#### THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

# WIRELINE

SEPTEMBER 2023



#### Fishing Reports;

- Little Creek: Spot
- Lynnhaven: Flounder
- CBBT: Grey Triggerfish, Tautog, Cobia, Spadefish, Sheepshead
- James River: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum
- James River/MMBT: Flounder, Black Sea Bass, Croaker,
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Black Sea Bass
- Nansemond/Chuckatuck: Puppy Drum, Stripers, Flounder, Croakers,

#### Mangrove Snapper..(yes, really!)

- Offshore/Virginia: Blueline Tile, Black Sea Bass
- Offshore/North Carolina: Sailfish

## Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Well Done! To all that made the East Ocean View Community Center Children's Fishing Trip such a great success! The kids had a wonderful time and caught lots of fish. They certainly enjoyed the lunch afterwards.

We also wrapped up another Summer Children's Surf Fishing event with the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge. The Norfolk Anglers along with the Tidewater, Virginia Beach, and Great Bridge fishing clubs support this with volunteers four times over the summer. It's great fun and the families get to experience what surf fishing is all about.

Our next club event on September 16th is the Hunt for the Hardheads Club Challenge. This is an annual friendly competition between the southside anglers club with all the proceeds going to the Wish A Fish Foundation. We have a number of spots open on boats for anglers so if you're available send me a message and we'll work to get you on the fish! Send an email to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar for Saturday November 18th. We've got our annual Club Social planned and it's an event you don't want to miss.

Remember to check the Club Tournaments Page for your entries into the Prize Fish Program. These can be Fresh or Saltwater entries from Virginia or North Carolina that meet their state citation requirements or our club's minimums.

Will

## Meeting

Guest Speaker: Captain Will Bransom, Deep Drop Fishing

Fishing the deep waters off our coast isn't for everyone. It's a long trip but the rewards can be tremendous for those who venture offshore. Join us on Sept 18th to learn from Will about the equipment, rigging, and area selection for fishing the deep.



Important:
September 18, 2023
NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk, VA

#### Publishers NOTES

**Editor:** 

Wendy Bransom
NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

### NAC OFFICERS

President:

Will Bransom

Vice President: Henry Troutner

Treasurer: Ned Smith

Awards Program: Ike Eisenhower

Events Coordinator: Mike Hubert

Assistant Events Coordinator: Alex "AJ" Perez, Jr

Membership: Ben Capps

Member at Large: Alex Perez, Sr.

Webmaster: Pat Hirsch pfhirsch@yahoo.com

Contact us at;

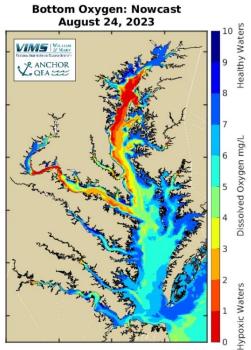
Norfolk Anglers Club@gmail.com
Norfolk Anglers Club
P.O. Box 8422
Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422





# Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System

Use our forecasts and real-time "nowcasts" of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms, waves and other environmental factors within the Chesapeake Bay to help plan your fishing! Based on observations and computer models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and partners, these tools accurately predict the current status of important environmental variables and how they are likely to change in the short-term. Check out this free resource to have a more productive day on the water!



https://www.vims.edu/cbefs/



#### **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

Fish paperwork is acceptable.

- 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 Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 31 August 2023**

Freshwater		Saltwater	
Species	Name (#Entries)	Species	Name (#Entries)
Crappie	James Eisenhower (12)	Speckled Trout	James Eisenhower (2)
	Russell Willoughby (10)		Ned Smith (2) Bert Sainz (1)
Chain Pickerel	Russell Willoughby (2)		
		Spadefish	Henry Troutner (2)
Largemouth Bass	Russell Willoughby (1)		Mary Troutner (1) John Curry (2)
White Perch	Marty Schriebl (1)		
		Sailfish	Jere Humphrey (1)
Blue Catfish	Mary Troutner (1)	O Trians of all	Harry Transfer on (4)
		Grey Triggerfish	Henry Troutner (1)
			Alex Perez (1)
For the 2023 Tourname	For the 2023 Tournaments, <u>ALL</u> entries		Alex Perez (1)
need to be submitted to NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com		Sheepshead	Will Bransom (1)
		Black Sea Bass	Jere Humphrey (1)
Documentation from Virginia or North Carolina Fisheries or Wildlife agencies, is well as, the Norfolk Anglers Club Prize		****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

#### Club Members Tournament for 2023



Redfish "Spots" Tournament

#### Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- <u>Must have the Norfolk Anglers Club decal in the photo with the fish on a measuring device\* showing the total length of the fish.</u> 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.



Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules

- Must be a Norfolk Anglers Club Member
- Tournament for fish caught between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023
- 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

Capitán Alez Perez, Sr.

"Temporary" Oyster Toadfish Tournament Director (TOTTD)





# EOV Children's

Many thanks to our Volunteers and Sponsor for making this year's East Ocean View Children's Fishing Trip an event to remember for many children. Funding from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), and the Norfolk Anglers Club made the trip possible. Our great volunteers; Henry & Mary Troutner, Mike Hubert, Greg



# Fishing Trip



## Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

# Fishing Tips...

#### Kayak Fishing and Rigging

Wayne Bradby and Craig Brashears

What do you need to get into kayak fishing? The last 20-25 years has seen a tremendous increase in the number of anglers fishing from kayaks. "Fishing kayaks" were once standard kayaks modified to carry and store tackle with an assortment of plastic crates, rod holders, and aftermarket accessories attached. Now the industry has grown to providing specialized kayak designed specifically for fishing. As Wayne Bradby explained, there's a kayak available for every budget. He explained, that one of the leading reasons for many to shift to kayak fishing is cost. The expense to operate a kayak can be minimal, the power to drive the kayak is you and there's not a lot of maintenance involved. When it comes to specialized equipment, Wayne and Craig shared there really isn't any, with the exception of your rods. They explained you need rods long enough (+7ft) to guide your line around the ends of your kayak. Wayne cites an example of hooking a fish which swims underneath your kayak, without the ability to work your line around to the other side a few things could happen; you break off the line on your kayak,



or a large fish could break your rod or tip you over. The "Chesapeake Sleigh Ride" he describes from the earlier days of fishing for large striped bass. Once you hook into a large fish they can pull your kayak all over the place. Be prepared and never underestimate the power of a large fish.

For Wayne and Craig being prepared isn't just about catching fish, it's about being safety minded when out on the water. Having the right equipment makes for an enjoyable day but also makes you prepared to handle the unexpected. They recommend always wear a Personal Flotation Device or (PFD). It's the single most important item you have and only works if you're wearing it. When immersed in cold water (water temperature less than 69°) a person has a much greater chance of survival if wearing their PFD. Water conducts heat away from your body at a rate 4-5 times faster than air causing an individual to expend vital energy to stay afloat if not wearing their PFD.

Wayne recommends always having a dry bag with a change of clothes in your kayak no matter the season.

R

He added it's not a matter *if* you end up in the water but just a matter of *when*. Having ability to self-rescue wearing your PFD and having a set of dry clothes can make the difference between being uncomfortable and a medical emergency from hypothermia. Craig and Wayne recommend a dry suit or dry paddling suit for cold water kayaking. These are specially designed suits for kayaking and will keep you dry if you end up in the water. Combined with a PFD they can extend your kayak fishing season.

Other items they recommend you carry on your PFD are a knife, hand held VHF radio, light, your phone, wallet/identification. Optional equipement in your kayak might include a signal mirror, flares, dye packets, first aid kit, thermal blanket, water, and some energy bars.

Craig and Wayne shared a few other tips for kayak fishing. While flip-flops or crocs might seem like a good idea, they strongly recommend against them. As Wayne explained, in the soft mud, marsh grass, or oyster bed they won't stay on your feet and an oyster bed or broken shell is NOT where you want to be barefoot! They recommend a stable lace up type shoe that won't easily come off in the mud. A good plan for sun protection is also a necessity. Sunscreen, lip balm, brimmed hat, long sleeves (which protect against biting flies too), and long pants are important to guard against sunburn.

Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

# Fishing Tips...

#### Kayak Selection and Rigging

Once you've decided on which kayak you buy the rigging options range from basic to extreme. Some of your decisions in selecting a kayak might include power options, rudder kits, and electronics. Accessories to mount to hold paddles, rods, storage boxes, etc are seemingly endless. Craig and Wayne recommend whatever options you decide to ensure they're securely mounted and convenient to reach. The last thing you want is to have difficulty getting to gear and then flipping over and losing stuff.

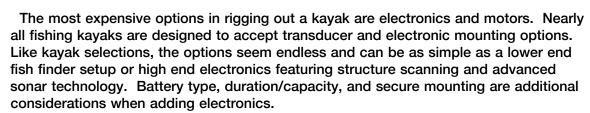


YakAttack makes a Kayak Fishing Crate with multiple mounting options for rods and other accessories. Secured directly to the kayak it can hold extra tackle boxes, batteries, and other gear and comes with four rod holders.



Items that don't fit in the fishing crate or inside one of the kayak's compartments should be stored so they won't float free or tethered to the kayak or yourself. Items like your VHF radio, cell phone should have a leash attached (Roque Gear Co. image right) to

your PFD. Craig added kayak anglers use their phone a lot when fishing, especially for tournament fishing, when you drop something in a kayak it usually doesn't and inside the boat.



Electric motors on kayaks are more common today than ever. They provide for an easy transit to/from locations but come with a price. There's many kayaks fitted with peddle power propulsion systems. These use leg power to spin a propellor or articulate fins to propel the kayak forward or reverse. Then there's the traditional two blade paddle, it will always get you home when all else fails. Wayne recommends always having one



tethered to your kayak. The weight of the paddle makes a big difference. Heavier paddles made with metal shafts and plastic blades will quickly wear you out. Try and select the lighter weight carbon fibre paddles.

#### Pro Tips from Wayne Bradby and Craig Brashears

- Talk with experienced Kayak Anglers and Outfitters before you select a kayak, try before you buy
- Be safety minded when on the water, fish with others, use a Float Plan, dress for the conditions, wear your PFD
- Invest in a comfortable supportive seat, light weight paddle, and a quality PFD designed for kayaking
- Be visible on the water, use bright colors, use a orange flag above your kayak and a 360° light in low light conditions

"If Found - Contact"
Courtesy of the USCG Auxiliary

Affix inside of your kayak or canoe with contact information



# Fishing Reports....

24 Aug: John Curry invited Mary & I for a couple hours fishing on the Nansemond & Chuckatuck Rivers. Fishing was slow but we managed to catch 3 Puppy Drum and 2 Specks (All tagged & released) We were fishing the incoming tide with pretty high water on the grass banks. Bait was minnows and Paddle tails on 1/8 oz jigs.

- Henry Troutner





20 Aug: Loaded up the Parker with Norfolk Anglers and headed east early in the morning to the Norfolk Canyon. We setup just after sunrise with plenty of other boats in the area. We hoped for a marlin bite but after trolling the northside of the canyon, to the southeast around the seamounts, and then northward along the continental shelf, we called it shortly after noon. We switched over to bottom fishing on one of the Billy Mitchel Fleet wrecks. We landed average size blueline tilefish and a number of smaller 15 inch mackerel before moving over to a few other wrecks. Jere Humphrey hooked a Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Citation Sea Bass with his 6 pound 12

ounce fish. We then stopped at another tilefish location to limit out

on bluelines before heading home.

It was a great day fishing with Mike Hubert, Mike Burton, Greg Rogers, and Jere.

- Will Bransom





17 Aug: Had a chance to fish after the rain. Found a spot on the James between the Chuckatuck and the Nansemond that looked good. Hooked a nice Puppy Drum got it to the boat but not on the boat. I was using a popping cork with minnows casting to the shore. The Puppy took my cork and never came back up. Hooked and lost two others and caught and released a 17" Speckled trout. Lots of white perch.

