



September 2019

# VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB

## Tight Line

### Contents

- Upcoming Events -3-
- Fishing Roulette & Catch-A-Ride -4-
- Yeti Cooler Announcement -5-
- 2019 Summer Pier Fishing Tournament Ad -6-
- July 14<sup>th</sup> Public OV Pier Tournament -7-
- Items for Sale! -8 -
- Little Creek Inlet Upcoming Regulations -9-
- Judith Anne trip -10-
- Ocean's East Table -11-
- August Speaker -12-
- Hats & Shirts -13-
- Virginia Rod & Reef Slam -14 & 15 -
- Oyster Roast -16 & 17-
- Striped Bass Not Overfished Article -18-
- Committees and Chairs -19-
- Saltwater Fishing News -20 thru 32-
- Chef's Corner -33 thru 37-
- Surf Fishing News -38 to 46-
- Freshwater Fishing News -47 & 48-
- 2019 Advertisements -49 thru 55-
- Mission Statement and 2019 Elected Officials -56-

## Upcoming Events

### **Monthly Meeting:**

**When: Thursday September 5, 2019 7:30pm.**

**Where: Foundry United Methodist Church,  
2801 Virginia Beach Blvd. in Virginia Beach next to Beach Ford.**

**Meeting Speaker: Mike Rexroad the Environmental Health Manager  
at the Virginia Beach Health Department.**

**Meeting Subject: Waterborne illness concerns affecting fishermen  
and watermen today.**

### **September & Future Information Notes:**

- **Hatteras Village Invitational Surf Tournament – September 6-7.**
- **Crab Creek Clean-Up – Sept. 7.**
- **Ocean View Pier Tournament – Sept. 8.**
- **VBAC Surf Fishing Tournament - Sept. 14.**
- **Long Beach Island Surf Fishing Tournament – Sept. 28**
- **Oyster Roast at the Brock Center – October 12.**

### **This Month's Quote**

**“I don't do alcohol anymore - I get the same effect just standing up.”**

# VBAC Fishing Roulette 2018

<u>Species</u>	<u>Current Leader</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Bowfin	Jerry Hughes	8.25 lbs.
Yellow Perch	Russell Willoughby	10 oz.
Bluefish	John Germanos	3.15 lbs.
Flounder	James Eisenhower	5.25 lbs.
Spadefish	Kelly Hoggard	5lbs. 14oz.

Submissions  
Virginia Beach Anglers Club:  
[vbanglersclub@gmail.com](mailto:vbanglersclub@gmail.com)  
Kelly Hoggard: 757-416-8817 or  
[fishnkelly@msn.com](mailto:fishnkelly@msn.com)

## Catch-A-Ride

### BOAT

Preston Mangum (757) 582-1450 (FW)

Jeremy Maguire (757) 407-0493

Rich Maguire (757) 619-4851

Rob Stommel (703) 244-1282

Scott Nagen (571) 572-1023

### CREW

Kelly Hoggard (757) 416-8817

Victor Minak (703) 888-8992

*Add your name to either list by sending an email to  
[vbanglersclub@gmail.com](mailto:vbanglersclub@gmail.com)*

# VBAC YETI COOLER RAFFLE



No fishing trip, camping trip or tailgate is complete without the Yeti Tundra Haul Cooler. Built like a workhorse with its virtually indestructible construction, this 13.8 gallon/55 quart cooler features reliable insulation to keep your catch, beverages and food items icy cold for days on end. Two durable wheels set the Tundra Haul apart by making it easy to tow from campsite to car via a strong, welded aluminum arm that is just long enough so you don't nip your ankles in the process. The rubber lid latches are specially designed to hold up to years of latching and opening, and the hidden side handles keep the cooler's profile sleek and easy to store while still providing you with a means to lift it into the car.

Retail price for the cooler is approximately \$400.00. Raffle tickets are only \$5.00 each. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Tickets will be on sale at all meetings and functions. If unable to attend, please call our President, Bob Burstein at 267-994-7423 or email [vbangersclub@gmail.com](mailto:vbangersclub@gmail.com) and he will arrange tickets for you. If you would like to assist and sell tickets please contact Bob also.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the October 3, 2019 VBAC General Membership

# 2019 Monthly Pier Tournament

VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB  
&  
OCEAN VIEW FISHING PIER

## 2019 SUMMER FISHING TOURNAMENT



ADULT ENTRY FEE - \$10  
CHILD ENTRY FEE - \$5



\$150 GUARANTEED ADULT PAYOUT  
\$50 PIER SHOP GIFT CERTIFICATE TO CHILD

8 AM to 4 PM

9 JUN	14 JUL	11 AUG	8 SEP	13 OCT weather permitting
SPECIES	SPECIES	SPECIES	SPECIES	SPECIES
CROAKER ROUNDHEAD BLUE FISH	CROAKER ROUNDHEAD BLUEFISH	CROAKER BLUE FISH SPOT	CROAKER BLUE FISH SPOT	CROAKER BLUE FISH SPOT

### RULES

Tournament is open to all.  
Rain or shine.

Fish must be caught on the pier during Tournament times and  
alive when brought to the judging table.

Winner will be determined by length.

Ties will be determined by earliest entry time.

Winners do not have to be present at 4 PM.

All prize money will be awarded. If no entry in a species, prize money will be  
divided and awarded to the winner with largest entry in remaining species.

- 1 Species = \$150 to the winner
- 2 Species = \$75 each winner
- 3 Species = \$50 each winner

Child's prize will be for largest fish caught that day from the three species.

Visit our websites for the latest updates to the Tournament:

[vbanglersclub.com](http://vbanglersclub.com)    [oceanviewfishingpier.com](http://oceanviewfishingpier.com)

# August 11<sup>th</sup> Public Ocean View Pier

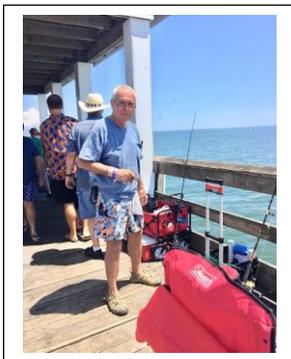
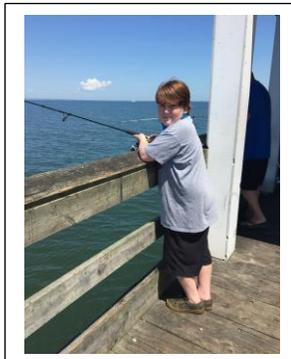
Sunday August 11 was a hot breezy day; weather was fair and pier attendance ok but not heavy.

VBAC pier tournament participation was worse than expected and it wasn't for lack of hawking and trying. We had 5 adults and only 1 child; and 3 of the adults were club members. For whatever reason we just couldn't get people to enter (and Mary TRIED), all of us did.

Fishing for spot was very good, a few blues, no croakers or flounder. And a few cobias were seen but no takers. Here are the final results:

Chris Shrader - 8-3/8" spot, Patty Searby - 6-1/2" blue, Carmen Steinbaugh (child entry) - 7-1/2" spot. Congrats and thanks to all! Note: Patty caught a ton of spot but just couldn't quite beat Chris so she got even with her blue!

Thanks to anglers and those that helped.



**Enter your ad by phone, text or email to Preston Mangum  
757-582-1450 or [pmangum@roseandwomble.com](mailto:pmangum@roseandwomble.com)**

**Ads are free and good for 90 days or until sold.**



***For Sale***

***Portable amplifier.***

***\$6.00***

***Preston Mangum 757-582-1450***



**165 Quart Igloo cooler in perfect condition. Garage Kept, Used once \$55.00**

**Preston Mangum 757-582-1450**

**Hodgeman**

**Waders Size 10 1/2**

**Guaranteed No Leaks!**

**\$40.00**

***Butch Eason***

***757-681-6019***



If you use or transit any portion of the entire Little Creek Inlet area please be advised a new regulation will go into effect September 9, 2019. An Inner and Outer harbor area has been established and the rules and regulations that pertain to operating a vessel in those area have been modified. Please review the attached chart and the rules posted in the new regulation.

<https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/Article/1927936/nao-2016-00332/>

USACE-NLW  
RCVD 4MAY2017

## Little Creek Inner and Outer Harbor Restricted Area



ENCL (3)

# August 18<sup>th</sup> Trip on the Judith Anne

On Sunday, August 18 four clubs met at the Ocean View Pier for a morning of fun, fishing and a little friendly competition aboard the Judith Anne head boat. Although the weather was potentially rainy, we all boarded and found our places and “baited up”. Although the captain tried valiantly, we couldn’t catch anything huge but were reeling all the time, it seemed, bringing up a lot of “dinks”. What we couldn’t make up in size, we certainly made up in volume! In the end, VBAC tied for first place with the Portsmouth Anglers club.



# August Ocean's East Table

For the last two months, VBAC has maintained a table at least once a month for the morning hours at Ocean's East to fly the VBAC "flag" and make known what our club does that might benefit a prospective member. Our president Bob Burstein has spearheaded this effort accompanied by various club members who volunteered to help. If you would like to help and do something for your club, please let Bob know. He would really appreciate the help. We will be doing another table in September. Shown below are Bob, Ronnie Nixon, Pat Searby – not shown (taking the picture). Call Bob Burstein – (267) 994-7423 to volunteer.



# August Meeting Speaker



Our speaker for August was Wes Seigler of Seigler Reels. They are a local manufacturer of a very high-quality series of fishing reels for a wide variety of fishing methods and conditions.

