

Fishing Reports;

- Little Creek: Puppy Drum, Speckled Trout, Spot
- James River: Puppy Drum
- CBBT: Flounder, Spadefish, Spanish Mackerel, Sheepshead
- Inshore Wrecks: Gray Triggerfish, Back Sea Bass
- Offshore: White Marlin, Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tilefish, Sea Bass, Tautog

## Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

The Virginia Cobia season ends this month. For those anglers who have a 2021 Cobia fishing permit, do not forget to make your required report to VMRC via the Saltwater Journal no later than October 6th! Even if you didn't fish for Cobia, you still must make a report. Once you complete your "Did not fish" report, you'll see it noted in your Virginia Saltwater Journal and receive a confirmation email. Failure to make the reporting requirement will make you ineligible for a Cobia permit next year.

I spoke with the RecFish app folks and the app development is going very well in large part to the photos you've submitted. They still need our support with photos, especially flounder, roundhead, mullet, etc. Just keep sending in your photos using the www.recfish.org website.

September 1st marks the start of the Club Speckled Trout & Puppy Drum Tournament. It runs until November 30th and is for any size Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum up to 26 inches. There's a \$5 entry fee and prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. See page 4 for details.

This month marks the seventh year Wendy has been publishing the Wireline for the club. It's a good source of interesting information and one of hallmarks of our club. Thank you Wendy for putting this together for our club every month!

- Will

# Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Ed Schrader with SeaTow Hampton Roads

We have Capt Ed Schrader joining us to discuss what Commercial Assistance Towing and Salvage is all about and why it's a good idea to plan ahead before you head out.







# Important: <a href="September 20">September 20</a> NAC Meeting at Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

### Publishers NOTES

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Wendy Bransom NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

## NAC OFFICERS

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### September

Mon, September 20th, Club Meeting Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk, VA, 7:00pm

Wed, September 22th, 6:00-7:30pm VMRC/U.S.
Navy Public Information Meeting
380 Fenwick Rd, Ft. Monroe, VA

Tues, September 28, VMRC Meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft. Monroe, VA

### October

Sat, October 2nd, Stan Sutliff Memorial Surf Fishing Tournament, Sandbridge

### Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries January 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (2)	Red Drum	Kelly Hoggard (2)
		Tautog	Will Bransom (1)
		Blueline Tilefish	Greg Rogers (2)
			Mike Hubert (3)
		Shark	Greg Rogers (1)
			Kelly Hoggard (9)
partment of Game	Tournament (Saltwater) or and Inland Fisheries	Black Sea Bass	Mike Hubert (1)
Freshwater) Citation paperwork or the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish entry form may be submitted to James "Ike" Eisenhower at the regular neetings or send via email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com		Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard (4)
		Spanish Mackerel	Kelly Hoggard (1)
HolkAnglersClub@	ginali.com	Cobia	Tripp Seed (1)
		Flounder	Mike Griffin (1)
		Pompano	Kelly Hoggard (1)



### Speckled Trout - Red Drum Club Members Tournament September 1st - November 30th



- This is a Norfolk Anglers Club Members tournament running from September 1st until November 30th
- Targeted Species are Speckled Trout (any length) and Red Drum (maximum length 26 inches Total 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, 2nd Place \$50 Gift Card, 3rd Place \$25 Gift Card, for each species.
- 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)



### Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) is an effort to involve the recreational angling public in the conservation and management of marine finfish. The program provides an avenue for anglers with an interest in conservation to assist in collecting scientific information about the movements and biology of fish by tagging targeted species of marine game fish. Fish currently targeted for tagging include red drum, black drum, cobia, flounder, speckled trout, black sea bass, tautog, spadefish, sheepshead, and gray triggerfish.

The VGFTP is a cooperative program of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament (Virginia Marine Resources Commission - VMRC) and the Virginia

Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Marine Advisory Services. Each year approximately 200 local anglers volunteer their time to record and tag targeted species. Data collected is used to establish life history patterns of selected recreationally important marine fish and support fisheries management. VMRC/VIMS publish an annual report detailing the tagging effort from the previous year and historical tagging efforts since 1995. From the report anglers may learn where a targeted

species is most often tagged and the location where most reported recaptures occur.

recaptures occur.

Web Search "Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program" to find out more information about the program and review the Annual Report.