- John Curry





31 Jul: We fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) during an incoming tide. Using cut live Blue Crabs, on dropper loop rigs. We tried a wreck near the third island that had a fair share of short Tautog and Oyster Toads. When I fish the edge of a wreck, I sometimes drop my rig down, without bait, just to get a feel for the bottom. With the sinker, you can feel whether it's sand or what you hope for, hard bottom. This particular time I

drop my rig over without bait and immediately hook up with a small Gray Trout, on a bare hook! A look on the bottom machine showed the Trout school hovering right below us. I also managed to catch one Trigger fish

that I tagged and released earlier in the month. There wasn't much change in its size. We decided to make a move to the Big D wreck located along side the CBBT bridge span, near the second island. We noticed a small school of Spadefish below the boat and managed to catch two of them. A few more small Tautog were caught, tagged, and released when Will realized we were down to our last piece of crab. Will graciously asked if I wanted that last piece and I insisted he use it. I'm glad he did because moments later, Will wrestles up a citation Sheepshead measuring over 25 inches! - Alex Perez







## Virginia Printing & Signs Division of JAMMAC Corporation

Brian A. Getz

Tel: (757) 855-5474 • Fax: (757) 855-5748
Email: virginiaprinting@aol.com
6610 E. Virginia Beach Boulevard • Norfolk, Virginia 23502

21 Aug: Mary & I got out again with John Curry exploring new spots. Today was a stone sea wall on the Nansemond River. We caught & released 2 Stripers about 18", 6 Speckled Trout, and a Mangrove Snapper. This is the 2nd Mangrove Mary's caught. We also lost 2 Reds in the 20+ range. Bait was Minnows and a brownish Z-Man on 1/8 oz jigs.

- Henry Troutner















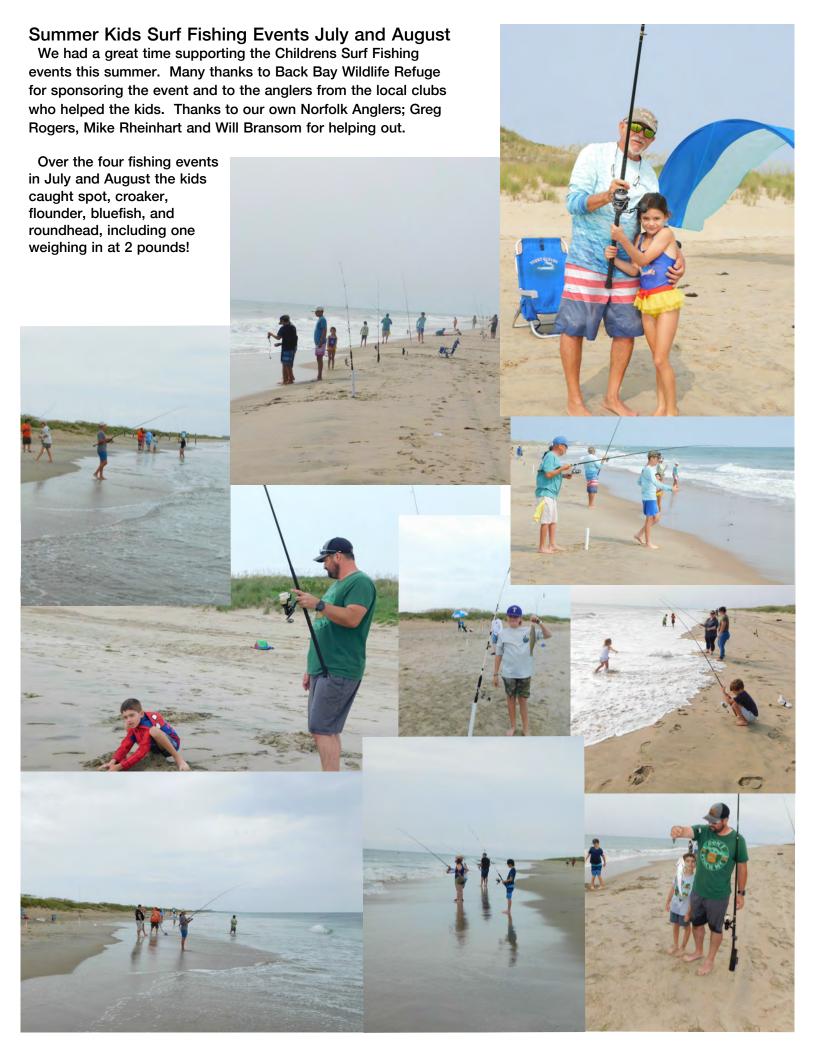
12 Aug: Fishing with Burt Whitt and his GrandSon in Little Creek. Using night crawlers and Fishbyte worked really well.