**Thank You Wes!**

# Hats & T-Shirts

## New Shirts Available!

Short Sleeve T's \$15.00

Performance Long Sleeve,  
UPF 50, Color: Sea Grass

\$25.00

T's \$15.00



Performance Long Sleeve - \$25.00



**ALL HATS \$15.00 EA**





CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
Saving a National Treasure



## Virginia Rod & Reef Slam

Oysters in the Lynnhaven and Lafayette Rivers, once decimated, are experiencing a renaissance. And you can experience the impact these restoration efforts are making on the biodiversity in our rivers.

[Join us for the Virginia Rod & Reef Slam](#): a fishing tournament that celebrates one of the many benefits restored oyster reefs bring—more fish!

**REGISTER NOW!**

### EVENT INFORMATION

**Saturday, September 14**

Lines in: 6:30 a.m.

Lines out: 2:30 p.m.

After party and awards: 3:00-8:00 p.m.

CBF's Brock Environmental Center

3663 Marlin Bay Drive

Virginia Beach, VA

### COST

**\$50**

Includes tournament entry, after party food, giveaways, and live music by the Tiki Bar Band.

In recent years, multiple partners, including the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, VA Marine Resources Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Elizabeth River Project, Lynnhaven River Now, and CBF restored oyster reefs in the Lafayette and Lynnhaven Rivers (among others). The return of these habitats means a return of healthier populations of popular fish.

This tournament is a little different than usual. You don't just win by catching the biggest fish. Prizes are awarded for how many species you catch, and then the size of your fish. We're celebrating the variety that oyster reef restoration provides to the ecosystem. Past surveys have shown a variety of different species being caught in these two systems.

[How many can you catch?](#)

Hope to see you there!



Chris Moore  
Senior Regional Ecosystems Scientist  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

HEADER IMAGE COURTESY ISTOCK.



**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
Saving a National Treasure

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Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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# VBAC FALL OYSTER ROAST



Save the Date: Saturday, October 12

Time: 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Brock Center, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Menu: oysters, chicken, Chef's special

Soda, water provided. BYOB

Raffle: Items will be raffled during the event.

Please bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert. If you have something for your table, Jerry will gladly put it on the grill for you. So come and enjoy the day with your fellow anglers and their families.



## Guest Opinion: Striped bass are underfished, not overfished

By Bev Landstree

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, or ASMFC, has determined (again!) that the number of spawning Atlantic striped bass is below the required threshold to maintain proper “recruitment” (newborns), and therefore, sustainable population abundance. The logical conclusion is to restrict activities that reduce abundance, such as catch limits. It’s a pretty simple formula, right?

$(\text{Existing Stock}) - (\text{Fishing}) = (\text{Abundance})$

So ...

Less fishing = more abundance.

But how simple is it, really?

The left side of this equation contains two factors: “Existing Stock” and “Fishing.” One represents the supply (or production) of fish in the water, the other represents the demand for fish to be taken out of the water. If one believed that supply is constant and only the only thing you can change is demand, then, one could conclude that stripers are overfished (relative to existing stock).

For whatever reason, the ASMFC has only one solution: increase or reduce demand. As a result, every year, we swing between abundance and depletion, excitement and panic. Certainly, there is a lot of blame to go around, but the ASMFC seems to have only one conclusion: overfishing. So, what other factors change the abundance of stripers and can we do anything to help?

Let’s look at other factors that affect the existing stock. Water quality is certainly a significant factor. Over the last few decades, water quality has significantly improved in estuaries like the Narragansett Bay and the Chesapeake Bay, as well as other waterways on the East Coast, like the Hudson, the Connecticut and Long Island Sound, which are all constantly improving. Even with improved water quality, the biomass of stripers is still in trouble. So, if not water, what other factors can we study?

What about food? A recent scientific study showed us what commercial and recreational fishermen have known for decades. There is a strong relationship between the abundance of menhaden and the abundance of blues, weakfish, striped bass!

This may be a shocking finding, but foreign-owned Cooke Inc., the owner of Omega Protein, “purse seines” hundreds of millions of pounds of menhaden a year with large nets from the East Coast and the Chesapeake Bay. The commercial menhaden fishery has reduced the striped bass population by 30%! Plus, there is a one-to-one relationship between the abundance of menhaden and the abundance of striped bass.

The truth is that stripers are not overfished, they are underfished! One company, Omega Protein, is literally taking menhaden from the mouths of stripers at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay, the nursery for 70% of the striped bass on the East Coast. They are simply starving them of their principal source of protein.

So, one paltry company with a little over \$300 million in revenue is literally starving the fish that feed a commercial and recreational fishery worth billions and billions of economic value to the Atlantic Coast states. Valued at pennies per pound, Menhaden are ground up to be served to dogs, cats and pigs. Last time we looked, there was no problem with the abundance of cats and dogs! Menhaden are obviously more valuable if left in the water.

Even more distressing is that one state, Virginia (aka, the Omega Protein fleet) takes over 80% of the annual quota of 476,198,486 pounds of menhaden! In addition, Omega Protein and its supporters have convinced the ASMFC that they could raise the existing catch limits by 40%! The ASMFC bends over backwards to accommodate Omega Protein’s requests. This is nothing but power politics in action!

Why should Rhode Island and other East Coast states allow one industrial fishery in Virginia to effectively starve their striped bass? If we do not change this, we will continually fight over smaller and smaller pieces of a dwindling striper population. All while one company in Virginia turns striped bass’ main source of protein into cat, dog and fish food, and even fertilizer!

Omega Protein has the Virginia legislature tied up in knots. It’s up to the other East Coast states to step up and engage in this process. Without focused pressure from other states, Virginia will continue to favor their tiny commercial menhaden fishing industry. Rhode Island has the status to lead this effort with its record of conservation and the second-largest estuary on the East coast. The striped bass fishery is way too important to all our local economies to allow this status-quo starvation regime to continue.

*The writer is a resident of Westerly.*

## 2018 Virginia Beach Anglers Club Committees:

Boat Show:	<b>Chair – Russell Willoughby</b>
Calendar:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair – Ronnie Nixon</b>
Crab Creek Clean-Up:	<b>Chair – Ronnie Nixon</b>
Great Bridge Flea Market:	<b>Chair – Preston Mangum</b>
VBAC Flea Market:	<b>Chair – Bob Burstein</b>
Banquet/Oyster Roast:	<b>Chair – Jerry Mariano</b>
Seton Youth:	<b>Chair – Dave Anderson</b>
Raffles:	<b>Chair – Preston Mangum</b>
Audit Committee:	<b>Chair – Mike Anderson</b>
Surf Tournaments:	<b>Chair – John Germanos</b>
Club Tournaments:	<b>Chair – George Gabriel</b> <b>Co. Chair – Bob Burstein</b> <b>Chair – Gary Doerhoff</b>
Pier Tournaments:	<b>Co. Chair – Bryan Watson</b>
Prize Fish:	<b>Chair – Kelly Hoggard</b>
Nomination Committee:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair Kelly Hoggard</b> <b>Co. Chair Beth Synoweic</b>
Conservation and Regulations:	<b>Chair – Butch Eason</b> <b>Co. Chair – Kelly Hoggard</b>
T-Shirt Committee:	<b>Chair – Patty Searby</b>

If You Would Like to Help on a Committee,  
Please Speak to the Chair. Help is Appreciated!

# *Saltwater Fishing News*

## **Largest Saltwater Fish Caught in 2019**

Species	Angler	Date	Size	Where	Weight
Amberjack	Chris Schneider	11-Apr	39'	Vessel	26#
Black Drum	Preston Mangum	26-May	38"	CBBT	
Blackfin Tuna	George Gabriel	11-Apr		Vessel	36#
Bluefish	John Germanos			NC Surf	3.15#
Cobia	James Eisenhower	19-Jun	46"	CBBT	
Dolphin	Michael Anderson	22-May	59"	Vessel	39#
Flounder	James Eisenhower	1-Aug		CBBT	5.25#
Pinfish	Patty Searby	27-May	13"	Vessel	14oz.
Pompano	Kelly Hoggard	28-Jun	13.25"	Avon	
Puppy Drum	Dave Smith	27-Jun	27 1/4"		
Red Drum	Robert Oliver	4-Jun	46.5"	4th Island	
Sea Bass	Kelly Hoggard	28-Jun	17.5"	Ches Lt	
Shark	John Germanos	11-Apr	96"	Vessel	
Spanish Mackerel	Dave Smith	27-Jun	28.5"	Sandbridge	5#
Spadefish	Kelly Hoggard	31-May		Ches Lt	5# 14oz
Speckled Trout	Dave Smith	21-Apr		Rudee	3# 12oz

# When the Surf is Up, and It's Too Hard to Cast, Hit the Pier!

*If you don't have access to the great offshore and surf fishing opportunities in North Carolina's Outer Banks, try your luck at the local fishing piers – they offer excellent action!*

Give John a fish, and he can eat for a day. Teach John to fish, and he can feed his friends and family for a lifetime!

As I fish more and more across OBX, I make it a point to explore new places and opportunities. One of my objectives for 2019 is to uncover as many ways as I can to enjoy great fishing without the need for a boat, kayak, or four-wheel drive beach buggy.

In this instance, I decided to take a trip down memory lane and do a little pier fishing for one of my favorite fish from my childhood – Spot.

But, were the conditions right, and how would I know which pier to fish?

Fishing in and around the surf in OBX is a matter of figuring out what fish you want to catch, and heading to the area that affords the best opportunity based on several key factors:

- Wind speed and direction – impacts every location.
- Water temperature – correlates to target species.
- Tide tables – know when the current is moving.
- Local knowledge – the “X” factor!