Tbl. 19 Cobia Top Tagging Sites, 2020

Location	Number of tags
Baltimore Channel Buoy Line	64
York Rvr. Chl. Entrance Buoys	48
York Spit Light, CY Buoy	38
Poquoson Flats	32
Off Cape Charles	25
York Spit	22
Plantation Light	20
Bluefish Rock	15
CBBT, 4th Island	14
Off Back Rvr, Grandview, Buckroe	13
Windmill Point Light	13
Cape Henry Area	12
Occohannock Range Light	12
CBBT, 3rd Island	11
Off Sandbridge Oceanfront	11
Fort Monroe Area/Pier	9

Tbl. 20 Cobia Top Recapture Sites, 2020

Recapture location	Number of recaptures
Chesp. Bay - Unspecified	7
Off Cape Charles	7
Baltimore Channel Buoy Line	6
Chesp.Bay Bridge Tunnel	6
Windmill Point Light	6
York Spit	6
Off Back Rvr, Grandview, Buckroe	5
York Rvr. Chl. Entrance Buoys	5
36A Buoy (Old C-10 Buoy)	4
Bluefish Rock	4
Latimer Shoal (RN16 Buoy)	4
Hungar's Creek	3
Poquoson Flats	3
Cabbage Patch,C18 Buoy, old C4	2
CBBT, 3rd Island	2
CBBT, 4th Island	2



Club Members Tournament for 2021



### Redfish "Spots" Tournament

### Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- 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.

Entries: Rusty Mitchell (1), William Ragulsky (1), Henry Troutner (2), Jerry Hughes (1)



# Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
- Awards determined by Total Weight and then by date of catch
- 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
- 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)
- 1st Place, 2nd Place, and Best Photo Winners get a Non-Tipping Oyster Toad Can Cooler from Oyster Toad Outfitters
- Winners will be determined by our Tournament Director

"AJ" Perez, the Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (OTTD)

Entries: Alex Perez, Sr. (1), Will Bransom (1)



### OysterToads - Did you Know?

Alternate common names: Toadfish, Dowdy.

Color: Blotchy, olive brown bodies fading to pale below. They are capable of changing color to match the bottom, and their eyes are blue.

Size: Up to 12 inches long.

Habitat: Sandy, rocky, and muddy bottoms on oyster reefs, shoal water, among eelgrass, hollows, or dens.

### September Meeting Day has Changed!

- NEW Meeting Date: 3rd Monday
- Monday SEP 20 at 7:00pm

### **Location:**

**Boil Bay Seafood City** 

5957 E Virginia Beach Blvd









BOIL BAY

## Soup | Salad

Clam-Chowder	\$4.99	7
Gumbo (Chicken, Shrimp & Sausage)	\$5.99	١
Caesar Salad	\$4.99	
Shrimp Salad	\$6.99	
Chicken Salad	\$6.99	



### Annetizers

	Hush Puppies (8)	\$5.00
,	Fried Cheese Sticks (6)	\$5.99
	Fried Calamari	\$9.99
	Coconut Shrimp (8)	\$8.99
	Fried Mac & Cheese (8)	\$5.99
	Onion Ring (8)	\$5.99
	Chicken Wings (6)\$5.99 (10 (Breaded or Naked -	\$8.99
	BRO Buffalo Diain Caiun Lamon	Donnard.

Boil Bay Special(6)\$6.99 (10)\$9.99 Chicken Wing

	(Shrimp, Chicken, Sausage)	
(D)		

erved with option of Cajun Fries.

Shrimp Basket (8)	\$10.99
Catfish Basket (4)	\$10.99
Chicken Tender Basket (5)	\$8.99
Soft Shell Crabs Basket (3)	\$10.99
Crab Cake Basket (2)	\$10.99
Ovster Basket (10)	\$11.99



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# Po Boy Sandwiches

Shrimp Po Boy	\$10.9
Crawfish Po Boy	\$10.9
Oyster Po Boy	\$11.9
Catfish Po Boy	\$10.9
Chicken Po Boy	\$8.9
Soft Shell Crab Po Boy	\$10.9
Crab Cake Po Boy	\$10.9





Boiled Eggs (2)	\$2
Corn (3)	\$3
Potatos (5)	\$3
Steamed Rice	\$2
Regular Fries	\$2
Cajun Fries	\$3
Sweet Potato Fries	\$4
011	





\$8.99

\$8.99

\$7.99

\$17.99

Sausage (Half Lb)

Sausage (One Lb)

" Parties of 6 or more will have an automatic gratuity of 18% added to their check. This includes separate checks."





# Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

# Fishing Tips...

### Spanish Mackerel King Mackerel, Atlantic Ribbonfish Captain Stan Gold, Blind Date Charters

Cutlassfish, Beltfish, Silver Eel, Atlantic Ribbonfish or just plan "Ribbonfish", the Largehead Hairtail (official name) is found in our area in summer (July/August). They're long, thin, with a gnarly set of teeth, and they're a lot of fun to catch. Capt Gold added, they also taste great with a white flakey delicate meat similar to flounder. He also warned to be mindful of their teeth when handling ribbonfish. They're very sharp and can produce nasty cuts.

Trolling is the most common method for catching ribbonfish. A favorite lure of *Blind Date Charters* is the Rapala Magnum CD19. The CD19 lure is an older Rapala trolling lure that features a metal lip. Capt Gold pointed out the metal lip can easily be tuned to get the lure tracking straight. Lures with plastic lips can be difficult to adjust if they don't track correctly. He recommends using a stranded wire leader to prevent forfeiting your lure to the ribbonfish's sharp teeth. Capt Gold uses a 6-8" or longer 40 lb stranded wire leader and added that Ribbonfish aren't leader shy.

Trolling spoons is another lure choice. The 3 1/2 size spoon works extremely well and also uses a wire leader. The Clark Spoons or Drone Spoons seem to work best and are readily available at your local Bait & Tackle Shop. The 3 1/2 Drone Spoon is about 5 1/2 inches in length and comes in a wide variety of colors. The Clark Spoons come in Chrome or Gold with a built in swivel and reflective tape color options on the upper blade surface. Clark Spoons size options range Size 00 (2" Blade) to Size 4 (4.5" Blade).

Jigging is another option for anglers to try on ribbonfish. Look for ribbonfish to be schooling and attacking concentrations of bait. On a fishfinder they may present as horizontal wavy lines. Jigs can be any style or color or size. Once you identify the depth the ribbonfish are schooling present your jig above the school. Remember to add a piece of cut bait on the jig. For whatever reason, ribbonfish will strike a trolling bait-less lure but are hesitant to strike on a bare jig, Capt Gold added.

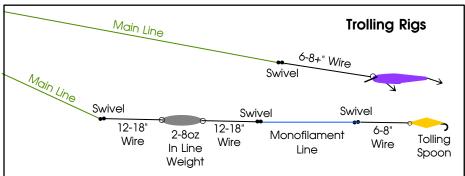












# Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...

Though king mackerel (kingfish) and ribbonfish can often be found around the same baitfish schools, there's no mistaking a king mackerel when it's hooked up. King Mackerel are powerful and can



make blistering runs when hooked. When you find schools of ribbonfish, be thinking about king mackerel too. If you have strikes on your live bait and they come back in without their tails, you can bet there's king mackerel around. It's common when targeting king mackerel to set a second treble hook on the back or tail of your bait ensuring that it swims natural. This second "stinger" hook is for the kingfish's habit of biting off the tails before it comes around for the rest of the fish. Smaller ribbonfish are a great bait for targeting king mackerel and should be rigged with a second treble hook. Trolling rigs with wire leaders are the same for both species.



Spanish mackerel are a smaller cousin of the kingfish. Anglers will find them in generally shallower water near the coast. Often you'll find anglers trolling at 6-7 knots off the beach in about 15-25 feet of water. In our area it's common to find them around the CBBT islands and pilings. Capt Gold likes to troll the up current side of the CBBT while getting his trolling lures about 6 feet off the pilings. He trolls small plugs or feathered lures (photo left) and will sometimes attach a small bird and put it far behind the boat in clear water. He shared that spanish mackerel are sight feeders and while they may prefer clearer water and the right mix of water temperature/salinity/oxygen

level, they'll be found where the baitfish are, even in the dirty water.

