



THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

OCTOBER 2026

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Charlie Church, Targeting Big Trout, new app available "Big Buoy"

Fishing Tips: Billy Sugg, Crappie Fishing throughout the year

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Spadesfish, Black Sea Bass, Black Drum, Bluefish, Flounder, Sheepshead, Cobia
- Chuckatuck Creek: Speckled Trout, Ladyfish
- James River/JRB: Black Drum, Red Drum, Speckled Trout
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Flounder, Croaker
- Surf Fishing/Sandbridge: Spanish Mackerel, Roundhead

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Thanks for everyone who came out for the Fall Social. It was an amazing time and a big Thank You to all the volunteers who made it possible!

September was an incredible fishing month for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Lots of anglers had success at the islands, pilings, and structure. Keep those Fishing Reports and Photos coming!

Will



On The Cover: A photo from Captain Alex Perez heading out of Lynnhaven Inlet at sunrise.

On The Rear Cover: A photo of our own Mary Troutner fishing the Chuckatuck Creek.

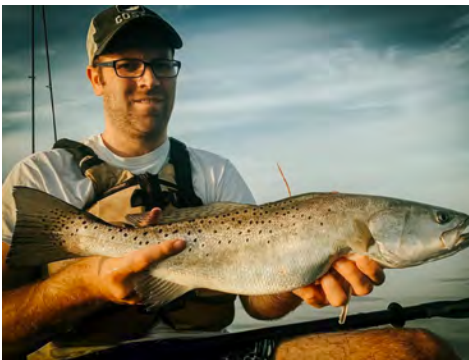
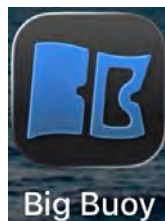


Meeting

Guest Speaker: Charlie Church on Targeting "Gator Trout" and sharing a new app "Big Buoy"

When the speckled trout are around it doesn't take much to catch them in numbers but it's the really large "Gator Trout" that every angler wants to hook up. There's always something different those anglers are doing. Here's your chance to learn from one of those very successful anglers on landing big trout.

Charlie will also be sharing a new app called "Big Buoy". Join us on Oct 19th to learn about hooking bog trout and some new information available with the app "Big Buoy"



Important:

Oct 19, 2026 at 7:00pm

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

Publishers NOTES

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Norfolk Anglers Club

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Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

October

Sun, Oct 4th: Last day of the Virginia State Fair in Doswell, VA

Mon, Oct 19th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting

Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Oct 27th; Virginia Marine Resources Commission

meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

November

Mon, Nov 16th; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular

Meeting Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

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

Freshwater

<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Crappie	Russell Willoughby (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (2) Mike Rheinhardt (11)
Chain Pickerel	Mike Rheinhardt (1) Bill Seemuller (1)
White Perch	Andy Reid (1)
Gar	Bill Seemueller (1)

Saltwater

<u>Species</u>	<u>Name (#Entries)</u>
Speckled Trout	Stan Simmerman (2) Chris Harris (1)
Red Drum	Chris Harris (2) Bill Seemueller (1)
Rockfish	Henry Troutner (1)
Sheepshead	Jere Humphrey (2) Mary Troutner (1)
Flounder	Mike Reinhart (3) Mike Hubert (1)
Black Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Cobia	John Curry (1) Henry Troutner (1) Andy Reid (1)
Triggerfish	Jere Humphrey (13)

****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

What a great time we had at the Fall Social!! If you didn't make it you really missed out. Our Fall Social is an annual event to get together just to socialize with our families and to show our appreciation for all the great volunteer work we as a club have contributed to the community. This year we hosted five headboat fishing trips for the children in Norfolk, supported four Surf Fishing Clinics at Back Bay, and donated fishing rod/reels & tackle boxes to the East Ocean View Community Center.

So instead of sharing photos of the Fall Social I want to recognize our members who made the Fall Social happen. They don't get enough credit or thanks from the membership for all they do. Preparation begins days in advance with purchasing everything needed, delivering it to the facility, and lots of work the morning of to guarantee a great time. Mike Hubert, Jere Humphrey cleaned crabs the day before. Karen Schrader, Mary & Henry Troutner, Terry & Wes Waters, Joe Miller, Mike Hubert, Jere Humphrey, Mike Rheinhardt. and Rich Califf got everything ready the morning of and did all the cooking and serving. Afterwards we got it all packed up and cleaned up. Many thanks to all who brought side dishes and helped after the event. That too made the event special. Be sure to thank those who made it all possible.