Well, I knew I wanted to catch some Spot to replenish the supply we had eaten over the past few days, so it was a matter of where to go:

- Wind: moderate from the northeast. Check.
- Temperature: 78 degrees in Rodanthe. Check.
- Tide: low-to-high transition late morning. Check.
- Local Intel: action has been good in Rodanthe, bloodworms are the hot bait. Check.

In this feature, I am focusing on one way to fish a northeast wind for Spot on Hatteras Island with the understanding that there are no guarantees in fishing – just ways to stack the odds in your favor!

Of all the fishing piers in OBX, the Rodanthe Pier located in the heart of Rodanthe Village, appears the least likely to produce fish.

It has suffered significant storm damage over the years, and despite ownership's willingness to rebuild it to its former length, politicians and the park service have posed significant obstacles.

So, there it sits, a perfect place to take a proverbial long walk on a short pier, yet it remains incredibly productive year-after-year when fished appropriately.

Here are some firsthand accounts of my three-day tour of the Rodanthe Pier in late July of 2019, and the “catching” adaptations made along the way.

**DAY 1 - JULY 26<sup>th</sup>:** The wind had been blowing out of the northeast for several days, and the surf was getting a little “spicy,” so Salvo neighbor Jeff and I decided to give the beach a rest and hit the local fishing pier in Rodanthe. We were armed with fresh bloodworms and rigged-up for a Spot-catching fiesta, but as we loaded my pier cart in the parking lot, we met-up with a couple of friends that gave us some interesting intel – something about Sheepshead roaming the pilings! Hmmm...what to do?



*To my left and right: Salvo Neighbors Jeff & Andy just outside the pier house in Rodanthe.*



*Live Sand Fleas: Sheepshead Candy!*

Jeff remained determined to focus on Spot and Sea Mullet, but I immediately grabbed a flea rake and hit the beach under the pier! Within 15 minutes, I had raked enough Sand Fleas to try my hand at those crafty little Sheepies! But I still had to re-rig my rods, and while I didn't have the best set-up to horse Sheepies off the pilings, I figured my 9-foot Tica had enough backbone to do the job.

Once on the pier, I found Jeff already pecking away at the pan fish, so I proceeded to rummage through my tackle bag and tie a Sheepshead Rig (40-lb Fluoro double dropper with 1/0 Owner Live Bait hooks).

Several locals, aka "*the usual suspects*," were already putting Convicts on ice, and as I watched what they were doing, I made minor adjustments on the fly. Sheepshead, aka *Convict Fish*, are notorious bait stealers with an extremely faint bite that takes a trained hand to detect. Not being that trained hand, I spent the first hour hunched over the rail giving away dozens of meals to the Convicts! Then, more out of diligence than skill, I hooked into my first fish – a nice 2-pound Sheepshead! It was as satisfying a catch as I had all year, mainly because I had to work so hard for it!

By the time Jeff and I left, I had managed to put 5 Sheepshead in the cooler, and Jeff had selectively added 10 Spot and 4 nice Sea Mullet (all over 12 inches). Not a bad start!

**DAY 2 - JULY 27<sup>th</sup>:** Jeff and I returned to the cottage after our first day on the pier and came up with a game plan for Day 2. We decided to target Sheepshead for as long as our backs could handle being draped over the rail to reach the pilings.

So, we armed ourselves with some heavier tackle, and I tied 6 new Sheepshead rigs, 2 each with 30-, 40-, and 60-pound fluorocarbon; and I headed to the beach before sunrise to rake-up fresh sand fleas, which I put on ice while I cleaned fish.

Once I finished cleaning and processing our Day 1 catch, we loaded up the truck and headed to the pier at around 11:00 am for Round 2!

We put all the lessons learned on Day 1 to the test the moment we arrived on the pier. The *usual suspects* were already hovering over the best pilings, so we worked some of the available structure in close proximity. Once again, we donated an embarrassing number of sand fleas to the deep without landing a fish for over two hours! We saw several landed around us, and after we each lost several fish on the lift out of the water, we decided to change it up again.

Jeff was still on a skunk, and with an increasingly sore back, he opted to pull out the Sand Flea and Bloodworm Fish Bites to chase Spot and Sea Mullet.

I stubbornly stuck to my guns and kept hanging my rig over the rail in hopes of catching my limit of 10 Sheepshead for the first time on a pier. I had friends and family coming down for the weekend, and they requested fresh fish, so I was on a mission!

I switched from a 60-pound Sheepie rig to a 30-pound rig to increase line feel; removed all barrel and snap swivels (water had cleared-up); and changed the spacing between my hooks. It was still a slow go, but I put 3 nice Sheepshead in the cooler over the next hour without losing one on the lift – progress!



*Author on Day 1 with several nice Sheepshead!*



*Author on Day 2 with a 3-pound Sheepshead.*

It was hard work, and the wind and current shifted, but over the final two hours, I was able to put 4 more Convicts on Ice. Overall, the Day 2 fish had broader shoulders and weighed-in at between 1-1/2 and 3 pounds each – not bad for pier fishing!

Jeff took a very rare “0-fer” on the day, but the cooler still had a hefty load of 7 very nice Sheepshead – and two anglers ready for a double dose of Ibuprofen!

I missed getting my limit, but I hung with the *usual suspects*, refined my technique, and succeeded in putting high quality grilling fish in the cooler for friends and family. And, I was back at the cottage in time to fire-up the grill before dark!



*Firing-up the Grill!*



*Scaled, Cleaned, & Greased-up for the Grill!*



*Fresh Sheepshead on the Barbee!*

**DAY 3 - JULY 30<sup>th</sup>:** After 2 days of entertaining friends and family, all guests safely returned to VaBch, and it was time for an encore in Rodanthe to replenish a now depleted stock of fresh fish!

After raking-up some sand fleas the evening before, I was set to put some more Convicts on Ice!

I hit the ice dispenser in Rodanthe at 5 a.m. and had a line in the water by 0530. The wind had shifted to the southwest and the water was clearer, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I began fishing the pilings with visions of grilled fish and Sheepshead chowder in mind!

The “*usual suspects*” arrived shortly after, and while I was having no problem donating sand fleas to the deep, no one seemed to be pulling in any Sheepshead – not even the local ringers! I changed my set-up at 0700 by cutting-off my 50-pound shock leader and tying my braid directly to the Sheepshead rig to increase sensitivity.

I managed to put two nice Sheepshead in the cooler by 0900 after losing three on the lift out of the water. My two equaled the combined total of the rest of the pier up to that point, and after snagging an annoying Pinfish and catching a Striped Burrfish (aka Spiny Puffer), it was apparent the Sheepies had moved offshore to a nearby wreck.

Time for another change in plans!

At around 12:30, I changed rods; tied a couple of Sea Mullet rigs; and mobilized my pier cart. I headed to the wash with a half bag of bloodworms and a pocketful of sand fleas. **Game on!**

I started at the very front of the pier and fished the wash directly behind the breakers, slowly moving back as the tide went out. For the better part of 2 hours, I had a bite on every cast and doubled-up several times. I exhausted my bloodworm supply and continued with sand fleas. I stopped catching Spot, but I caught several large Sea Mullet and Pompano on the fleas. I lost two very nice Pompano on the lift out of the water – each was well over one pound!

By the time I left the pier, I had put 34 keeper Sea Mullet in the cooler along with 9 Spot, 2 Pompano, and 2 Sheepshead.



*The Sheepshead's Human-like Teeth & Bony Mouth Require a Very Sharp Hook and Firm Hook-set!*

I only kept Sea Mullet and Spot that topped 10- and 8- inches, respectively, so I released quite a few fish, including a 17-inch Puppy Drum, Stingray, Striped Burrfish, and a pile of Sea Mullet and Croaker under 10 inches. My “10-inch Rule” says all panfish over 10 inches get filleted; those under get cooked whole. Needless to say, the fillet table was very busy!

## **Fishing, Food, Fellowship...and FUN!**

One of the best things about fishing from a pier is that anyone can do it! It’s a great way for an entire family to spend a day outdoors without worrying about the logistics associated with a boat, kayak, or off-road vehicle (ORV).

Basic bottom fishing technical skills are easy to master, and a simple “granny cast” is more than adequate for a novice seeking to enjoy a day of fishing in a relaxed environment.

Like most piers, Rodanthe has a full-service tackle shop, and the staff is eager and willing to share insights to help folks catch fish. Bait, ice, tackle, and an assortment of souvenirs, drinks, and snacks are also available onsite.

A pier cart is nice, but not required, and the fish are almost always around and eager to accept a tasty morsel dangled on a standard 2-hook bottom rig.

For me, pier fishing transcends time and allows me to be 12 again. Life was simple when I was 12. Summer meant playing baseball all day, couples-only skates with the girls at the Plaza Roller Rink, and Pier Fishing for Spot at 14th Street - one of the few things my Dad and I did together on occasion. So, every once in a while, I take a trip down memory lane, hit the pier, and try to put a few Spot in the cooler, or whatever else may come my way!

Jeff and I had a great time fishing the Rodanthe Pier as we swapped stories with friends, old and new. We iced and cleaned our fish properly and enjoyed several great meals with our fresh catch. I think pier fishing is the ideal antidote for the malady associated with those periods of “life happens” that seem to hit us all in this modern world!



**DAY 1: Five Sheepshead, 10 Spot, & 4 Sea Mullet!**



**DAY 2: Seven Sheepshead from 1-1/2 to 3+ Pounds Each!**



***DAY 3: Two 1.75-pound Sheepshead; 34 Sea Mullet from 10-14 inches; 9 Spot, & 2 Pompano!***

The grilled Sheepshead pictured below were a huge hit with our family, neighbors, and friends visiting from VaBch. I kept the spicing simple - a little Cajun shake inside the rib cavity with salt, pepper, garlic, oregano, and smoked paprika on the main body. Basting with olive oil helped glaze the spices, and fresh-squeezed lemon juice at the end created that final smoke to seal the deal.

