

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

SEPTEMBER 2026

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Billy Sugg, Crappie Fishing throughout the year

Fishing Tips: Capt Andy Kim, *Sashimi Sportfishing*, Cobia Fishing

Fishing Reports;

- Chesapeake Bay: Cobia
- Chesapeake Bay/CBBT: Bluefish, Croakers, Flounder, Spadefish
- Offshore/Wind Turbines: Flounder, Triggerfish, Black Sea Bass, Dolphinfinh
- Eastern Shore: Triggerfish, Flounder, Tautog, Bluefish
- Inshore: Triggerfish, Moonfish, Black Sea Bass
- Chuckatuck Creek: Speckled Trout, Flounder
- James River: Black Drum
- Elizabeth River: Speckled Trout, Flounder

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

What a summer it has been! Between the Children's Head Boat trips and the Surf Fishing Clinics we've had volunteer events nearly every week throughout the summer. Our volunteers stepped up and supported every event for the most successful Children's Fishing Program summers we've had. Your support and dedication in teaching the children how to fish responsibly really makes me proud. Thank you!

It makes sense that the next big club member's event is the Fall Social. This is an event for our membership and their invited guests to celebrate our fellowship and friendship. This year it's on Saturday Sept 26th. Details will be sent to members separately and provided at the next meeting.

Will



On The Cover: A photo from our July 20th Children's Surf Fishing Clinic at Back Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Billy Sugg on Crappie fishing year around

Just mention the topic of fishing for crappie and Billy Sugg's enjoyment of the sport will immediately be evident. He's been fishing for black crappie most his life and learned from some of the world's best crappie anglers. While the rigs and jigs might not change much during the season, knowing how the fish behave and move during the year is the key to success, Join us on Monday Sept 21st for a comprehensive look at how to fish crappie during the year.



Important:

Sept 21, 2026 at 7:00pm
NAC Meeting at Boil Bay
Seafood City, Norfolk,

Publishers NOTES

Editor:

Wendy Bransom

NorfolkAnglersClubEditor@gmail.com

NAC OFFICERS

President:

Will Bransom

Vice President:

Henry Troutner

Treasurer:

Mike Hubert

Awards Program:

Ike Eisenhower

Events Coordinator:

Assistant Events Coordinator:

Wesley Waters

Membership:

Member at Large:

Alex Perez, Sr.

Webmaster:

Pat Hirsch

pfhirsch@yahoo.com

Contact us at;

NorfolkAnglersClub@gmail.com

Norfolk Anglers Club

P.O. Box 8422

Norfolk, Virginia 23503-0422



Club Calendar

September

Mon, Sept 21st; Norfolk Anglers Club Regular Meeting
Boil Bay Seafood City, Norfolk

Tue, Sept 22nd; Virginia Marine Resources Commission
meeting, 380 Fenwick Rd, Ft Monroe, VA

Fri Sept 25th: Start of the Virginia State Fair in Doswell, VA

Sat Sept 26th: Club Member's Event - Fall Social

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

Norfolk Anglers Club Prize Fish Entries 1 January - 31 August 2026

Freshwater

Species	Name (#Entries)
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

Species	Name (#Entries)
Speckled Trout	Stan Simmerman (2) Chris Harris (1)
Red Drum	Chris Harris (2) Bill Seemueller (1)
Rockfish	Henry Troutner (1)
Sheepshead	Jere Humphrey (2)
Flounder	Mike Reinhart (1)
Black Drum	Mary Troutner (1)
Cobia	John Curry (1) Henry Troutner (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



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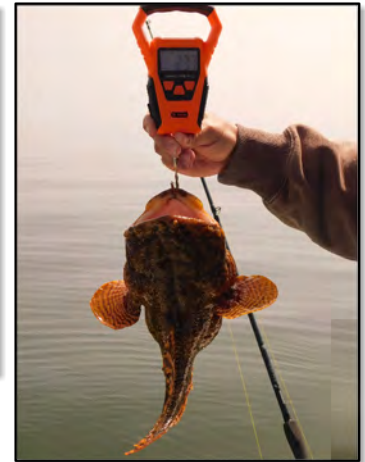
Club Members Tournament for 2026