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What happens to the fish you release?

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Do you want to know what happens to the fish you release? Do you practice catch and release and have great fish handling skills? Want to share data to help us learn more about our recreational species and improve your fishing? JOIN US!

The **Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP)** trains volunteer anglers to tag and release fish and report data. When a fish is tagged, released and recaptured, we can learn where it's moved to, how much it's grown, etc.

Visit www.vims.edu/vgftp/ to learn more.

Want to volunteer? Email : susanna@vims.edu

with your name, mailing address, and phone number to join the waitlist.

Photo: Alex Perez



Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament March - December 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





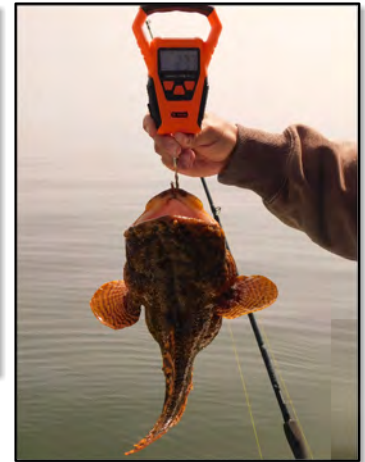
Club Members Tournament for 2026

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:

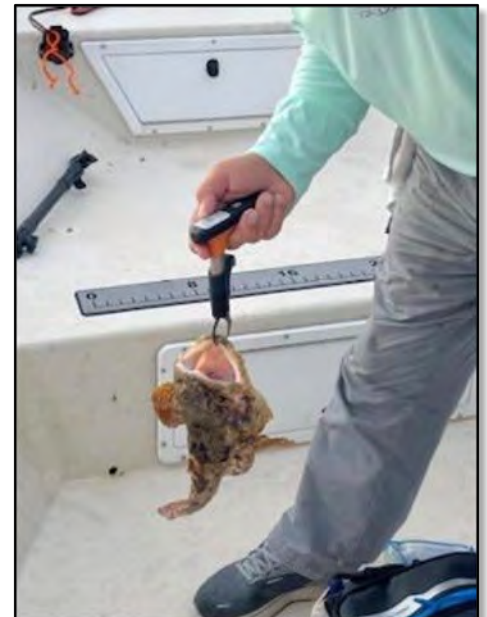


Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules

- 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)



Billy Sugg, Crappie Fishing

When hearing Billy Sugg speak about crappie fishing it's easy to gauge his passion and commitment to the sport! Growing up learning from his Father and World Record Crappie Angler Carl Herring†, he's accumulated an immense knowledge of one of the most popular species in freshwater.

Billy shared there are two species of crappie; Black Crappie and White Crappie. Nearly every one caught in our local area will be a black crappie but it's possible an angler will hook a white crappie that has been released in our freshwater ponds and lakes. White crappie are much lighter in color, have 5-6 dorsal spines and a distinct vertical bands on their body. Areas around Virginia known to have a population of white crappie are Lake Anna and Lake Gaston.



Black crappie can be identified by their lighter color with dark irregular blotches, have 7-8 dorsal splines, show more yellow and green shading on its sides and tail and are heavily flecked. Males are typically darker in color.

Crappie habitat includes just about any coastal plain freshwater body of water and some tidal creeks. Crappie like hanging around structure and changes in the bottom contour. Ideal areas to fish are underwater brush piles, sunken trees, stumps, pilings, bridges and vertical changes in the bottom like drop-offs and rock walls. Around the shore look to marshy backwater sloughs near willow, alder, and bulrush or cattail edged shores. Sunken man-made structure like boats, submerged fences, or old construction remains are great locations to hold crappie.

Crappie behave differently during the year, like most fish species, and will move around a water body depending on their current needs. What are their needs? Well, crappie want a few things and it changes during the seasons; they want to feed, to spawn, to be comfortable, and have protection. These factors guide crappie behavior and movement.