Capt Gold will rig his lures with planers and in-line sinkers, depending on conditions. Smaller spoons are tied to a fluorocarbon leader that's 15-20 feet long. He recommends initially trying differing color combinations for the spoons. Use gold and chrome, and some with reflective tape. Once you figure out what seems to work that day, switch over. He added, everyday will be different.

A word about planers...Capt Gold uses both in-line weights and planers. He advises be very careful when retrieving planers, ensure they're "tripped" before bringing them to the surface. If not handled with care planers can snap back toward the unsuspecting angler resulting in injury. He also recommended marking any planers if they have a habit of towing to one side or the other. You want planers to tow straight or away from the boat. When you find one that tows to one side mark it with an indelible marker and always place it on that side to prevent it from tangling other lines.

Typical trolling speed is 3-7 knots, that's speed through the water and not speed over the ground. Capt Gold recommends you keep the speed of the lure nearly the same whether going with or against the current, i.e. going with the current will require you to speed up.







Earlier this year, we told you about the RecFish app being developed by Dr. Lisa Kellogg and colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Its goal is to encourage recreational anglers to collect and contribute catch data to help improve fisheries science. Once it's fully developed, the user-friendly, free app will also tell anglers the species and length of their catch and whether it is legal to keep and safe to eat.

Dr. Kellogg says that, with the help of photos you submitted, the computer model can now identify 60 fish species with 95% accuracy and another 20 species are in the works. That represents thousands of submitted pictures!

You can help by going to <a href="www.recfish.org">www.recfish.org</a> and uploading your fish photos. RecFish especially needs photos of:

- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

Phase 2 of app development is almost complete, and, when it is, you will be able to use the app to upload your fish photos directly from your phone. Until then, keep those pictures coming at <a href="https://www.recfish.org">www.recfish.org</a>!





### First Aid Afloat



Cuts, scrapes, lacerations, the occasional fish hook in the finger, or a dorsal spine prick from a fish that doesn't enjoy fishing as much as you are some of the risks with fishing. Most of the time anglers just brush it off without taking time for wound car, but that would be a mistake, especially during the warm water fishing months.

Fish slime and bacteria in the water can cause serious infections, and we're not talking about the normal red swelling and relatively minor infection we see most often with minor wounds. The kinds of cuts that heal up in a few days. Bacteria like *Vibrio vulnificus*, *Mycobacterium and Erysipelothrix* can result in serious infections and if left untreated could be life threatening.

Simple wound care when an injury occurs is the best practice to minimize the potential of serious problems later. Handle fish with gloves, lip gripping tool, or a rag to prevent cuts. If you do get poked or cut take the time to clean the wound with soap & water and apply a sterile dressing. Applying an antibiotic ointment before dressing the wound is also an option. You'll want to keep the wound from being exposed to water and possible bacteria so waterproof bandages are a good option to consider in your afloat first aid kit.



When should you see a healthcare professional? Anytime you feel your injury is anything more than minor or if there's redness,



swelling, warmth, increasing pain, a puncture wound, a deep wound, or you develop a fever. If you haven't had a tetanus shot in the past five years, it's prudent to seek medical care.

Thanks to all the local Anglers and Clubs that supported the National Park Service's Kids Surf Fishing Clinic in July and August!

















### Virginia Fuel Tax Refund Program

https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmv-fueltax/#/

A refund of the Virginia fuels tax paid on purchases of fuel in quantities of five gallons or more is available to any person provided that they have paid the fuels tax and that the fuel was used for an Eligible Use. What's an eligible use? Some of the eligible uses that qualify for a fuel tax refund are; used in operating or propelling recreational and pleasure watercraft, used in operating or propelling commercial watercraft, and diesel fuel used in a passenger car, pickup or panel truck, or truck having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. The refund amount for diesel fuel tax is equal to the difference between the tax rate for diesel and the tax rate for gasoline.

### How do I apply for a refund?

Registration is required the first time you use the Fuels Tax Online Refund system, thereafter, logon with your email address and the password you have chosen for your account. Read the system prompts carefully. First the claim is created then users must go to "Pending Claims", to add the claim(s) to the cart and check out.

### What information do I need to file a fuels tax refund claim?

To submit a refund claim, you will need to provide the refund claim period, number of gallons, fuel type (gas, diesel, etc.), how the fuel was used, and other information required for the type of refund claim you are submitting. The system will guide you through the application process and display messages when the fuel receipts or other documentation is required to be submitted to DMV.