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:

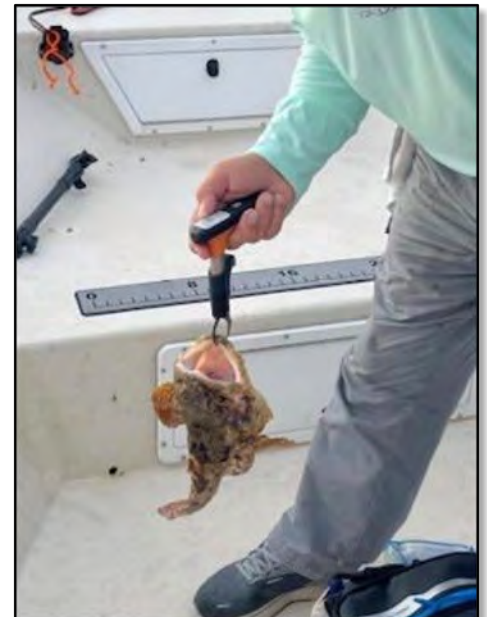


Oyster Toadfish Tournament Rules

- 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)





SEPTEMBER 12th 2026

*All proceeds benefit Cast A
Wish and Local Families in Need*

CASTAWISH.ORG
CastAWishorg@gmail.com





Speckled Trout Club Members Tournament March - December 2026

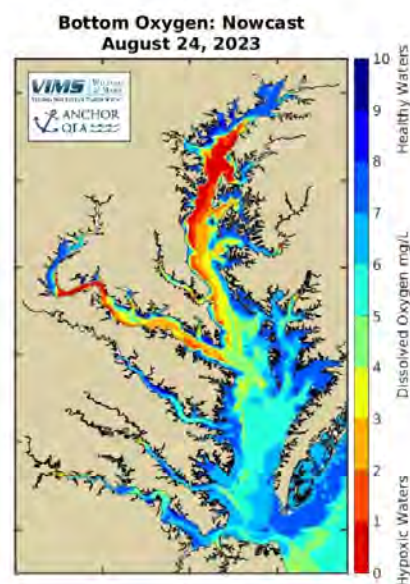
Revised Tournament Dates for 2026

- 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



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/>

Capt Andy Kim, Sashimi Sportfishing, Cobia fishing

It's hard to beat early season cobia fishing off the Virginia oceanfront. Early May is when the cobia can be found migrating up the coast from wintering over in south Florida. They first arrive south of Sandbridge and can be found along the oceanfront and the channel buoys. Virginia cobia season is a catch & release season at this point, until the season opens mid-June. According to Andy Kim, once they congregate in the bay look to the "CY" buoy area between the York Spit Channel and the Baltimore Channel.



Sashimi Sportfishing primarily throws live bait at cobia all season. While jigs and artificial lures have their place with cobia Andy's greatest hook up ratio is on live bait. He added, after the season starts the cobia have seen so many artificial lures and jigs they almost lose interest in them but a live spot or croaker is irresistible to them. all season long. Eels make for a great live bait as well but fish differently than a spot/croaker. First, eels need to be on the smaller size, in the 7-8 inch range. You want the smaller size eel so the cobia takes it all in the first strike. What can happen if you're throwing unusually large eels is that the cobia will dive toward your eel and either shy away because of the size or grasp it without swallowing it. With any live bait if you hook set too early you'll likely lose the fish. Andy prefers the spot/croaker to be in the smaller 6-7 inch range.



Before you make your cast on a cobia you first have to see them and maneuver your boat in a position for the cast. It seems these days that tower equipped boats are everywhere and they're great for spotting cobia away from the boat but they're not an absolute "must have". Fishing without a tower makes spotting cobia early more critical as they'll generally be seen closer to the boat. Good pair of polarizing sunglasses with green or amber lenses are

essential, a hat and neck gaiter to block out as much glare off the water as possible. Situations vary but in most cases you'll want to approach from the rear on either side and as quietly as possible. Water transmits sound very well and unfamiliar noise coming from your boat can scare off the fish. Once in a casting position Andy will put the outboard in neutral to slow the boat and avoid making any noise like shifting the gears until the hook-up is done or the fish swims away. Getting into a position with the sun behind you is even better. Andy explains, cobia have their eyes high on their head and use them to spot prey above them. So, if you can see the cobia, it can likely see you or your boat hull silhouette. Once you're in a good position for the cast try and place the live bait about 3-5 feet in front of the cobia. Any closer and you risk startling the fish. A bit further away and working it back toward them is fine too.