In the winter months the water is cold and that makes the fish less likely to eat so their feeding window is very small. Crappie will congregate in deeper, less temperature varying water and around structure like pilings. Crappie won't move around an area horizontally but they will move up and down in the water column. As the sun comes up and begins to warm the water near the surface and warm the pilings, which radiate a small degree of warmth to the surrounding water, the crappie will move up. The rising sun will also cause the zooplankton, which freshwater shrimp and baitfish feed on, to rise in the water column. Crappie will follow their food source up while remaining in the protection of vertical structure, such as a bridge piling. During the winter months search the sun side of the bridge for fish hanging close to the pilings. If an angler has a side imaging bottom machine they can often locate which pilings the fish are attracted to. This scenario provides crappie with the comfort of slightly warmer water, the protection of the pilings, and a source of food when they want it.



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Fishing Tips...

In the colder water months with the fish not moving around "Dead Stick" fishing is a good option and an idea lure for that method is a Marabou Jig (photo right). These jigs provide a soft flowing action with the smallest movement or current flow. Billy recommends this be your "go to" lure for cold water fishing and adds that you need to present this lure slightly above the fish. Fishing plastic jigs in cold water will often present a lure that's stiffer and with less natural action. So, in cold water fish a natural hair Marabou style lure as a dead stick lure, casting lure, or to "dock shot" the lure horizontally under a covered structure. "Dock Shotting" a lure is using the spring action of your rod while holding the lure so that once released it flies low horizontally over the water to clear overhead obstructions. Billy added, it takes some practice to get it right but it can be a very effective method to place your lure in all kinds of conditions.



A Slip Cork Rig is another way to cast your lure/bait away from the boat. It's a simple setup with a bobber and bobber stop rigged on your line and set to the depth you want your lure/bait presented. Once cast the lure/bait will suspend at the preset depth. Billy recommends with this rigging setup that anglers use live or cut bait with or without a lure included. Cut bait for crappie fishing? He added, yes, crappie will devour small cut bait too, even strips of the crappie you just landed.

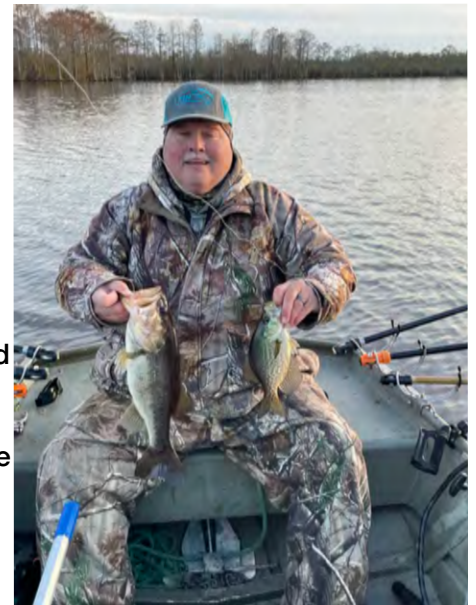
Late winter/February-March the male crappie will prepare spawning beds in shallow water. Once the female crappie find the spawning bed to be satisfactory they'll begin to lay their eggs when the water temperature hits about 50°. The female crappie will lay eggs in batches throughout the spawning season afterwards they'll retreat to deeper water to recover and regenerate for another spawning event. Females repeat this process a number of



times during the spawning season. Billy recommends in early spring to start fishing in deeper water and as the temperature rises to follow the fish to shallow waters. He added that anglers should look to the long creeks with shallow flats and structure along the edges. Remember to fish where the crappie get what they want; the comfort of warmer water, the protection of the structure and deeper water nearby, the need for spawning, and the ability for them to feed to keep the spawn going. If an angler can find one of those long creeks with a prevailing wind blowing into the creek that's an ideal location to explore. The wind will drive warmer surface water and zooplankton, which bait fish and shrimp feed on, into the creek and hold it there, it also drives bait fish up the creek. When you see water temps in the 62-74° range that's the crappie's peak spawning condition if the water conditions are right. If conditions aren't ideal in shallow water because of rain runoff or a change in acidity of the water because of leaf debris, crappie may

also spawn in deeper water where conditions are more favorable.

As the season moves on and water temperatures rise in late spring (May), crappie can be found around docks. They provide the protection they desire and more comfortable water temperature due to the shade. Likewise, fishing the shallow sunny creeks when the temps were low, crappie will be looking remain in more comfortable shaded water as the water temp rises. When the heat of the summer is on the shaded areas around the shoreline isn't enough and the crappie will seek deeper water. Finding their comfort level in the deeper water and what they want to eat is the key!



