed to the jetties since Louis had caught five earlier in the day and four the day before that. Reports of schools coming in on incoming tide had also been reported.

The first hook-up was with a 19-inch trout, and no time later, I hooked a 22-inch trout which I released for a club minimum. We caught several more but only got an 18-inches in the boat before dark. With those waves and wind, it wasn't safe to stay out any longer. Looking at my records, I caught a 22-inch last year on 9/7. It's time for them to come in even more. The Water temp was 78 degrees. All caught on MirrOlures 27MR.



We tried the next day again, but winds had shifted to the NW 15-20, and we got skunked at the jetties and in Pretty Lake. The water level was high with those winds.

Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower

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Crazy Hatteras trip With ODU

I was talking with some friends on Saturday evening who got into a heavy red drum blitz in Hatteras. With the fall run here, I decided it was an excellent chance to get Jon down to Hatteras and show him the beaches. We loaded up, and we were out the door by 3:00 am. With bait in hand, we drove down on the point by 6:00 in the morning. Only one other angler appeared to be interested in the first light bite. We played around for a while with almost no luck until 7:00. Cars were piling in by the dozens, and there was nearly nowhere to park.

Of the first catches at the point in two hours. Jon and I accounted for 4/6. One puppy, two blues, and a bird. The rest of the crowd managed one blue and a Pelican. My puppy was caught on a shark rig, and because of its size, I winched him right onto the beach. It was a quick release on a drum in the lower 30-inch range. My blue turned out to be a healthy four pounds that went 22+”. This was a personal best in the surf.



Jon was consistently catching bluefish on the puppy drum rigs. It seemed he had found the right place to be. On one of his casts, I saw the rod tip bounce hard and then the tip of the rod bouncing unusually. I immediately recognized it as a drum bite, but Jon, not so much. After yelling at him to come tight to the



fish, he made three cranks and paused. But I soon figured out that he needed to get it tighter. When he was confirmed as a drum, I brought my gear to help land the fish. The battles ensued for what may have been 10 minutes. The drum was more significant than expected, and his drag was not set tight. I told him not to tighten it as any fray, or excess pressure could stress a weak point and lose the fish.



We finally got the fish up on the beach, and it was a skinny 42” NC Citation red drum. What an experience for this young man at Cape Hatteras Point!





Our day adventures weren't over, however. After getting that drum, we had met our goal and packed up to get some brunch. Deciding to head back to the point, I needed more bait and wanted to cast net some fresh mullet down at 55. Driving along the beach road along the way, we saw some amazingly clear water and fishable surf at the best pompano spot on the island. I had to stop and try. At low tide, without any



fresh bait, pompano rigs, or even my standard pompano rods, I heaved a rig out over the bar with fish bites and fish gum and waited. It didn't take long; in about two hours, we caught five pompanos! I got a pair over 16 inches, including a 17"; 2lb 1oz NC citation. My first pompano citation in Carolina! I was excited to meet a goal I set many years ago finally. The wind started blowing hard from the SW, and conditions were becoming nearly impossible to fish any longer. The lines caught too much wind and grass to hold on to the bottom.