# Fishing Reports...



28 JUL: With a weather report too good to pass on, Mary, John Curry, George Langdon and I headed the Shamrock to some inshore wrecks hoping for flounder, triggers and whatever else was biting. We launched at Owl Creek and with smooth seas we passed a small fleet of boats trolling a couple miles off the inlet. I imagine they were into a good bite of spanish or ribbonfish.

We arrived at our first wreck to join another Shamrock which was

already set up. Not long and we got into some really nice triggers along with toadfish, small seabags, and a couple large eels. The bite slowed and we took a shot at drifting the Tower Reef for flounder and a couple hours only resulted in one of George's rods hooked with the net.

Back to our wreck and again the triggers cooperated until the threat of severe thunder storms drove us in. Thanks to Mary for reminding me, "Remember to have to clean what you catch." So, we only keep 7 triggers. – Henry Troutner



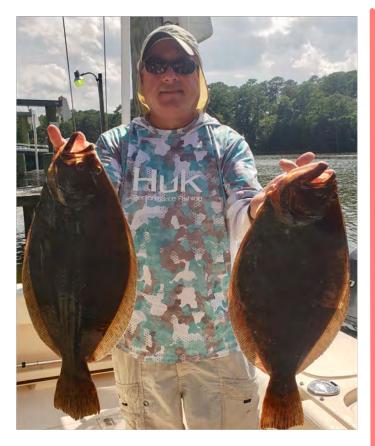




2 AUG: I am still practicing for the NAC Drum tournament. I fished with John Curry and Troy Lane on the Chuckatuck. I caught a nice 23 inch on crab.



- Henry Troutner



23 AUG: I went out in Andy Reid boat on this day and fished the 4th island with live bait.

We caught a 20 inch and 22 inch flounder in a couple of hours. The current was slack; perfect for live bait fishing.

Great weather!! - Bert Sainz

16 AUG: Louis and I went flounder fishing with Bert on a Friday at the CBBT 3rd and 4th islands. We left from the Lynnhaven public boat ramp at 6:00 am and cast net for mullet on our way out of Lynnhaven.

We used live mullet and founder wings to catch 8 nice flounder and a ton of toads. The winds were light and we had little current for about 3 hours.





We got back to the ramp by 12:30 pm. We left the ramp, cleaned the fish and boat and were all home by 2:00 pm. *Thanks Bert for a good day on the water!* – Ned Smith

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17 AUG: Mary, new NAC member John Curry and I hit the CBBT. We launched at Wallaces and made the run to the 3rd Island. Before I had had 4 rods rigged, in the water, we had 2 nice Spadefish. Unfortunately, for whatever reason the bite shutdown and they were the last we caught in 2.5 hours. Mary did manage to catch a couple of Pufferfish which she says are too cute to eat. We moved to the 4th and tried for Tog/Sheepshead but only caught toadfish, none of which would qualify for the NAC Tournament. - Henry Troutner



10 AUG: We had a beautiful morning with John Curry and I hitting the Chuckatuck for some puppy drum action. Wasn't long and John had a nice 23 inch. He followed up with another 23 inch and I got a 22 inch.

All were caught on minnows fished on a jig head right at the edge of the grass.

- Henry Troutner





27 JUL: Fished in Little Creek with lke for spot. Ended up catching 50 using fishbite and night crawlers. They will be getting bigger.

- Louis Glaser



25 AUG: Jerry Gaines and I went for Specs and Reds in Little Creek. Perfect conditions and plenty of bait but the fish didn't cooperate.

Decided to go for spots and ended up catching quality spots at Pretty Lake Bridge using fish bites and lug worms. Had about 50 spots.

- Louis Glaser



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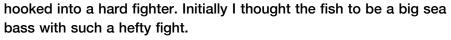




6 AUG: While most of the fleet was out chasing a white marlin on Friday, we snuck out to the deep to grab our share of some bottom fish. What seemed like a week of strong winds gave up long enough to get the weather window we needed out at the canyon. Lots of Bluelines and Black Sea Bass were mixed together. It was a non-stop crank fest for 7 hours.