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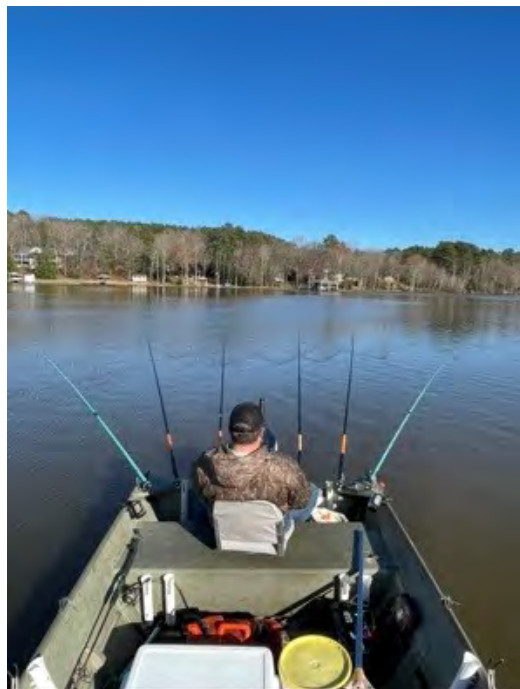
Fishing Tips...

A very common tactic crappie anglers use to locate the fish, determine the depth they're at, and what they prefer to eat is called "Spider Rigging" (diagram right). The advantage of Spider rigging is an angler can present multiple lures of various types, colors, at differing depths, in a large area. It's a great technique to dial in to what color and lure type the crappie want. Then switch up and give them a consistent diet of exactly what they want.

Spider rigging consists of rigging long collapsable poles along the bow, sides, and stern of the boat, resembling the legs of a spider. From the ends of the poles bobbbers with bobber stops are rigged and set at the target depth. Using the lines of the bow anglers can slowly "Push" rigs over an area to find the fish or from the stern "Pulling" rigs over an area. "Tight Lining" involves using the bow and stern lines while holding stationary over a spot with the line straight down. Small jigs are

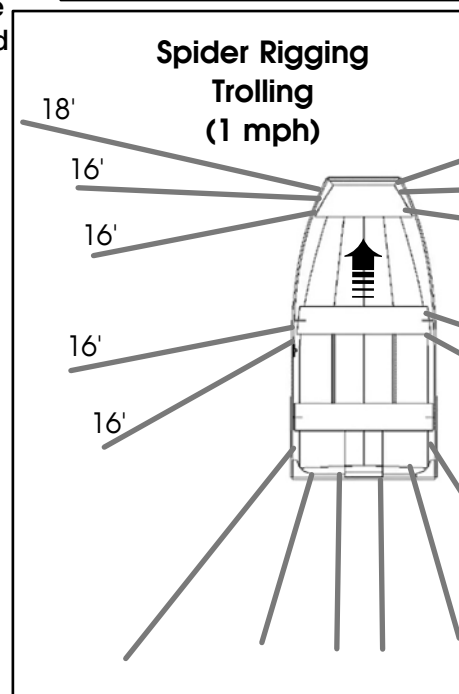
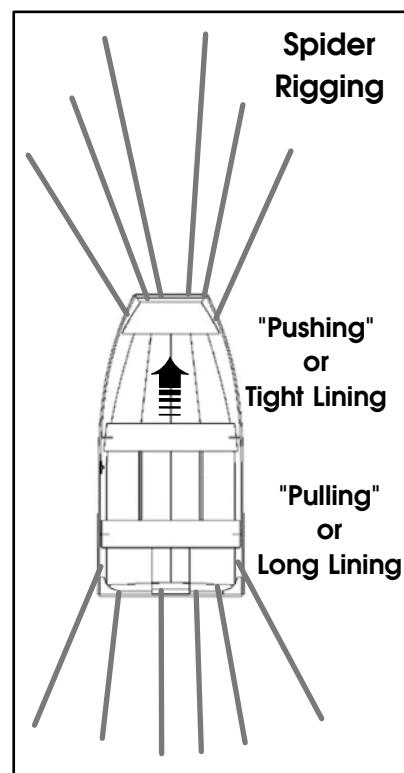