- Louis Glaser

3 Aug: John Curry had Marty Schriebl and I out for a pleasant day fishing on the James River. We've been spending some time exploring new locations and this morning we fished the shore line of Ragged Island below the JRB. On the first cast I caught a short Flounder and we thought we'd found a hot spot. Unfortunately we didn't catch another fish there. We started back and made a stop at the Point of Candy Island where we caught 4 Red Drum and 3 Speckled Trout. All were caught on 1/8oz jigs with a minnow and were tagged & released. - Henry Troutner







9 Aug: With the Shamrock laid up with maintenance, John Curry invited Mary & I to fish the James River along the MMBT. We were hoping to find some Black Drum but that didn't happen. We spent most of the day picking at small SeaBass and Croakers but, like a blind squirrel finding a nut, we did stumble into 3 keeper flounder 17+ to 20+ inches. We were fishing tandem bottom rigs with Minnows, Shrimp, Blue Crab, & Fiddlers. A beautiful day on the water, not too hot for August in VA.

- Henry Troutner



24 Aug: Caught a couple keepers in the creek. - Jimmy Robinson







6 Aug: I fished the slack to incoming tide near the Pier Two docks of the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT). Alternating between frozen natural shrimp and Gulp (three inch shrimp on 3/8 ounce jig heads), I caught Puppy Drum 21 to 30 inches in length. There was also an 8.5 inch Black Sea Bass mixed in with the Drum. All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP) except one, which was already tagged. The tag had a good amount of growth on it so I scratched off most the growth, recorded the tag number, measured the fish and released the fish with the tag intact. A couple of weeks after reporting the tagged fish, I received the report showing that the Drum was originally caught and tagged on 8/25/2022, measuring 14 inches. 233 days later, this Drum was caught again and measured 17.25 inches. Luckily the fish was released with the tag still intact to where I ended up catching it 133 days later with a measurement of 21.75 inches. Since being tagged and recaptured the



Drum stayed in the general area of NIT to Norfolk's Waterside for a total of 346 days. This fish had grown 7.75 inches during that time, and still continues to swim!

- Alex Perez







13 Aug: Beautiful Sunday morning and Mary & I headed out with John Curry for a couple hours exploring the Nansemond River for Puppy Drum. Our 1st stop proved to be a winner. We landed 3 Reds up to 21 1/2", lost another nice one when the hook straightened and caught a Croaker. Reds all tagged and released. Bait was minnows and "New Penny" Z-Man on 1/8oz jigs. Tide was high and just starting out.

- Henry Troutner





27 Aug: Jere and Jennifer fishing in Little Creek.

- Jere Humphrey



20 Aug: Fished with Bert Sainz on his Carolina Skiff along with Ed Doan in the Western Branch of Elizabeth River going for Red Drum. Ended up catching 2 Speckled Trout using rubber.

- Louis Glaser





27 Aug: Our final Dad-Daughter fishing trip before she heads off to college, my daughter Caroline and I fished aboard the 46', Sheldon Midgett built, *Runaway* out of Hatteras with Captain Jay Daniels. Following a 90 minute run through a confused 4 to 5 ft. sea we started trolling about 6 miles south of the Southern Rock Pile in 150 fathoms. The water was cobalt blue with flying fish everywhere. The water temp when we started trolling was 84 degrees.



Within 30 minutes, a sailfish showed up behind the starboard teaser and after a great display of aerobatics behind the boat my daughter landed her first billfish about 15 minutes later. A pack of sailfish showed up in the spread about 45 minutes later and we landed a double-header. Later in the day we missed another sailfish and a small blue marlin but fought back to land one more sailfish before we headed north toward Hatteras.