We stopped short on the way out to try a wreck that was previously holding some big fish. We managed a few keeper sea bass but weren't finding the bigger bites. I was jigging a 10

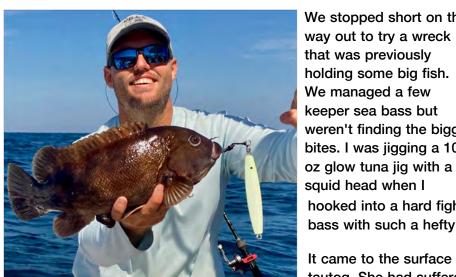




It came to the surface and I was surprised by my first ever offshore tautog. She had suffered severe barrow trauma and I decided it better to keep her than release with a tag. Miles of flying fish greeted us out in the blue water. Dolphins and turtles also came out to play as we set our first drifts. We focused primarily on sea bass as the blueline limit can sometimes be too easy to reach. Drift after drift, we were dialed in on the sea bass and would find an occasional straggling blueline. There were a few big swells and bumpy seas along the way. The wind made a horrible drift pattern and we had to reset fairly often.







Late in the day, we had a couple sharks coming up on my fish. A small 5-6 foot dusky really wanted one of my bluelines. Though I had not experienced the tax man effect before, I recognized the issue immediately and forced my catch to come straight out of the water from 50 feet down.

The shark followed it right up to the surface and I'm sure was wondering where his free meal went. That dusky stayed around a while until we were all out and moving on. Luckily, there were no fish lost to sharks. We made the turn home after finishing up that "one last drift" to complete the box.

Much appreciation to Stan Gold and Blind Date Charters for putting up with us hooligans and take us fishing. We set up this Friday trip a year in advance and were lucky enough to make it out on the tail end of a horrible week of weather.

- Kelly Hoggard



21 AUG: Spent the sunrise with Taylor Lyne and Bert Sainz. We were looking for trout and ended up landing 3 Reds and 1 speckled trout using Topwater lures.

Water temperature was 83 degrees and the depth was 5 feet.

- Louis Glaser



20 AUG: My girl Hai Edison fixed a delicious fish soup and Red Fish in spicy sauce for dinner.

What a fantastic meal! It pays to be fortunate to be able to catch dinner.

- Louis Glaser



13: Billy Ragulsky and I fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) on a Friday. There was a stiff wind from the southwest, so we decided to fish close to the Virginia Beach side of the bridge complex. Using live Fiddler Crabs, we started around the first island during a slowing ebb tide. We caught two Tautog up to 16 inches, three Gray Triggerfish, and a handful of smaller Black Sea Bass. Right at slack tide, we tried the pilings and Billy found a nice Sheepshead at 24 inches.

With the sun out and improved conditions, we went looking for Cobia, only finding one which we released at 38 inches. We did come across schools of Spanish Mackerel chasing bait in the Thimble Shoal Channel. We caught 10-12 Spanish, keeping three for dinner.

We caught them on casted metal lures as we slowly approached the schools. - Alex Perez Sr.





27 AUG: SO PROUD!

I took Hai Edison out into Little Creek for topwater fishing for her first time.

On the fifth cast by Hai, she hears an explosion on water and is missing the bait.



I told her to stop retrieving, and the Red jumped on it. It took about 100 feet before it stopped running. What a great first on Topwater at 26 inches.

- Louis Glaser



17 AUG: This is the time of year when we start hunting for the first big speckled trout to show up at the Little Creek (LC) jetties. Louis Glaser had reported the day before he caught 5 on topwater, but this morning, he couldn't find any. But Ned and I decided to go anyway after the tide shifted to incoming around 10:00 am. Bait was everywhere, we had a SW wind and couldn't find anything using rubber until I put a white Gotha curly tail on my jig and this 22-inch puppy gulped it down. Ned soon had on a nice bluefish that had to weigh 2 lbs and a small flounder which he released. The red is going in the fryer soon for me.



18 AUG: The next day Louis and I headed out before dawn to again test the topwater action. Wind was blowing around 10 SE and it made it tough to see our lures actions so we pulled into a spot where the wind was less messing up the surface. I actually didn't see the blowup until I felt the fish on after only a couple of casts and I had a nice 19-inch trout when Louis hooked up with a nice bluefish. A couple of casts more and Louis has a nice 20-inch trout on and into the

3. H. STRON

the boat. Then it's my turn again and I'm pulling in a 20-inch trout as well. Then it was Louis' turn but it was a puppy drum this time. Louis didget another blue and I hooked

up, of all things, a striped mullet that was a foot long. Great fast action but then it all over. All caught with MirrOlure Topdog topwater lures. All done by 7:30 am. The trout are coming in 83-degree water in 4 feet of water.