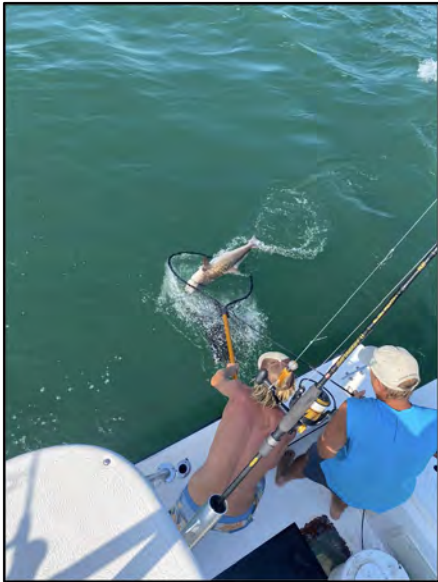
The tackle Sashimi Sportfishing uses are 7-8ft spinning rods with 4000-5000 series spinning reels spooled with 50# braid. They use a 50# monofilament leader 18-24" long but will also switch to fluorocarbon leader if the water is clear or if the fish seem leader shy. Their hooks of choice are 8/0 offset J-hooks which are kept sharp so that they make an initial good hook set.



Norfolk Anglers Club

www.norfolkanglersclub.com

Fishing Tips...



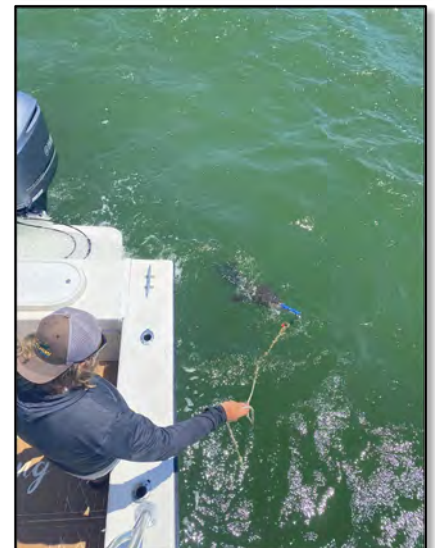
Once you have a cobia on the hook keep constant pressure on them, if they take drag that's fine, but constant pressure is important to lessen the fight and get them close enough so they can be netted. Andy shared, your typical flounder or sea bass net won't work well on cobia. You're going to need a much larger and stronger net to safely bring in a 43+ inch fish. Cobia can be quite powerful even after the water fight. Once in the boat Andy recommends keeping them in the net to restrain them. Once they're measured they can be handled for the fish box or set up to be revived and released to be caught another day. Despite their size and power cobia need to be handled carefully if they are to survive the release. This means minimizing the fight with the proper size gear, good net handling, and quickly measuring before placing them back in the water to be revived. You should not simply release them in the water without



ensuring they're fully revived. Andy and his crew will attach a lip gripping tool that secures the fish's jaw and either hold the fish alongside or attached it with a length of line (photos lower right). This allows water to flow across the fish and its gills both cooling the fish and re-oxygenating it for release. Once the cobia shows signs of regaining its fight by fighting against the lip grip it will be released to swim away. This is particularly important when the water is warm, when agal blooms (red tide) are nearby, or conditions of low dissolved oxygen exist in the water.

While Sashimi Sportfishing predominantly uses live bait for cobia there are opportunities to use artificial lures and jig. Early season cobia fishing on the oceanfront and buoys where the cobia may congregating around buoys and pilings are good times to try sight casting artificial. Early season cobia are looking to feed and will reactively strike most any lure or bait presented in front of them. As the season moves into late June and July the cobia will shift their priorities when

the bay conditions favor spawning. Feeding is less a priority and artificial lures and jigs are not as appealing but live bait still does well. Once the water cools down to around 65 degrees the cobia will begin their migration south. Like early season fishing look to the CBBT Pilings and buoys for cobia. They will often hang in the eddies on the down current side of the pilings waiting for bait fish to be swept around.