This recipe will appear in a future VBAC Chef's Corner article and can be applied to other quality fish such as large Pompano, Porgies, or Black Sea Bass! Below, wife Frances prepares to take three grilled Sheepshead upstairs for our guests, and below right, neighbor Jeff is caught with a "fish-eating grin" as we prepare to dig-in to the last two fish right off the grill (close-up pictured in the middle).



***Keeping the Family Happy!***



***Perfectly Grilled Whole Sheepshead!***



***Keeping the Neighbors Happy!***

After filleting the 3 largest Sheepies for the broiler, I decided to save the remains for a fish chowder recipe I had been thinking about. The broiled fillets were outstanding, and the 2-day production process for the chowder yielded an incredible product that will also be featured in a future installment of the Chef's Corner!



*Cleaned & Scaled, Ready to Fillet!*



*Perfect Fillets for the Broiler!*



*Carcasses for Sheepshead Chowder!*



*Pretty Sheepshead Fillet!*



*Broiled Sheepshead Fillet!!*



*Final Product: Sheepshead Fish Chowder!*



*See Spot Fry!*



*See Spot Nap with Best Friend Spud!*



*See Dad Eat Spot and Spud!*

ABOVE: The “10-inch Rule” in action! All the Spots we kept were between 8 and 9-1/2 inches, which is the perfect size for frying whole with hand-cut potatoes! My Dad loves fried Spots, and that makes the “catching” of these delicacies even more gratifying! I fry them crispy and make a classic Greek lunch with a side of raw onion, hot peppers, onion, olive oil, and lemon. In this case, I also had a side of greens and blackeyed peas cooked Greek style, so we had a true Grecian classic for lunch with fresh fried Spots as the featured attraction!

The look on my Dad’s face says it all - it just doesn’t get much better than this!

Meanwhile, in Salvo Village, neighbor Jeff enjoys his own version of a classic southern fry mess!

Jeff loves Sea Mullet the most, so I didn't complain when I saw a few 10-inchers break the rules by making their way into the fry pile!

We fry a mess of Spots and Sea Mullet about once a week when I'm at the cottage, and it seems to taste better every time we do it!

You just can't beat fresh fish straight out of the ocean!



*Salvo Village Fry Mess: Fried Spot and Sea Mullet Fresh Off the Rodanthe Fishing Pier!*

**Final 3-Day Tally:** 14 Sheepshead; 19 Spot; 38 Sea Mullet; 2 Pompano; and dozens of clean releases!

I think it's safe to say that pier fishing has its place alongside surf fishing, and while it can't compare to the thrill of catching large gamefish in the Gulf Stream or wrestling a Cobia in the Bay, it's something anyone can enjoy with minimal investment or experience.

My first pier fishing adventure took place on the old Steel Pier by the jetty at First Street in Virginia Beach; and in the mid and late 70s, I spent many a day and night on the Virginia Beach Pier at 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The Lynnhaven Pier was my go-to place for crabbing in July and catching a cooler-full of Spot on an October northeast wind.

The Steel Pier was destroyed long ago; the Lynnhaven Pier shut down; and who knows what will become of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Pier as new development plans go into action.

I guess that's progress, but for me, each time a pier dissolves into the sea, it's like watching the passing of a dear friend.

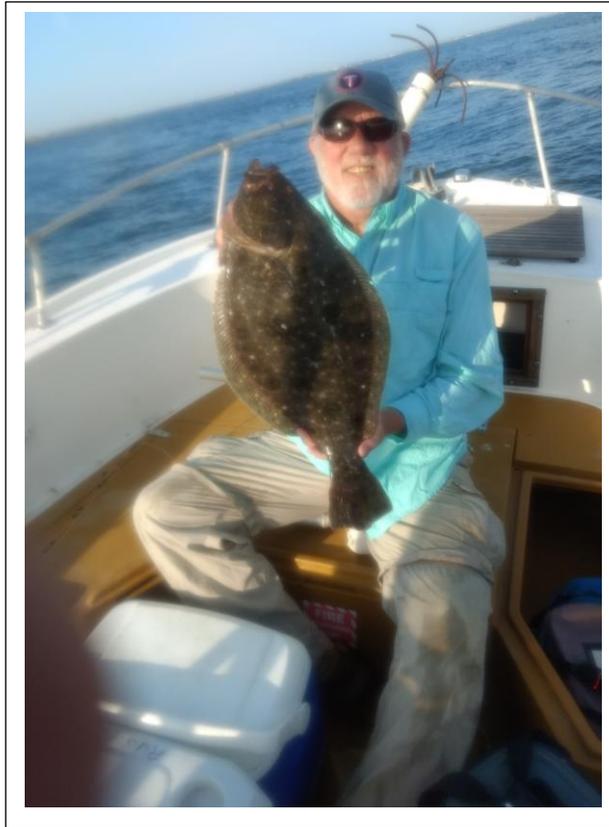
So, for the time being, I think I'll make a point of spending more time with the friends that remain, for it's only a matter of time before they, too, slowly disappear.

I urge others to do the same, if not for nostalgia's sake, for the pure joy that occurs whenever that inner 12-year old is awakened!

***Tight Lines!***

***Contributed by: VBAC Angler John Germanos***

## *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*



I fished with Russell Willoughby yesterday 8/1 for my birthday fishing time out of Lynnhaven Municipal Ramp at daybreak trying to catch the first slack tide. The wind was 15 out of North West, not what was predicted. We started over the tube closer to the 2nd Island and within a few minutes I had a nice fish hooked up. This surprised us both as we didn't even have the net out. So Russell grabbed the smaller of the two nets with carry onboard while I continued fighting this fish with seem to get heavier and heavier with each crank of my reel. Once I got it up to the surface it was obviously a fish that needed the bigger net but Russell managed to get the fish in the net. It weighed out at about 5 and a half pounds on my digital scale but we were bouncing all over with the wind so we couldn't be sure. At Oceans East it weighed 5 lb 4 oz. My biggest in almost 10 years. I fished with a jig on the bottom and a naked hook on top with white gulp swim tails on each. For now, this fish places me with the biggest flounder in the Virginia Beach Anglers Club Roulette Competition. Could be a money fish! Regardless it's a Prize fish for both Virginia Beach Anglers and Norfolk Anglers Clubs. Unfortunately we didn't catch any keeper fish the rest of the trip despite having a good slack current on the incoming.

Blessings,  
Ike

# Saltwater Fishing News Continued

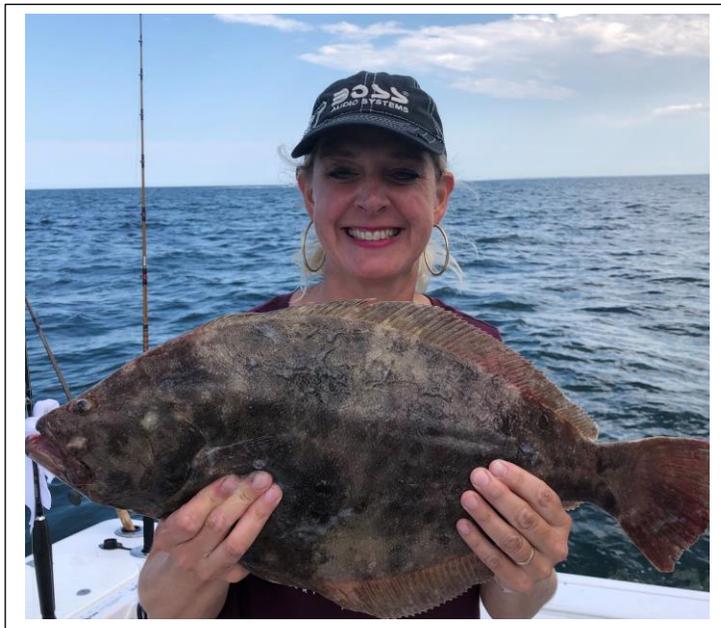
Floundering to feel better? Post op saltwater therapy in progress by Beth Synowiec  
August 4, 2019

Two days after surgery, I desperately needed some “postop therapy” so Kevin and I headed out to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel for a trial run to see what species we could harass today, ha ha . Not wanting to over do it , I decided to keep it simple and stuck to a smaller species of fish On the way out , we grabbed some live mullet to go with the fiddlers and then headed out for piling fishing while the current was relatively calm.

Kevin pulled in a feisty bluefish and I caught two aggressive trigger that were both over 19 inches , all fish bit on fiddlers . Not a bad start. About an hour later Kevin scores his first sheepshead for the year and he was stoked about it . About this time, the tide was shifting and current was starting to rip and so we needed to make a decision. I noticed the flies started to bite as they seem to do right before a bad storm . With about 15 nice live baits in the baitwell , it would have been silly to not to at least use some of them , so we decided to

switch gears for some floundering 😊 .

I quickly made a couple basic flounder rigs with (size one )three-way & 40 pound test and 5/0 hook .Within about 10 mins Kevin had one in the boat . Then it was my turn , the fish started diving down and I knew it was a nice one when it started taking drag. He tried getting off the line with his his famous floundering head shake towards the end but He lost that last “ coin toss” and I boated him. We each caught another one and then saw the sky change as the storm was approaching. We left them biting and quickly headed back to the ramp . On the way in , we saw lightning and heard thunder so Im glad we left when we did.