enough to get the lure down to depth however, if needed a small splitshot weight can be added to the line about 6" above the lure. Deploying as many as 12-14 rigs an exceptionally large area can be covered. Spider rigs can also be trolled with the long poles set to each side and off the stern and placed at varying angles. Rod holders used are fully adjustable, side to side, and up and down (photo left) {www.CumberlandCrappie.com}. Billy will set out the longest poles (18') off the bow and angled slightly forward with the remaining 16' poles angled in a way that keeps the rigs apart and free from tangling. Billy added the telescoping poles used are not expensive and many variations are available, some with reels and some without and rigged like a traditional cane pole. One of the brands he uses is the "Shooting Star" style from Grizzly Jig Company {www.GrizzlyJig.com}. These telescoping poles come in collapsible lengths from 10' up to 20' (\$6.95-\$15.95).



Handling these long poles can be a small challenge for an angler new to crappie fishing. The monofilament line used ranges from 4# to 10# and can easily breakoff. The long poles are very flexible and take a little practice. Billy shared that keeping a bend in the pole helps greatly to keep from breaking the line. Some crappie poles come with a reel assembly in the rod butt and those are fished very similar to a conventional rod/reel in taking up or letting out line (photo lower right). The exception being you're fishing with an extremely flexible rod up to 18-20 feet long!

There are many types of jigs and lures available to crappie anglers. One of the more common and effective methods is the use of live bait, specifically freshwater minnows or shiners.



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Fishing Tips...

Local bait & tackle shops are your convenient source for live bait. For crappie fishing in the winter smaller minnows are ideal and as the water warms and feeding behavior becomes more aggressive medium sized minnows work best. These are freshwater minnows or shiners and not the bull gudgeons, mud minnows or mummichog found in saltwater bodies. Although, bull gudgeons work in some areas (Indian Town, Northwest River, etc) where tidal and freshwater meet, they are a much larger minnow. Billy advises, it's always best if you match your live bait to local species. Keeping live bait fresh and active will require a bit of planning. Good aeration in the livewell or bait container is essential. On his boat Billy will use a round bucket equipped with an aeration pump. Many variations are available for bait buckets and some include insulation. When the bait is off the boat and being kept for future trips he'll use a large cooler with aeration. Use rainwater, well water or chlorine free water for your live bait. Chlorine will quickly spoil your bait and if chlorinated tapwater is used you'll need to add a commercial tap water conditioner (de-chlorinator) to treat the chlorine. These solutions are often used in bait & tackle shops and are available at aquarium stores. Your live bait needs to be kept cool in the hot summer months. One technique used is to attach one or more of the reusable ice blocks to the inside lid of the cooler. Many coolers incorporate this feature and it will keep the water from getting too warm. Taking steps to keep your live bait cool and well aerated will help them last for weeks between trips.



When it comes to crappie lures there's a seemingly endless amount of choice. One of the most successful artificial lures, the Marabou Jig, has been covered but there are plenty more. Jigs may be fished with the hair, feathers, or plastic tails with or without a minnow. "Pinky Jigs" are another popular lure but the most common method is using a lightweight jig with a plastic skirt while adding a minnow. How lightweight? Lighter the better and jigs 1/16 to 1/32 ounce are ideal. Occasionally a 1/8 ounce jig works well if the lure needs to get down or has difficulty staying down especially when slow trolling.

Jigs can be tied single or doubled by adding a dropper loop but Billy will always use a loop knot to tie on a jig. Loop knots allow the jigs to work naturally whereas a jig tied without a loop will not flow as free. Fishing the warmer summer water is a good time to use plastic jig skirts and grubs. There's a great selection of plastic Baby Shad lures from Bobby Garland {www.TheBobbyGarland.com} (photo lower left). During the summer Billy recommends anglers try the Charlie Brewer Slider Grub lure {www.SliderFishing.com} it's a lure he recommends to use all summer long on all the panfish species. He shared, everything wants to eat this grub!



When it comes to color choices he recommends using lures with contrasting colors as a general practice. A dark color combined with a chartreuse tail is always a good choice. Dark lures with a little sparkle is great in brackish water. It very closely mimics the bait fish crappie feed on. The key when using artificial lures, skirts, and plastic tails is to find the depth the crappie are hanging and the color they prefer that day and present the lure just above them.