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Sashimi Sportfishing

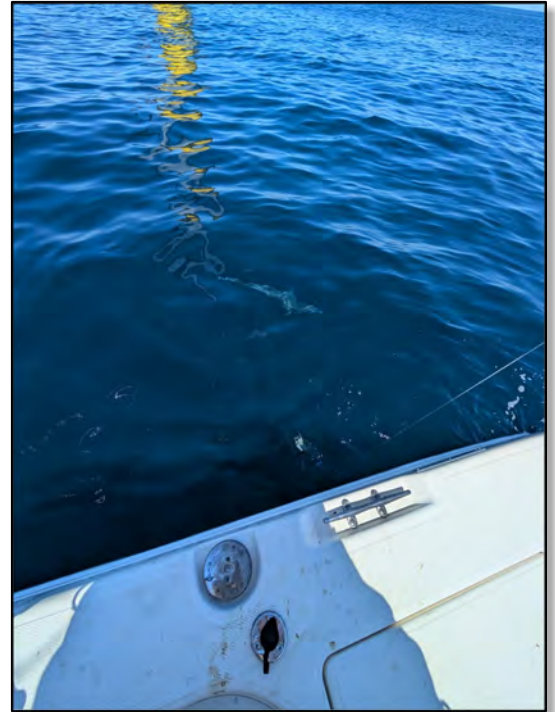
Captain Andy Kim
Sashimi Sportfishing
(757) 818-7380



Fishing Reports

Jul 31: Greg Rogers, Ray Sexton, and I departed out of Morningstar Marina on Greg Rogers' 26 World Cat headed to the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Turbine area. The first stop was the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel 3rd Island for a few small bluefish for fresh bait. Comfortably cruising southeast to the Wind Turbines we setup nearly in the middle of the project area and brought aboard 2 flounder and a dozen of black sea bass over 14 inches. While fishing the monople we observed a big barracuda following our hooked sea bass on the way up. Try as we might, we couldn't get it to hit some fresh bluefish.

- Mike Hubert



Aug 27: The fish have finally started to appear at the Chuckatuck crew's home waters. John Curry, Mary & I headed out from John's house at 9:15AM. First stop the mouth of the Chuckatuck where we ran into a nice school of small Specks. I had 30 tags, we used them all and released another handful. Our last tag went on a short

Flounder that Mary caught. As the current started out

we moved to the JRB for black Drum. We were surprised to find the current there was still incoming. I hooked up right away on a 26" Striper. I hooked up again on a Black Drum but it broke my line. The current slowly changed to outgoing and we changed position. Mary landed a 31" Black. At 1:15PM we headed in. I was using Z-man paddle tails while John & Mary used minnows for the Specks. Half a blue crab was bait at the JRB.

- Henry Troutner





Aug 19: Set out of Morningstar Marina with my friend Eddie in my Mako for the Eastern Shore. We loaded up the bait cooler with frozen shrimp and live fiddler crabs. We checked out a few areas with good structure and caught a few undersized tautog and some small bluefish. There were triggers hanging around and we put some of those in the cooler. We finally checked out some numbers but it was barely visible on the bottom machine but we tried it anyway because we could see some fish over top of it. The spotlock on the trolling machine is a real game changer! No more fooling around with an anchor to position over a spot. Boy! was this the spot! It was loaded with nice triggerfish! All totalled we came home with 25 triggers with 13 over 16" and one over 20"! On the way home I gave Will a call because he collects DNA samples on triggerfish for VIMS. He met us at the cleaning station and collected samples from our catch.