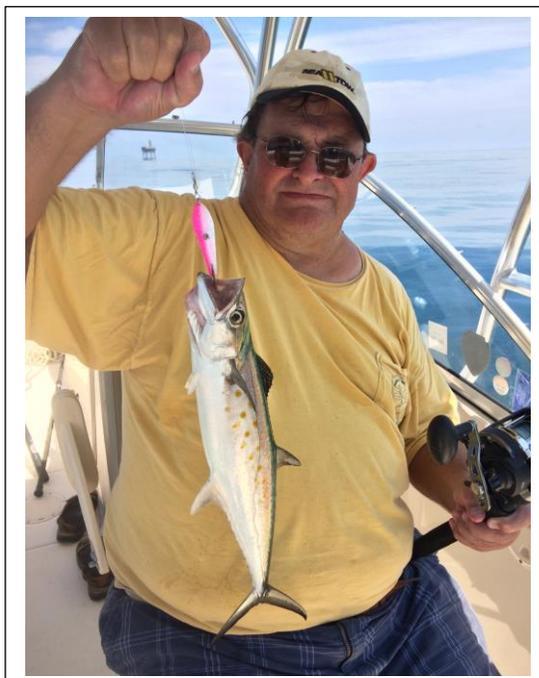
# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

Elusive Flounder Fishing 8/1/2019

By Kelly Hoggard

I heard of a few larger flounder being caught in July, so Robert Oliver and I made an attempt to run out to some flounder holes looking for a keeper. With such nice weather, we decided to work our way out to the inshore wrecks. On the way by Cape Henry, we trolled a couple of spoons, but were rewarded with very little. A pair of small bluefish was all that came into the boat. We set up a flounder drift out on the deep water sea lane where a couple of holes are. There was no action on the bottom at all. The drift turned out to be so slow, that we were moving about 100 yards every 15 minutes. We took a turn out towards the Santori and trolled for a while in the crystal blue water. The visibility was at least 20 feet and the water looked as though we were out trolling in the canyon. A bigger blue fish took one of our baits but little else. After trolling about 10 minutes, we had a large run on the way back lure. It even took drag on a rod that was set for cobia. I saw a couple of splashes as it was getting closer to the boat and it had the profile of a Spanish mackerel, but it was likely a small king in the low 30" range. After battling a while, the fish spit the hook and we didn't get to land the trophy fish.

The water was still crystal blue and lots of baitfish were running all over the surface of the water. There were large schools of menhaden and mullet out there. It was the only wake you could see for miles. We stopped and drifted the Santori on a slow N drift. After drifting a while for flounder, one small sea bass was all that we managed to catch. I didn't get a single bite on one of the live baits or strips we had down. We moved our way over to the Light Tower Reef and began trolling some more. There were signs of more bait but the bites were very few. There was a good tug when we got another bigger blue to bite. We also managed a solid low 20" Spanish caught by Robert. After watching the spadefish feed on the jellyfish for a while, we set up on the reef for a drift through the structure. The drift was so slow that we ended up fishing for two hours in the middle of the structure without moving. The spadefish were unsatisfied with our clam or squid baits and we ended up without a spadefish bite. Robert caught one small flounder and we had some more flounder bite but failed to catch them. Hopefully the next time out we are able to get a big flounder but this trip wasn't the one. We came back on the lowest tide I've seen at his dock. The boat was drawing water off the flats so that you could see the dredge channel on both sides. We made it back to the house safely though. Proof that you can transit that channel at any tide. I wouldn't suggest it to anyone though.



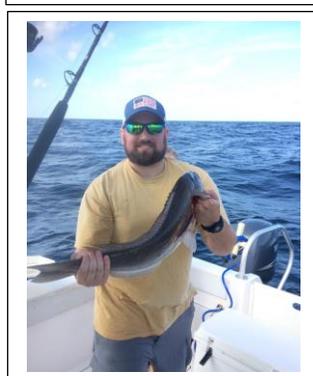
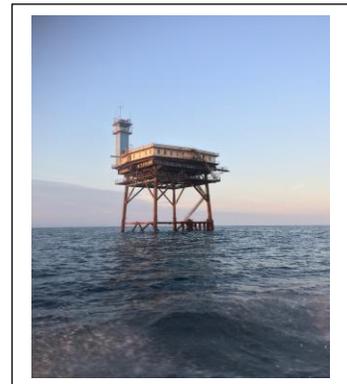
# Saltwater Fishing News Continued

Deep Drop Charter 7/27/2019 By Kelly Hoggard

I got together with anglers Ronnie Hillin, Dave Anderson and Scott Nagem to go deep drop fishing on the Blind Date with Capt. Stan Gold. Stan is a 5-star captain with a 27' catamaran style boat that is fully equipped and doesn't disappoint. We left shortly after 5 am on a sunny Saturday morning. While the bay forecast was light winds for the day, a recent system continued offshore for a few days with North 15 kt winds. We tracked our way out for a smoother ride with the waves on our side. Upon reaching the tilefish grounds, the wind was easily in the upper teens. The catamaran made the waves feel much smoother however.

The fishing started with a light drift but fishing was pretty slow at first. We found a couple of black sea bass, but moved a little to find better fishing opportunities. On the next drop, we were all getting bites and were hooked up on the drift. Scott and Dave got the first two tilefish with Dave's first tilefish being the biggest of the day. We drifted through the area many more times, often catching more keeper sea bass than tilefish. There were times where we would drop down and catch multiple sea bass doubles. After catching a good mess of fish, we moved out to deeper water to try for a golden. We started in about 700 foot on a drift to shallower water. We had a couple of smaller bites but failed to hook up with any fish. In an attempt to hook up to a bigger fish, we moved a little further to deeper water. Our drop started in 680 foot and worked our way out to 950 foot. This drift provided no bites for me and a couple of bites for other anglers. Again, we failed to hook any fish on the drift. The 1200 foot of line I had out made for a very long wind. While some of our other anglers weren't afraid to use the electrics, I wanted the experience of the hand cranking adventure. It was very tough. I've been working hard to catch a golden tile but have failed to do so on the numerous deep drop trips I've taken thus far.

We moved back to the blue line grounds after striking out with the golden. The blue lines were thicker on our next opportunity and in two drops, we were all hooked up with big sea bass and blue lines. There were even a couple of 18+'' knot head seabass mixed in. We were lucky when our last drift hooked up for all of the anglers. The count of fish was exactly the number required for our limit. The ride back was a little easier and the winds laid down closer to shore. We got back in time for some sunlight boat cleaning and finished fileting our fish in the dark. It was an adventurous day with a lot of fish caught. Last year, I failed to provide as much catching but made up for it this year by catching a number of our biggest sea bass. I had a great time and look forward to going out and getting that golden tilefish soon.



# *Saltwater Fishing News Continued*

Exciting Fishing Opportunities in waters of Virginia

*Please click the link below to get information all fishing in Virginia*

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/>



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# Chef's Corner: Cajun Blackened Cobia and Dirty Rice

SEPTEMBER 2019

*This Louisiana Staple can Curl Your Hair or Tickle your Tongue – Hot or Mild, it's sure to Bring the Gulf Coast to Your Table with Every Succulent Bite!*



***Blackened Mild with Mushroom Rice and Cheesy Mac!***



***Hot-n-Spicy Blackened Cobia and Dirty Rice!***

So far, 2019 has been a great year for Cobia fishing across coastal Virginia and the Carolinas! Heck, even I was able to get in on the action!

I have also been fortunate enough to have friends willing to share their catch, which means I have had ample opportunity to create new dishes with this incredibly versatile food fish!

Cobia is a saltwater fish common to coastal Virginia and the Carolinas from Late April through September. It has the same heart friendly oil content found in salmon, and when consumed raw, the meat looks light tan. But, when fully cooked, Cobia meat is white, moist, firm and easily flakes. The skin can be tough and draped with small scales, but it is excellent when grilled.

With its firm texture, Cobia can be skewered and grilled; prepared as a juicy steak; filleted and crispy-fried; or it can be smoked, sauced, seared, or poached to release its exquisite taste, which truly a delight for even the most finicky palate.

As sushi and sashimi, the raw, fleshy meat is flavorful with a rich taste that is truly impressive.

In fact, thinly sliced Cobia also makes excellent fish jerky for those willing to give it a try!

Cobia meat is a good source of Omega 3 Fatty Acids, protein, and is high in many vitamins such as riboflavin and Vitamin B6. It is also rich in Magnesium, Potassium, Selenium, Niacin, and Sodium.

At between 150-170 Calories per 4-ounce serving, Cobia meat packs a powerful nutritional punch!

With all of these great things going for it, more Cobia recipes are sure to appear in future issues of the Chef's Corner!

I hope you have an opportunity to try this month's featured recipe!

## **Blackened Cobia with Dirty Rice**

This recipe features two versions of the same dish within a single meal. The objective is to appeal to daring *and* tender palates without changing the basic approach. In this case, the ladies wanted a milder version while the men elected to crank-up the heat and open-up the taste buds!

## Ingredients:

- 8-12 Cobia steak cut from the shoulder loins
- 2 tablespoons bacon grease or canola oil
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Old Bay seasoning (less heat)
- Smoked paprika (less heat)
- Mia's famous mushroom rice (or a nice basmati or whole grain rice)
- Fresh Tomato, Lemon & Spinach for garnish
- \* Cajun Shake or Blackened Seasoning (more heat)
- \* Ground Cayenne pepper (more heat)
- \* Cajun Dirty Rice (for maximum heat)
- \* ***These ingredients are only used for the hotter version!***

Always cook the mild version first, especially when using a cast iron skillet because the pan sometimes retains some of that Cajun heat. I learned this lesson years ago when my Mom cooked me a hot pepper-n-eggs breakfast and proceeded to use the same skillet for my Stepfather's scrambled eggs. Watching him sweat was a riot as he received a good dose of unexpected residual heat from the skillet!