Final score: Daughter – 3 sailfish Dad - 1 Sailfish

Captain Jay is old school Hatteras in his fishing style and for late summer billfish he relies heavily on naked ballyhoo and big teasers that consist of a large cupped head lure followed by 4 to 5 very large rubber squid and trailed by a hook-less horse ballyhoo. Captain Jay trolls 50lb class rigs on the riggers and the shotgun but everything short is trolled on TLD 25s. Three of our four fish were caught on the TLD 25's with the fish first appearing behind the teaser.

No great surprise, but I came away with some great "lessons learned":

- A big well rigged teaser with an unrigged ballyhoo trailing creates a lot of commotion and can be nearly as effective as a dredge
- Naked ballyhoo, with eyeballs and pectoral fins removed rigged split bill style or dink style on 80lb mono with 1/8 oz egg sinker in line and snelled 5/0 or 6/0 j hook, look amazing and are highly effective
- When targeting billfish have at least two pitch bait rigs ready and select the rig based upon species that shows up behind the teaser
  - o 80+ lb rig with a naked horse or select ballyhoo for Blue Marlin
  - o 20lb to 30lb rig with a naked medium ballyhoo for sailfish or white marlin
- Even high quality ballyhoo washout quickly in water above
   degrees. So check more frequently when fishing very warm water
- Always use a lighter to create a mushroom on the tag end of mono leader after passing through crimp. The mushroomed end is an invaluable failsafe if the crimp slips.



If you are looking for a brand-new plush boat *Runaway* would not be my first recommendation. However, if you are looking for a comfortable riding, nicely appointed boat with a gifted, highly

experienced and friendly Captain, then Runaway would be a great choice.



29 Aug: John Curry, Mary & I fished the mouth of the Chuckatuck and the MMBT for a mixed bag of fish caught on various live & artificial baits. At the mouth of the Chuckatuck we caught Red Drum, Speckled Trout, Croaker and a short Flounder. Moving to the MMBT, John caught a nice eating size Black Drum and I broke one off. John also caught a short BSB. John's Black Drum and my 22' Red were kept for dinner, all other fish were tagged & released. The fish were bitting on everything; minnows, crabs, paddletail jigs, & MirroLures.

- Henry Troutner







12 Aug: I fished on Henry Baumann's Carolina Skiff, targeting Cobia. We fished from 10:30 AM until 1:30 PM at the beginning of the incoming tide. Cloud cover was minimal.

We departed out of Cape Charles and made our way towards the Chesapeake Channel. While cruising along in the tower we were able to spot small pods of Menhaden with an occasional Cobia hovering on the edges of the bait pods. Once in a while a Spanish Mackerel could be observed jumping around the schools as well. We spotted a total of seven Cobia but only had one at 45 inches eat the two ounce bucktail jig with a Gulp curly tail combination. The other Cobia would not eat or were never in a position to cast to.





5 Aug: Departed out of Haven Creek boat ramp with Alex Perez early on an early Saturday morning. We'd heard a "fish story" about juvenile black drum being in the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. So, off we went armed up with live blue crabs, shrimp, squid, and plenty of Gulp baits. We settled up near a bridge abutment and Alex was the first to hook up with a nice puppy drum with a piece of crab. We took turns netting puppy drum 19 to 27 inches. All were tagged, revived, and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

On the way back we stopped at a "secret fishing spot" under fellow Norfolk Angler Captain Mike Davis' *Hoosier Cruiser* Grady White.

- Will Bransom







31 Jul: John Curry invited Mary and I for a beautiful early morning fishing trip. We left his house and headed to the MMBT where fishing was slow but Mary did tussle with a big Cownose Ray before we cut it off at the boat. We then moved to the Chuckatuck to fish the banks and had some slow but steady action. We caught 5 Drum, numerous Specks and a short Flounder. John was the hot angler with 2 Drum in the 22" range. Everything was caught on minnows fished on an 1/8 oz jig.

- Henry Troutner