- Jere Humphrey

Aug 2: NAC members Mike Hubert, Rich Como, George Grinnan, Aaron Organiscak, and I headed out to the wind turbines on Sunday, on a day made "iffy" because of 18 knots of sustained S wind and associated seas. We visited a number of turbine bases on the south side of the field and caught over 50 Black Sea Bass (BSB - 10 keepers), 1 flounder keeper, a nice Trigger and then switched to the troll and caught a pair of peanut mahi. The large barracuda that was blowing up BSB on the way to the boat finally got hooked, but broke off on the 2nd turbine base we tried. It's just as well because I didn't really want all those teeth in the boat anyway. To me, the highlight of the trip occurred just as we were breaking down the troll rigs and saw 10-12 peanut mahi streaking across the water like flying fish for about 200 yards. What we didn't see was what was chasing them, but that mystery is what is making me want to go back ASAP!

- Mike Davis



Aug 24: Dave Steele and I went out to Yancy wreck for triggerfish on Monday. We met at 0800 and got underway about 0820

I didn't get any sand fleas but had shrimp and finger mullet. We didn't catch nor see anyone catch any around that structure. We did see Alex Perez tagging spadefish but we didn't have any spade bait.

Dave and I were catching baby seabass in droves. I quickly bored of this and asked Dave if he was OK trolling up some bluefish and drifting for flounder-he was. In short order we had 3 nice blues for bait. Dave stripped one out. The plan was to drift across the Thimble Shoal channel. We were on the South side of the 1st island where I know flounder hold so we just dropped there.



I hooked the first flounder in less than 5 minutes. It measured about 18.5". We steadily caught fish for about hour at which time we had our 2- person limit of 8 nice flatties up to 21". Once we limited out, I told Alex where we were and how we did it. I don't know if he tried or not.

After that we decided to catch some spanish mackerel. We got one in about 10 minutes, but the current was slowing so we went in. The boat and fish were cleaned and bagged by 1PM.

- Mike Hubert



Aug 16: I fished the Elizabeth River around the Norfolk International Terminals during the outgoing tide. I've had a very quiet summer fishing the river recently so I didn't expect much today. Using Gulp three inch minnows on a 1/8 ounce jig head. I was glad to see small speckled trout up to 10 inches and flounder also up to 10 inches being caught around schools of glass minnows. The medium sized Croaker and large Spot also bit well. I had frozen shrimp laying on the bottom near the rocks looking for Red Drum but only entertained plenty of blue crabs.

- Alex Perez



Aug 12 : Eddie and I headed out in the Mako for another trip over to the Eastern Shore to check on a few promising spots for triggerfish. We did well before heading back toward the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to try some pilings and other structure. The count for the day was 17 triggers and a flounder.

- Jere Humphrey



Aug 20: The final Children's Surf Fishing Clinic for this summer was a great success! The weather was perfect and the families had a great time exploring the beach and catching fish.

Throughout the summer volunteers from Norfolk Anglers Club, Tidewater Anglers Club, and Virginia Beach Anglers Club have been supporting this event sponsored by the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge. It's been great fishing with all of you and look forward to next summer.

- Will Bransom



Jul 31: Mary, John Curry, Marty Schriehl & I launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point (Wallace's) and fished the bay. We started at the Back River Reef and fished several spot with the same results, a Toadfish nearly every drop. Between Toads we managed to hook a short flounder, short Tog and several small BSB. We moved to the 3 Island Bay side and caught another short Flounder. Next was the 3 rd. Ocean side. NODA. Last stop the Big D where I hooked a big fish that was running off line but got hooked up in a snag and eventually broke off. Bait: fiddlers (the Toads love them), Blue Crab, Minnows, Squid, & Gulp on jigs. White caps on our run to the Bridge by laid down pretty nice for our ride home. Tag-able fish tagged & released.