## Directions:

### ***Blackened Mild Version***

The biggest differences between mild and hot is the seasoning blend and what I like to call the "*blackening agent.*"

The mild seasoning blend used for this dish is Old Bay, and the blackening agent is smoked paprika.

Begin by laying out the Cobia steaks on a flat surface such as a plate or cutting board.

Dust each steak with black pepper, Old Bay, and smoked paprika in that order.

Flip the steaks and repeat for the other side and let stand.

Heat a large skillet on High until it is extremely hot – the hotter the better!

Cast Iron works best, but any modern cookware designed to take high heat will work just fine.

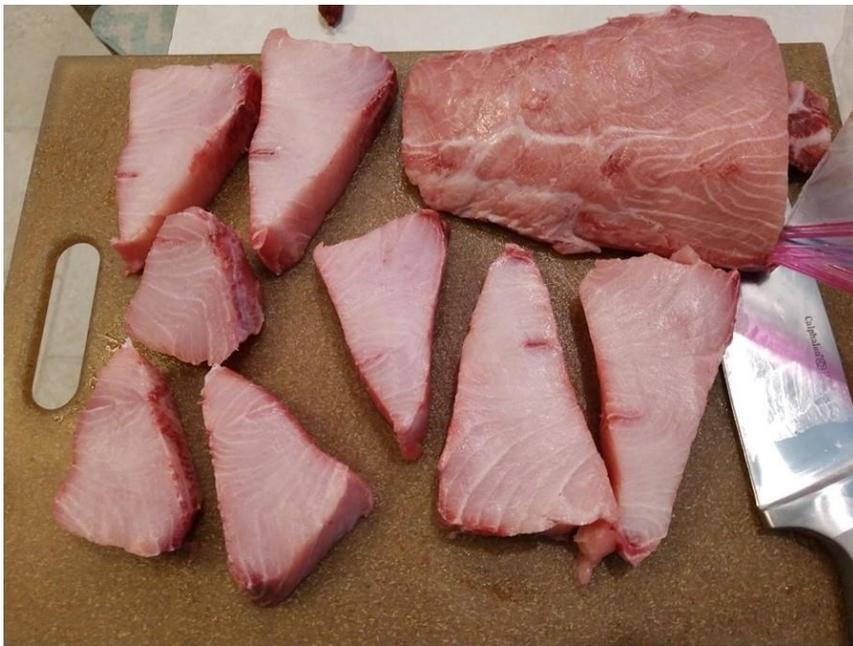
Add one tablespoon of bacon drippings to "season" the skillet.



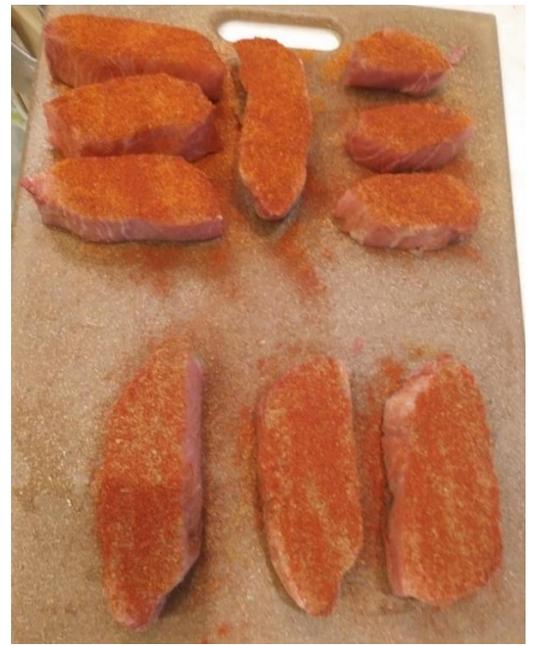
***VBAC Angler Pat Searby with her first Cobia!***



***Blackened Mild for the Ladies!***



***Thick-sliced Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel Cobia Loin Steaks!***



***Spiced-up & Ready to Blacken!***

Once the bacon grease is very hot, begin adding the seasoned steaks to the skillet, ensuring they are spaced apart to preclude crowding and assure the moisture is locked in as each steak sears.

If the skillet is hot enough, there will be smoke, so be sure to turn the vent fan to High or cook outdoors!

Sear and blacken steaks for about 2-4 minutes on each side to create a nice bark and remove immediately when done.

For thicker steaks, I'll sometimes turn the flame off at the end, cover with a lid, and let stand for 1-2 minutes longer.

That method allows the heat to penetrate, and will moisten the surface as the trapped moisture swirls over the steaks.

The desired cook time is up to the chef, but I try to target "medium" as a sweet spot that balances moisture and doneness.



***Mia's Famous Mild Mushroom Rice Bake!***



***Smoking-up the Kitchen on the Mild Side!***

## ***Cajun Blackened Hot Version***

The blackening process is the same for the hot-n-spicy version with two notable exceptions:

Cajun Shake replaces the Old Bay; and, ground cayenne pepper replaces the smoked paprika.

My two “go-to” blackened seasonings are Tony Chachere’s Creole blend and “Slap Ya Mama” Cajun shake, but there are a number of other excellent choices on the market, so experiment and pick your favorite, or get crazy and mix-up your own blend!

Dust the steaks with black pepper, Cajun shake, and cayenne pepper – the heavier the coat of cayenne, the hotter!

Reheat the skillet and add a tablespoon of bacon drippings. The steaks will absorb the drippings as they blacken and the bark cures.

Once the skillet is extremely hot, add the steaks and blacken each side.

**NOTE:** There *will* be smoke, and unlike the mild version, if not properly ventilated, there will be a lot of coughing and watery eyes around the kitchen as the cayenne pepper vaporizes, so set that fan on high or cook outside on an open gas flame if you’re concerned about ventilation!

Remove the blackened steaks from the skillet and return the skillet to the heat source. Do not wipe the spice and “dirty bits” out of the skillet!

Add another drizzle of bacon drippings, and add cooked rice to the skillet, stirring constantly until the rice “cleans” the skillet and absorbs all that good spice remaining in the pan!

That is the essence of dirty rice (see below)!

In some recipes, a handful of bulk sausage and chopped onion is added to the skillet to render, crisp, and soak-up the spice before tossing in the rice. I have done it that way, and it is excellent! We simply used Mia’s mushroom rice in this recipe!

### ***Serving Suggestions:***

Plate with choice of rice and a side of salad to add some “cool” to the meal. Garnish with spinach, lemon, and tomato.



***Extra Hot Blackened Cobia and Dirty Rice!***



***Kickin’ Hot Blackened Cajun Cobia!***



***Use same Skillet to Dirty-up the Rice with a Cajun kick!***

## **Additional Ways to Enjoy Cobia**

Here are some additional meals that include Cobia as the featured ingredient:

- Pineapple-habanero Barbecued Cobia Ribs
- Carolina-style Cobia BBQ with Slaw
- Cobia Seafood Gumbo with Shrimp, Andouille, & Dirty Rice
- Mediterranean Broiled Cobia Fillets
- Fried Cobia Ribs with Thai Sweet Chili Sauce
- Grilled Cobia Steaks
- Baked Cobia with Hollandaise Sauce
- Crispy-Fried Cobia Bites
- Pan-seared Honey-Lemon-Cobia
- Sautéed Cobia with Vegetables
- Chunky Curried Cobia
- Citrus-honey Cobia Jerky



***Pineapple-Habanero BBQ Cobia Ribs!***

These are but a few of the recipes I have discovered and tried, and all are exceptional. The list indeed goes on and is open to the imagination!



***Broiled Cobia Steaks!***



***Grilled Cobia!***



***Sautéed Cobia and Vegetables!***



***Cobia Seafood Gumbo!***



***Fried Cobia Ribs with Chili Sauce!***



***Cobia BBQ with Cole Slaw!***

***Contributed by: VBAC member John Germanos, aka “The Instinctive Chef,” and inspired by Louisiana’s Cajun District.***

# Surf Fishing News

## 2019 Salvo Fall Open Surf Series Qualifying Event Summary

### 24 August 2019

**A.M. Session Winner:** Patty Searby, 23 Fish for 214 Points

**P.M. Session Winner:** Caroline Robinson, 11 Fish for 107 Points

**Largest Fish:** Kelly Hoggard, 19-inch Spanish Mackerel

**Most Fish Caught:** Patty Searby, 32 Fish for 280 points

**Results Summary:** 10 anglers competed in the fourth VBAC Surf Series Qualifying Event for 2019.

122 total fish were caught scoring 1,150 total points.

Judges were John Germanos and Jeff Goldman.

The final event standings were as follows:

Angler Name	Fish Scored	Largest Fish	Total Points
Patty Searby	32	11-inch Kingfish	280
Kelly Hoggard	18	19-inch Spanish Mackerel	170
Caroline Robinson	15	14-inch Bluefish	144
Doug Wehner	12	15-inch Spanish Mackerel	138
Stan Sutliff	13	15-inch Bluefish	120
Bryan Watkins	11	16-inch Bluefish	101
John Gabriel	9	13-inch Bluefish	84
Russell Willoughby	8	12-inch Kingfish	67
Bob Stuhlman	4	15-inch Bluefish	46
Jerry Hughes	0	N/A	0

\* *Trash Fish such as Stingrays & Sea Robins were awarded 1-inch and 1 point regardless of actual length.*

# 2019 Salvo Fall Open Results: Girls Rule, Boys Drool!

## *VBAC's Lady Anglers Sweep the Morning and Afternoon Sessions with a combined 47 Fish Scored and 424 points – Way to Go Ladies!*

Special Thanks go out to all the anglers that travelled to Salvo Village to participate in the second Major and 4<sup>th</sup> event in the 2019 VBAC Surf Series Qualifiers - without you, these Club activities are not possible!