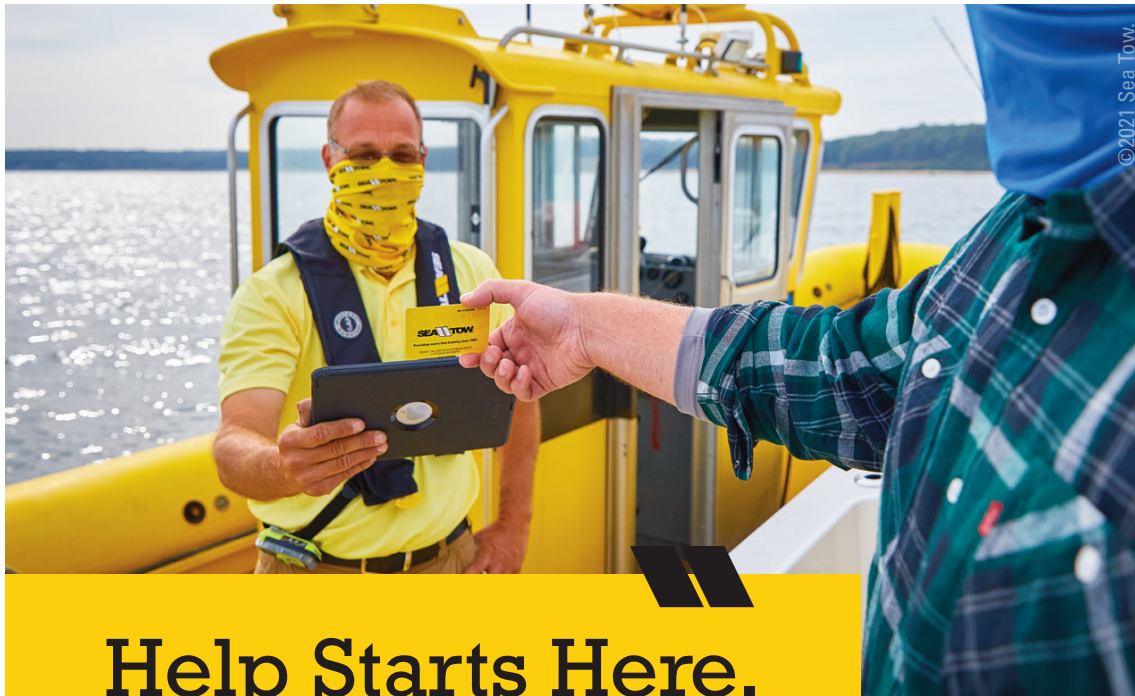
We packed up and were headed home by 4:00 pm. Though the summer bite is winding down, I've learned much this last trip. Next year will be an exceptional experience for me down in Hatteras.

This was an adventurous day and one of the best quality fishing days I've ever had on the island. Certainly, a trip to remember for Jon and me! - Kelly Hoggard





We will “fall back” one hour and return to Standard Time on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 2 a.m.



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17 SEP: Saturday, Sept. 17, a beautiful day. Kevin Parker and I took the skiff to the Chuckatuck, hoping for some Red Drum & Specks.

We fished the shallow grass banks with minnows and crabs on 1/8 oz. Jigs.

Once set up with the right drift along the bank, Kevin caught and released a nice 27” Red. Overall, fishing was slow.

We also caught two short Flounder, one small Speck, and a Croaker. Everything was released.

- Henry Troutner

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14 SEP: On a Wednesday, Mary and I headed out in the skiff to fish the shallow grass banks of the Chuckatuck for Reds and Speckled Trout. Feeling the morning incoming tide, we have three hours of steady action on minnows fished with 1/8 oz. Jigs.

We caught five Reds, Mary's 25" being the only keeper, and a couple of dozen small Speckled Trout. We also landed a few White Perch, three Bluefish, two short Flounder, and the ever-present Ray.

- Mary and Henry Troutner

14 SEP: While cleaning the skiff from fishing earlier, John Curry called and asked if I wanted to join him and George Langdon fishing the James River for a couple of hours of the outgoing tide. We met at 4:00 PM to target the Red and Black Drum.

We usually break off many of these bigger fish due to the bridge pilings, and tonight was no exception. At one point, I thought a fish would pull the rod out of John's hand. It hit so hard and went directly under the boat, pulling John's pretty heavy rod tip six inches into the water.



Unfortunately, after going under the boat, it made a long run forward, tangled the line in the trolling motor, and broke off. We did manage to land a couple of Reds, with my 30" topping the evening. All were released. We fished minnows and crabs on a top and bottom rig. - Henry Troutner

27 SEP: A god day in Little Creek with Ned Smith catching speckled trout using MR27 mirror Lures. Water temperature was dropping to 74 degrees.

Better quality of speckled trout. Tight lines!

- Louis Glaser



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