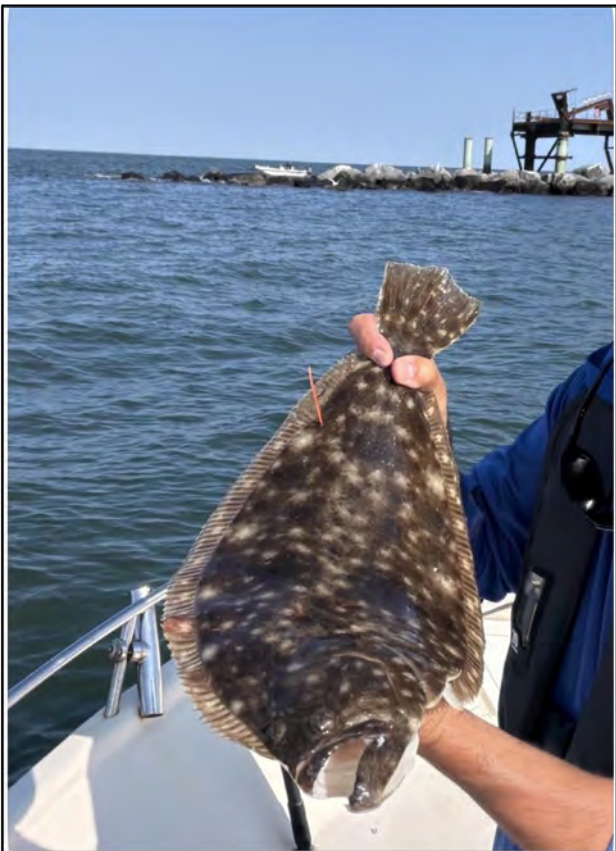
- Henry Troutner



Aug 9: On Sunday I fished the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) for the last hour of the incoming tide, through the slack and two hours of the outgoing tide. Using quartered blue crabs on a dropper loop rig, I fished around the second island rocks and caught small Black Sea Bass and a couple of Summer Flounder up to 21 inches. I checked the pilings near the Yancey wreck and found a school of 7-11 inch Spadefish which were happy to bite the frozen clam I brought along.

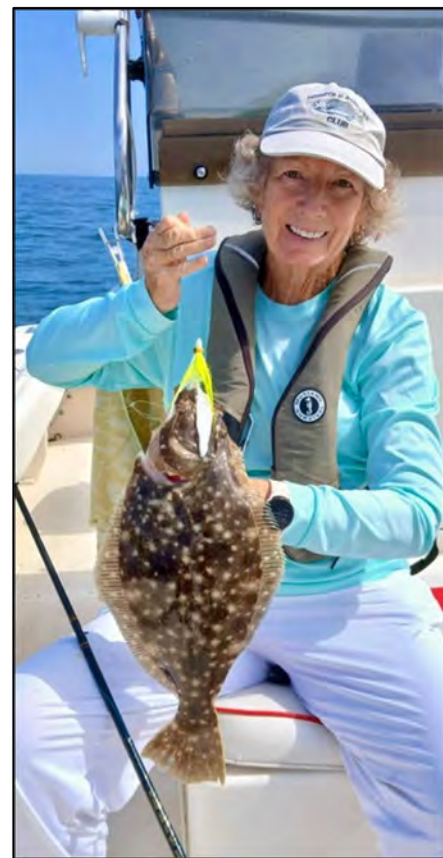
All fish were tagged and released for the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP).

- Alex Perez



Aug 24: After being out of town for a while Mary & I needed to get fishing. With beautiful weather forecasted we launched the Shamrock at Dandy Point (Wallaces) and headed to the CBBT to drift a little for flounder. Mary wasn't disappointed. We made a half dozen drifts and she caught 4 flounder, two 18.5 "keepers". Notice I've said "Mary." I caught several Toads including a double header. What's up with that?!

- Henry Troutner



Aug 24: Jay Faszczewski and Jere Humphrey headed out to the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind area with Jere landing two nice Virginia Citation triggerfish! Well Done Jere!

Aug 31: NAC member Dan Rogerson & his Son, Bob, took John Curry & I out in search of a Cobia to tag. We were fishing on Dan's 23 Steiger, a beautiful and very comfortable platform. It has a removable tower where Bob Spent the day spotting bait pods and putting us on fish. We launched at Wallace's and ran across the bay to the ship anchorage. Bob was rigged with a live eel on a 6/0 circle hook and a 1 oz. in-line sliding weight directly above it; 40 lb. Line with a 50 lb leader. Within 30 minutes we were into fish. I was allotted the first fish, a 43" which although legal was tagged and released. We then took turns landing a total of 7 Cobia up to 47" (5 tagged and 2 kept for the table.) All of the fish were taken from under bait pods spotted on the surface. A fantastic day on the water thanks to the Rogerson Family. The good luck might have had something to do to it being Dan's birthday.

- Henry Troutner





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