Thanks also to my fellow Tournament Volunteer Jeff Goldman for helping me scout-out prime fishing grounds, and for judging and scoring fish throughout the morning and afternoon sessions!

AND, a Very Special Thanks to our session sponsors at Hatteras Jack's in Rodanthe and Frank and Fran's in Avon! Their significant donations provided excellent prizes for our anglers, and they continue to support VBAC as we fish across Hatteras Island!

Thanks also to Bob's Frisco Tackle, Frisco Rod-n-Gun, Red Drum Tackle, and the Bite Me shop for providing additional Goodie-Bag prizes for the VBAC Surf Fishing Qualifying Series!

From Goodie Bag stuffers to Session Winner prizes, these folks stepped up and supported our second official surf fishing event in Hatteras, NC!

If you are ever on Hatteras Island, please visit these establishments and thank them for supporting the Virginia Beach Angler's Club and our Surf Series Qualifying Events!

In addition, VBAC member Caroline Robinson worked hard to help grow our event sponsorship and added a fine supply of desserts for the weekend event. VBAC members John Gabriel, Patty Searby, Jerry Hughes, and Bob Stuhlman also made contributions to help make this another successful Club event.

### **SUMMARY**

This 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 qualifying events was held on Saturday, 24 August 2019 and included 10 anglers.

Overall, an impressive 123 fish were recorded with 1,158 total points tallied by the field. All anglers recorded scoreable fish, and several caught a large number of fish just under the minimum scoreable size limits.

Patty "The Ringer" Searby was the A.M. Session Winner with 23 fish for a season-high 214-point session total.

"Sweet Caroline" Robinson was the P.M. Session Winner with 11 fish for 107 points.

Patty's incredible 32 fish, 280-point performance over the two sessions easily earned her the overall event championship!

Both ladies broke the 100-point barrier and completed the Session and Event sweep with a combined 47 fish and 424 points – congratulations ladies on an outstanding tournament!

After holding the lead for the first three months, Bob Schuster dropped eight places in the standings and is now sitting 5 points above Bob Stuhlman in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

Over the course of the first four Surf Series Qualifiers, 18 different Anglers have participated in one or more events, and we look forward to adding participants as we go, so come on out!

Here are the current event and overall 2019 Surf Series Cumulative Standings:



*AM Session and Event Winner Patty Searby Doubling down on the Kingfish!*



*PM Session Winner Caroline Robinson getting in on the Kingfish Action!*

	ANGLER NAME	L.I. Spring		Salvo Spring		OV Pier		Salvo Fall		LI Fall		TOTALS	
		Fish	Pts.	Fish	Pts.	Fish	Pts.	Fish	Pts.	Fish	Pts.	Fish	Points
1	Pat Searby	3	3	0	0	dnp	dnp	32	280			35	283
2	Kelly Hoggard	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	1	11	18	170			19	181
3	Doug Wehner	6	6	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	12	138			18	144
4	Caroline Robinson	dnp	dnp	0	0	dnp	dnp	15	144			15	144
5	Brian Watkins	1	8	dnp	dnp	4	27	11	101			16	136
6	Stan Sutliff	1	1	1	1	dnp	dnp	13	120			15	122
7	John Gabriel	0	0	0	0	dnp	dnp	9	84			9	84
8	Russell Willoughby	dnp	dnp	2	2	dnp	dnp	8	67			10	69
9	Bob Schuster	2	36	2	27	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			4	63
10	Bob Stuhlman	dnp	dnp	2	2	2	10	4	46			8	58
11	Jerry Hughes	0	0	0	0	2	13	1	8			3	21
12	Wesley Waters	2	13	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			2	13
13	Mark Wallace	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0
14	Kelly Cormican	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0
15	Herb Wise	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0
16	Matt Sharpe	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0
17	Rob Stommel	0	0	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0
18	Bill Frunzi	dnp	dnp	0	0	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp			0	0

**NOTE: The point standings are updated after each event. The Top Ten aggregate point totals across all competitions qualify for a 2020 Surf Fishing Team position!**

The fifth and final scheduled Surf Series Qualifying Event for 2019 will take place from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, 14 September 2019 at Sandbridge within the Little Island Park facility in Virginia Beach.

You may register for this event at the September General Membership Meeting or by contacting John Germanos at:

**Email:** [jgermanos@germanosdefense.com](mailto:jgermanos@germanosdefense.com)

**Phone:** 757-285-1909



**Brian's 16-inch Bluefish!!**



**Kelly with a Sweet 13-inch Pompano!**



**Gabe with 2 "Bobtailed" Kingfish!**

## **Food, Fellowship, Fishing...and FUN!**

It is always my goal to make Food, Fun, and Fellowship stand out as much or more than the actual Fishing experience, and this event fell right in line on Thursday afternoon as the first anglers trickled in. VBAC proudly upheld its reputation as an eating Club with a fishing problem, and all participants partook in the offerings!

### ***Friday Night Mixed Grill at Tournament HQ in Salvo Village***

Most of the anglers arrived on Friday afternoon to check in and get their respective room and house assignments. However, one lucky angler arrived on Thursday in time to enjoy a pan-fried pheasant and potato feast at Leigh-On-Sea!

I spent most of Friday morning and afternoon visiting sponsors and scouting fishing areas from Avon to Salvo, and I offered a Friday evening “optional” dinner which I prepared at the Tournament HQ. This “snack” included a grilled assortment of sausages (Carolina Smokies; Andouille; & Bratwurst); grilled medium-rare venison sliced thin; and grilled Amberjack steaks. Sides included potato salad; veggie tray with dip; rolls; watermelon; home-baked brownies; and all condiments and sauces. I cooked the Amberjack last to ensure there would be leftovers, which I repurposed into my Kickin’ Cajun Jack-n-Cheese Dip for Saturday (December 2018 Chef’s Corner!)! No one went hungry, that’s for sure!



***Future Centenarian Anglers Doug and Stan Chillin'!***



***Doink, Gabe, and Patty hitting the Grab-n-Go Lunch!***



***Sandwich Building Station for Grab-n-Go Lunch!***



***Fresh Watermelon – an OBX Outdoor Tradition!***

### ***Saturday Morning Breakfast***

Jerry Hughes cooked-up his usual breakfast for VBAC anglers staying at The Big Kahuna facility, and Patty Searby prepared a spinach and cheese quiche to go with the leftover sausage for the folks at Leigh-On-Sea. Once everyone was fueled-up with a good breakfast, we pulled out at 0600 and headed south!

### ***Saturday Morning Fishing Session***

All anglers fished Ramp 38 in Avon for the 0700-1100 session. Nesting turtles caused the ramp to open at 0700 rather than the usual 0630, so we had to wait for the “all clear” before driving onto the beach! At 0700, we hopped onto the beach and drove to the preselected stretch of beach where the Judges anchored the north and south boundaries with their ORVs while the anglers efficiently set up shop with lines in the water at 0715! Game on!

With 2 judges unable to make the trip, Jeff and I positioned ourselves to cover the field for what we knew was going to be a very “fishy” day! We spent several hours scouting this stretch of beach at low tide the day before, and the triple slough and beach topography was filled with fish along this carefully selected ¼-mile fishing zone!



***The VBAC Beach Buggies in Action on the Salvo and Avon Beaches – Esprit des Corps was alive, as all Anglers had a ride!***

The “catching” began as soon as the first line hit the water, and Jeff & I stayed busy running between anglers across the ¼-mile stretch for the next four hours!

Sea Mullet and Croaker were caught throughout the session as were some nice Bluefish. The birds were working all around us, and there was a lot of bait in the water as the fish fed through the sloughs all morning.

Midway through the session, several schools of Spanish Mackerel swept through, and three anglers that heeded our advice had metal roads ready to immediately start casting to the Spanish! Many “shorts” were caught, and several scorable Spanish were beached, including a nice 19-incher for Kelly and a 15-incher for Doug!

By the end of the first session, every angler had scored at least one fish!

In all, the field scored 74 fish for 677 total points during the morning session, and twice as many smaller fish were caught and released.

Patty Searby led the pack with an impressive 23-fish, 214-point total! Brian Watkins and Kelly Hoggard finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with 10 fish for 87 points, and 8 fish for 83 points, respectively!

A fishy morning indeed!

### ***Grab-n-Go Lunch at Tournament HQ***

Folks returned to the Tournament HQ in Salvo for lunch at 1200 P.M. I prepared and put out choice cold cuts, cheeses, assorted chips, condiments, Smoked Jack-n-Cheese Dip, veggie trays, brownies, drinks, and watermelon for all to enjoy.

After going over some basic tournament etiquette and ethical release guidelines, I reconciled scoring anomalies, consolidated all scoresheets, and tabulated the results for the first session.

The group wrapped-up lunch, and Jeff led the way to our pre-selected site for the afternoon session!

### ***Saturday Afternoon Fishing Session***

Anglers followed Jeff to Ramp 30 for the afternoon session, and folks with ORVs took care of those without, allowing all anglers to ride onto the beach in style. Once again, the beach looked mighty fishy when the session kicked off at 1400!