Great way to start the day!

23 AUG: Fished at sunup with Ned Smith at the Little Creek jetties with topwater lures. This 23 inch speckled trout nailed my lure. Released it for NAC and VBAC club minimum prize fish. One more inch and it would have been a state citation that I'm hunting for. We finished the morning with two more around 17 inches. Surprised we didn't get a red or blue this trip. Great way to start my day.



24 AUG: After my great catch yesterday at daybreak, Louis and I had to go for the early

bite and boy did we find it. As soon as we started on first casts, Louis had a above slot size red on that measured 28 inches. Then I was hooked up and struggled with a big one that got off at the boat. It was definitely a red. Then

it was one hook up after another ending after an hour with 3 keepers, 21-inch puppies, and one 16-inch trout. One of the best catching days on topwater lures that we've ever had.

- Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower







22 AUG: We were scheduled to head out deep on Sunday but the hurricane churning offshore was looking to cut us out. Saturday, the storm took an eastern turn. Seas were settling quickly and we got the green light to go!

John, Rick, Stan and myself left the dock shortly after 5:30 am with a full moon at our rear and a trace of sunlight ahead. Seas were surprisingly calm with the swell at a long period. About 55 miles out, we encountered a white floating object on the port side horizon. We came up alongside and threw some squid chunks in the water. I was hooking up within seconds and caught my first ever mahi! We boated a dozen in about 10 minutes and moved on once the bite slowed.

About 30 minutes later, we were in the area of the tile grounds and started to rig up. Water looked a bit dirtier than usual. Clarity was down to maybe 40 feet. The tile bite was a bit slow to start. We managed a couple small fish on bites and moved a short distance to drift. I cast my lure away from the boat and about 100 foot down, I felt the tension of the line pulse. I came tight to the fish and started my fight. I knew it was a big fish but my only good guess was a shark or big mahi. Just as I could see some color the line comes tight to the horizon and a WHITE MARLIN jumps completely out of the water! Another white was swimming around the hooked one just feet from the boat. After a few jumps and some fighting the fish dove around the boat and tangled all of our bottom lines. It took a few minutes of untangling to get back to the fight. The marlin was tail wrapped at this point and we pulled it up to the boat. The jig was hooked deep into the jaw and we boated it for about 45 seconds to get the jig free and grab a quick picture. We put the boat ahead on engines and the marlin had plenty of energy for a quick release! That's another great catch on my Seigler SGN and Trevala S 168g.

During this entire time, John had his line cut and we spent almost 15 minutes tag teaming holding the line with a fish on it. We were finally able to get it retied to the rod and John starts the process of pulling his fish up from the bottom. He amazingly pulled in our only blue line citation of the day! What an epic 30 minutes.



We spent a couple hours drifting through the blueline tilefish grounds and got our limit of solid fish. There were a couple sea bass mixed in and they were pulling baits off the hook making a troublesome time getting to the tiles. I deployed my underwater camera for a couple of drops and looking forward to viewing the footage.

The deeper water was laden with deep water long lines. I know they are trying to make a living but it is annoying for us to drive so far just to have long lines clogging many of the areas we are trying to drift through. They seemed to be around the majority of the Norfolk canyon.

Our first set of numbers weren't producing as expected, so we went on to check another area that looked promising. We dropped in nearly 900+ feet and found a very muddy section of bottom. In 4 drifts, we boated 7 goldens including 4 at about 20 pounds each.

It was an epic day of fishing with lots of meat taken home. We are all enjoying the spoils of a day full of cranking long lines. *Can't catch fish on the couch!* 

- Kelly Hoggard









# North Angles Olth Angles Olth Angles Olth

### Free Saltwater Fishing Days in Virginia, October 1-3, 2021



The Virginia Marine Resource Commissioner has declared October 1-3, 2021 as Free Fishing Days. During these dates, no Saltwater Recreational Fishing License is required to fish those waters where a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License is lawfully required. This exemption shall not apply to headboats, charterboats, or rental boats.