Fishing Reports

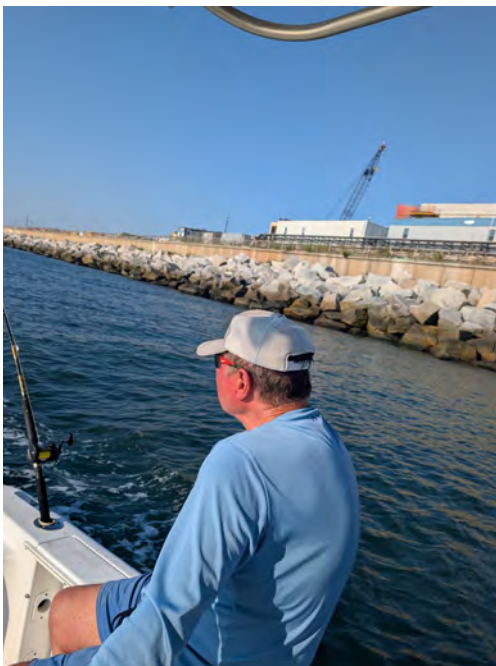
Sept 18: Dave Steele, Mike Rheinhart and I went fishing targeting flounder because the flounder bite has been good at the 1st and 2nd islands. Our plan was to troll up some bluefish for bait and start fishing the 1st island and move North if needed-it wasn't needed.

Wind was NW at about 10 or 12 and laid down slightly over the morning. Current was out going which I know how to fish best in that area. It took much longer than usual to find the blues as they weren't in the currents on the bridge side as they normally are. We found them on the east side of the 1st in about 20' of water.

We saw fish slashing bait schools and found the blues under them. Our go to set up is an Old Salty (I've recently found that Clark Planers are as good as the Old Salty #1 and #2 planers trolled at about 4kts. We had about 8 in the cooler and were looking for 1 more when we found spanish mackerel on the tube side of the 1st. Dave and Mike wanted some, so we trolled a little longer. We caught 6 or so when we decided to drift for the fluke.

We caught 2 or 3 nice fish between 18 and 21 that went into the box. A short while later I hooked a big one in 40' between the Thimble Shoal Channel and the 1st. It hit a home-made standard pink rig with glass beads. The fish was expertly netted by Dave Steele. The fish was 28.5" and weighted 8lbs 3 oz for my first Virginia citation flounder. At the end of the trip we had 5 keeper flounder, 4 bycatch croaker big enough to filet, 6 nice spanish and 5 or 6 blues that weren't needed for bait.

- Mike Hubert





Sept 17/18: I fished the VBAC Red Drum Classic surf fishing tournament in Sandbridge. You could not have asked for better weather it was generally slow as surf fishing is, but I ended up catching four Spanish mackerel and two roundhead. I ended up placing second in the round head division.

- Wes Waters



Oct 1: John Curry invited Mary & I to check on the Black Drum bite at the JRB. We left his house at 11:30 AM to catch the last couple hours of incoming current. Fishing was slow. I had just cast, my line settled and I thought I was getting a bite when John hooked up, I put my rod in a holder and got the net. John's fish shortly threw the hook so, I picked up my rod to check the bait. Fish on! I eventually landed a 36.5" Black. No further bites so, at 2PM we moved to the Chuckatuck for Specks. We tagged and released 20, all 11"-12", before I ran out of tags and we headed home.

- Henry Troutner



Sep 29: With perfect weather, Mary & I launched the Shamrock at the ramp next to Blue Water Yachts in Hampton for a run to the CBBT to hunt the elusive Sheepshead. First stop was the Yancy and the several pilings in the area. Mary caught a short Tog & I got a Toadfish. We moved to the 2nd. Island where fishing 13" of water on an incoming current Mary caught a 19" Sheepshead. Sheepshead was our target because it was the last species we needed for the Tagging Programs Grand Slam. Fish were caught on fiddlers, tagged & released.

- Henry Troutner



Sep 8: On Tuesday, September 8th, I launched from Crab Creek and made my way to the third island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT). I fished the bay side of the third island working my way into the Chesapeake Channel and decided to stop and try blind casting buoys 15 and 16. Using a 1.5 ounce bucktail jig tipped with a Gulp curly tail I took a couple of casts up current of the buoy 15 chain, letting the jig drift by while working the jig. I moved over to Buoy 16 and noticed more bait around the buoy. On my first cast I caught a 41 inch Cobia that had two more fish following it. I tagged, revived and released the fish and headed in as the southeast wind was starting to increase.