### Recreational Cobia Fishing Permit Reporting Due Oct 6th



RECREATIONAL COBIA PERMIT holders, you are responsible for reporting your trips (i.e., trips with harvest AND trips without harvest) or your lack of participation (i.e., no trips). The reporting requirement for the Recreational Cobia Permit can be found in regulation Chapter 4 VAC 20-510-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Amberjack and Cobia". The full regulation is available on the VMRC website.

All trips, including harvest, catch-and-release, cobia targeted but not caught OR a report of "Did Not Fish" must be provided to the Commission by the 21st day (Oct 6th) after the close of

the recreational cobia season. This means that reports must be submitted through the Saltwater Journal or postmarked by October 6, 2021. Note: if you continue getting reminders to report but have mailed in a paper form, please contact us to confirm your reporting status. We are not responsible for reports lost in the mail.

### Operation Paddle Smart: "If Found" Stickers available



When the Coast guard or local emergency responders receive a report or discover a paddle craft adrift, there is no way to determine if the vessel was washed off of a beach during high tide or was separated from its owner during the course of a boating accident. In these situations, the Coast Guard has to assume the owner is in trouble and needs assistance until it can find evidence to support otherwise. As a result the Coast Guard and local harbormasters spend hundreds of thousands of tax dollars per year searching for potential people in distress when there was no one in danger to begin with.

To combat this growing problem, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary have launched Operation Paddle Smart. The cornerstone of Paddle Smart is providing owners of kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, and other unregistered watercraft a free "If Found" sticker for their boat to hep reduce the number of unnecessary search and rescue cases.

The stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker. The "If Found" sticker should be placed in a highly visible location inside the vessel's cockpit or near the operators station. The stickers are weatherproof, reflective, and provide room for the vessel owner's name and two phone numbers using a waterproof marker.

The Norfolk Anglers Club was provided some of these "If Found" stickers by the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 5-9 from Smithfield, VA. If you would like to have one just send us an email with your name & adress to

NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com. We'll send it to you free!





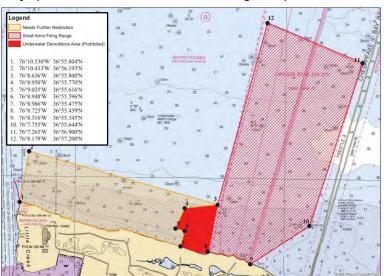
### **NOTICE**

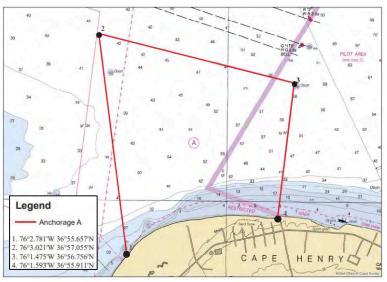


The Virginia Marine Resources Commission will be hosting a public information meeting in cooperation with the US Navy Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story (JEBLCFS) on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 from 6 – 7:30 PM at the VMRC Main Office located at 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe VA, 23651. This meeting will provide information on allowed fishing activities in specific Chesapeake Bay areas near Lynnhaven.

The US Navy has requested the VMRC provide support to Naval training conducted at JEBLCFS within these areas through education and enforcement.

Special training personnel from JEBLCFS and VMRC staff will be presenting information as well as be available for any questions and concerns following this presentation.





### RecFish app



Earlier this year, we told you about the RecFish app being developed by Dr. Lisa Kellogg and colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Its goal is to encourage recreational anglers to collect and contribute catch data to

help improve fisheries science. Once it's fully developed, the user-friendly, free app will also tell anglers the species and length of their catch and whether it is legal to keep and safe to eat. Dr. Kellogg says that, with the help of photos you submitted, the computer model can now identify 60 fish species with 95% accuracy and another 20 species are in the works. That represents thousands of submitted pictures!

You can help by going to www.recfish.org and uploading your fish photos. RecFish especially needs photos of:

- Kingfish (a.k.a. Roundheads, Kingcroaker, Whiting, Sea Mullet)
- Flounder and other flatfish

Phase 2 of app development is almost complete, and, when it is, you will be able to use the app to upload your fish photos directly from your phone. Until then, keep those pictures coming at <a href="https://www.recfish.org">www.recfish.org</a>!