- Alex Perez



Sep 1: Dave Steele and I went flounder fishing on my Sea-Pro 238.

Our plan was to target triggerfish on the CBBT. We didn't catch anything except a few nice toadfish (one was thought to be contender, but Dave's small fish and my poor photo ended that) and a bunch of small seabass.

After about 90 minutes of this we switched to flounder fishing.

First, we trolled up some bluefish and began drifting for flounder using flounder rigs with a duster, glass beads and a #3 flash of either silver or gold and a gold hook (I had a 100 2/0 gold Mustad 37160gl that I've been making rigs with for a couple of years) The hooks work well but tend to break de-hooking fish and show signs of rust after 1 trip. I'll keep using them but won't buy the gold again.

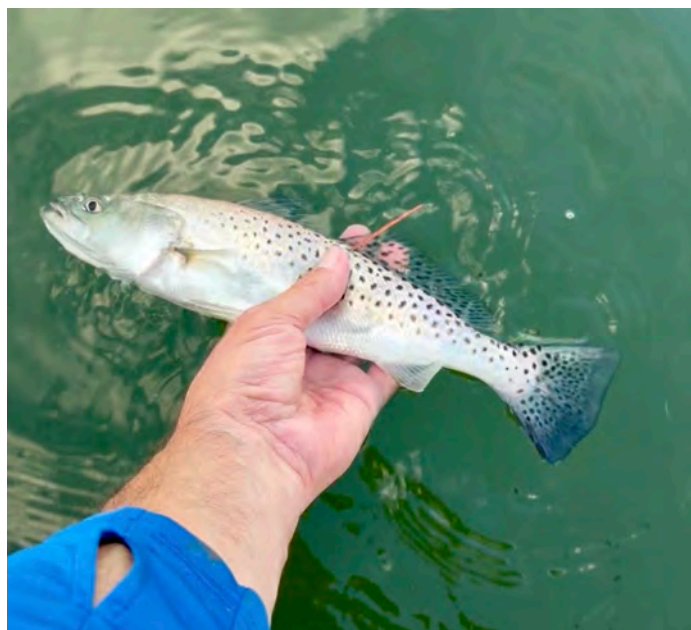
The bite wasn't as hot as a few days earlier, but we still got 3 keepers and 5 or 6 shorts. Dave hooked a nice bluefish (maybe 4lbs) on the bottom around the bridge just north of the 2nd island. We thought it was a slot red at first. It was fun to watch and see what it was!

- Mike Hubert



Sep 19: On Saturday, September 19th, I fished Tanner Point where the Lafayette and Elizabeth Rivers meet. Fishing the incoming tide I used a 1/8 ounce jig head with a three inch, chartreuse curly tail grub. Action was steady with small Speckled Trout, small Flounder, and Croaker up to 12 inches.

- Alex Perez



Sept 20: Mary and Henry Troutner joined me to fish the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT). We started fishing the slack to outgoing tide by a set of pilings between the Yancey wreck and the first island. Using frozen clam on small 1/32 ounce jigs, which I recommended, the Troutners were hooking but pulling off what appeared to be Spadefish. Henry adjusted their rigs to a small single hook with a single split shot weight and immediately confirmed his mystery bites were indeed Spadefish. The Troutners caught about a half a dozen Spadefish up to 12 inches before we switched to bottom fishing the second island of CBBT and the Big D wreck.

Fishing with Fiddler Crabs turned out to be quiet with a couple of small Black Sea Bass and an occasional visit of the old faithful Oyster Toadfish.

All Spadefish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

- Alex Perez



Sep 17: With good weather, Mary & I launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point and headed for the CBBT. I still needed a Sheepshead & Spadefish for the VA Tagging Program's Grand Slam. Wind, wave & current was cooperating for us to fish the pilings between the 2nd & 3rd islands. We weren't having much luck when Mary hooked a nice fish we were hoping was a Sheepshead. After a good fight Mary landed a 28" Black Drum. A nice eating size so it went in the cooler. We continued fishing the areas known hot spots with no luck with our target species. We made one drift for Flounder from the 3rd island but didn't get anything. Bait was Fiddlers and Cobia belly.

- Henry Troutner



Sept 9: John Curry, Mary & I fished the Chuckatuck/James River. We started looking for Specks and found a pretty big school of smaller ones at the mouth of the Chuckatuck. John & Mary kept me busy tagging but I did manage a few in between. Mary landed a couple of Ladyfish that were mixed in with the Specks. The Ladyfish fought pretty hard & at first glance I thought they were Bonefish. We tagged 35 before I ran out of tags. We headed for the JRB to try for Black Drum. We fished an hour or so without catching any. The current was ripping and we called it quits.



Sept 2: John Curry, Mary & I spent a few hours checking out the bite on our home waters. We spent an hour & a half at the JRB looking to catch a Black Drum but our only fish was a giant Ray which Mary hooked. About 12:30 with calm seas we headed to the Chuckatuck for Specks & Reds. In the 20 minutes it took to get there the James River turned into a white capped mess. Fortunately we were able to duck behind Candy Island and fish the inside shore line. We were having a slow but steady pitch at small Specks when Mary hooked up & landed a 33" Red. A real testament to her fishing skills as she was using an Ultra-Light panfish rod, 500 series spinning reel and 8 lb line, in 3' of water where the fish made one long run after another.

- Henry Troutner



Aug 30: I fished the Yancey wreck near the first island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. I fished at the end of the outgoing tide, through the slack and for about an hour of the incoming tide. The strong incoming current combined with the NE wind killed my trolling motor battery sooner than usual but I was able to catch a handful of Spadefish up to 13 inches using frozen clam before the battery went dead.

The Spades were suspended about 4-5 feet under the surface and I used a dropper loop rig, with one ounce of lead and a #1 Owner J hook.

After the Spadefish, I did a couple of drifts between the pilings using a 1.5 ounce bucktail jig with a Gulp five inch grub. I caught three Flounder and one I believe was a Southern Flounder. To be on the safe side, I did not tag the possible Southern Flounder. The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program only tags Summer Flounder.

After the sun broke through the clouds, I began looking for a Cobia in the Thimble Shoal Channel. Heading east along the edges of the channel, I sight fished around buoys and bait schools with no Cobia seen. I did have a large Loggerhead Sea Turtle pop up next to me with a mid 30 inch Cobia swimming around it. I casted my 1.5 ounce bucktail jig just past the turtle and worked it back. The Cobia pounced on the jig and immediately went airborne completely clearing the water. As I enjoyed the jump, I realized it had thrown the hook as well. Maybe next time!



- Alex Perez



Oct 1: Came across Doug Wilburn at the Little Creek Jetties fishing his Carolina Skiff. He shared that LOTS of 10-13" speckled trout have been caught at the jetty this week using a pearl & chartreuse gulp. Hopefully, this signals the larger specs will be arriving soon and we'll have a great fall speckled trout season!

- Will Bransom





THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION ***WANTS YOUR FISH.... TO MEASURE AND AGE.***



*You catch it, you fillet it,
but instead of throwing the remains in the trash,
please donate them to science.*

The Marine Sportfish Collection Project will focus on species of fish that are difficult to collect through the agency's normal sampling program. Anglers are asked to donate their filleted carcasses (head and tail intact) of legal and fresh-caught:

<u>BLUEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 36 INCHES) 	<u>TAUTOG</u> 	<u>COBIA</u> 	<u>RED DRUM</u> 
<u>SHEEPSHEAD</u> 	<u>SPADEFISH</u> (GREATER THAN 12 INCHES) 	<u>SPANISH MACKEREL</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 	<u>SPECKLED TROUT</u> (GREATER THAN 22 INCHES) 
<u>BLACK DRUM</u> 	<u>TILEFISH</u> (BLUELINE OR GOLDEN) 	<u>WRECKFISH, SNOWY GROUPEL, _</u> 	

**In return for participating in the project, the agency will provide
ONE FREE PROJECT TEE SHIRT, OR HAT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT,
PER MONTH of the DONATION.**



Please visit these merchants to participate:

Ocean's East-Eastern Shore (Capeville)
Port Messick Marina (Poquoson)
JEB Little Creek (Virginia Beach)
Long Bay Pointe Marina (Virginia Beach)
Lynnhaven Municipal Marina (Virginia Beach)
Mill's Marina (Seaford)