It didn't take long for the bite to light-up with a nice variety of scorable fish that included Pompano, Grey Trout, Spanish



***Judge Jeff on a Mission!***



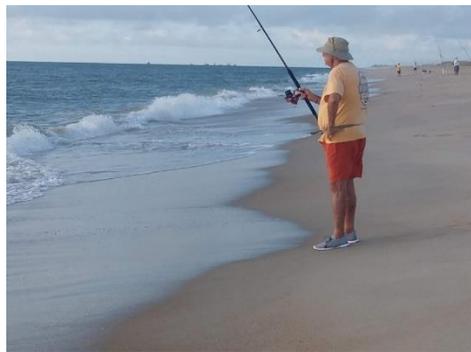
***VBAC Anglers in Action!***



***The Doinkster – one of a kind!***



***Doug and Kelly working the slough!***



***Bob waiting on the Big One...***



***Doink staring at his Mullet Rig.***



***Kelly intently watching his rigs!***



***Caroline baiting-up for another catch!***



***Gabe “working” the Surf!***

Mackerel, Bluefish, Kingfish, Croaker, Spot, Sea Robin, and Stingrays. It was a rich bounty with a lot of options!

By session's end, Caroline became the second VBAC angler to break the 100-point threshold this season with 11 fish for 109 points and a well-earned Session Win to complete a clean sweep by the ladies!

Kelly Hoggard remained consistent and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with 10 fish for 87 points while Stan Sutliff broke into the top three with 6 fish for 69 points!

Patty finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the P.M., but her 9 fish, 66-point tally put the overall event title out of reach and propelled her to the top of the cumulative point standings!

The overall count for the afternoon session was 49 fish for 481 combined points – another great catching session!

With a long, successful day of fishing in the books, the VBAC anglers packed-up their gear and headed back to Tournament HQ to get ready for dinner!



*Part of the VBAC field working the surf!*



*Baiting up and getting' busy – every angler fished hard!*

### ***Low Country Boil Dinner and Awards Ceremony at Tournament HQ***

I was able to sneak away at 1:30 P.M. to get back to the cottage, clean-up, and start the cooking process. Thanks again to Jeff for covering the field solo for that last ½-hour!

Fortunately, I had all the basic prep-work done in advance, and I was able to rinse the potatoes, clams, and mussels while the pot was on the boil! I sorted the taters and veggies to support two waves of the boil. The 1<sup>st</sup> wave included all the usual ingredients with a fresh clam bonus. The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave added fresh mussels, cabbage, Andouille, baby taters, and another pile of shrimp!



*Fresh Smoked Andouille Sausage.*

The cooking was underway as anglers and volunteers returned to Tournament HQ.

The Menu included the following Low Country Boil ingredients and sides:

- 10 lbs of Fresh Jumbo Shrimp
- 4 lbs of mussels (2<sup>nd</sup> wave)
- 50 littleneck clams (1<sup>st</sup> wave)
- 6 lbs smoked andouille sausage
- 15 ears of sweet corn, halved
- 10 lbs of baby potatoes
- 1 bag of carrots
- 1 bunch of celery
- 10 jalapeno peppers
- 1 large head of cabbage
- 5 medium onions
- 2 heads of garlic
- Butter, cocktail sauce, lemons, etc.
- Vegetable Tray and Dip
- 2 Watermelons, sliced
- Homemade Fruit & Custard Pies (2)
- Homemade Banana Pudding
- Homemade Brownies

Needless to say, the feast was worthy, and everyone went back for seconds and thirds – especially when the second wave came out! I love cooking in waves because it keeps hot food on the table!



*Cutting-up and Preparing for the 1st Dump!*



*5 pounds of First Wave Jumbo Shrimp!*



*The First wave Dump!*



*The First Wave Ready to Serve!*



*The Second Wave in the Pot!*



*The Second Wave Post-Dump!*



*Patty getting some well-earned R&R!*



*Bob and Russell in Full Feeding Form!*



*Jeff in Relax-mode!*



*Gabe, Kelly, and Doug Chowling Down.*



*Caroline enjoying the Feast!*



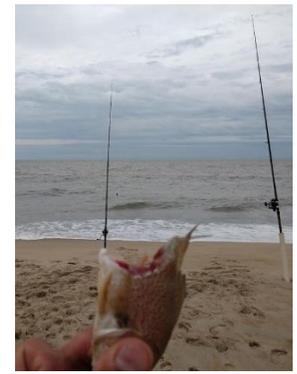
*Doink in his happy Place!*



*Meanwhile at Tournament HQ...*



*Jeff ready to see who measures up!*



*That would've scored!*

**Congratulations to all Anglers, and Good Luck in the Little Island Fall Open!**

*Contributed by: VBAC Angler John Germanos, Surf Fishing Committee Chairman*

# *Freshwater Fishing*

**Largest freshwater fish caught during 2019 in this category by species.**

Species	Angler	Date Caught	Length	Where Caught	Weight
Blue Catfish	Russell Willoughby	28-Mar	44"	James River	
Bluegill	Melanie Bayford	16-Mar	9"	Beaver Dam Pk	
Bowfin	Jerry Hughes	15-May		NW River	8lb 3oz.
Chain Pickerel	Jay Graber	2-Mar	21.75"	LCrk Reservoir	
Crappie	Steve Harding	30-Mar		Smith	2lb 10 oz.
Largemouth Bass	Jay Graber	30-Jul	19"	LCrk Reservoir	
Longnose Gar	Russell Willoughby	4-Apr	33"	Lake Whitehurst	
	Melanie Bayford	30-Apr	33"	Piscataway Rvr	
Snakehead	Frank James	31-May		Pohick Regional	6lb 5oz.
White Perch	Melanie Bayford	7-May	11.5"	Piankitank River	
Yellow Perch	Russell Willoughby	10-Jun	8.5"	Lake Prince	10 oz.

# *Freshwater Fishing Continued*

Click the picture for video on summer fishing tips for Bluegill!



Structure Crappie Fishing Video (Click on the picture)



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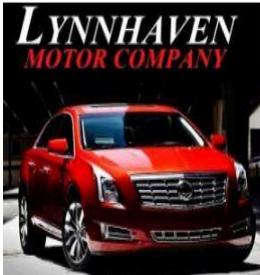
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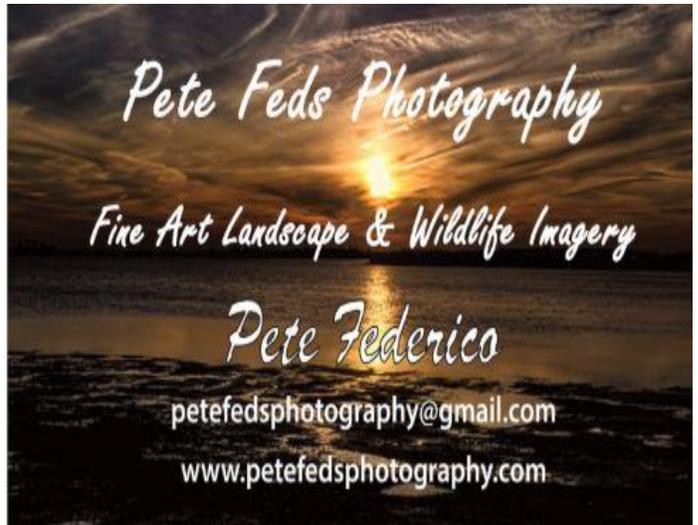
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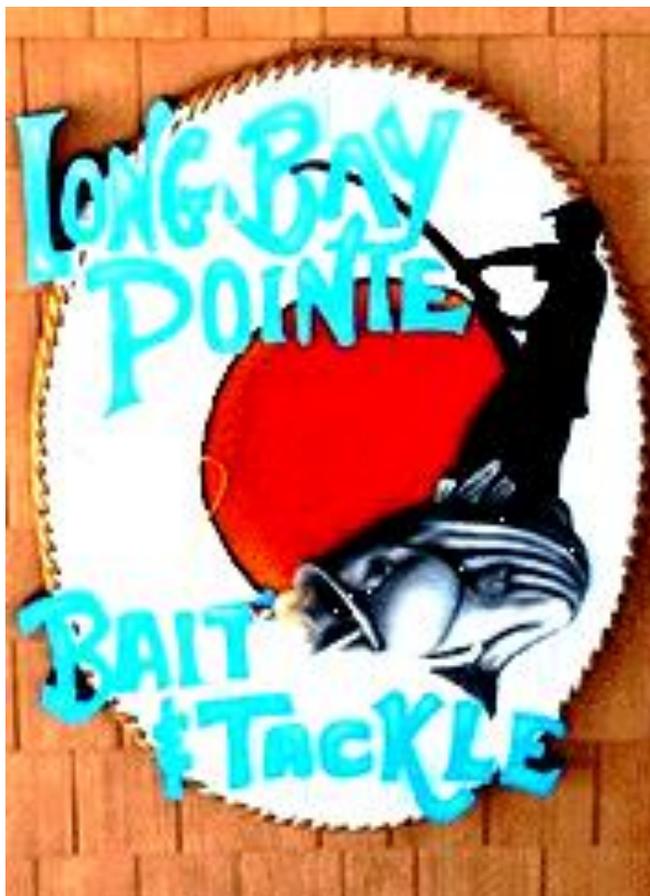
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# VBAC MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the VBAC is to encourage sport fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, while supporting prudent governmental and other policies that promote the preservation, conservation and ecology of all marine life.

## Our Objectives:

- ❖ Monitor legislative and regulatory activities relating to management of local and regional fisheries and participating actively, where appropriate, to assure the adoption of sound management policy and practices that best serve the interests of VBAC members.
- ❖ Promote interest and participation in recreational angling by conducting programs and activities that encourage sport fishing.
- ❖ Educate members and others in the techniques of sport fishing to enhance their enjoyment of the sport.
- ❖ Conduct social activities that create a wholesome climate for deriving the maximum pleasure from sport fishing by members, their families and guests.
- ❖ Plan and conduct fund raising activities to provide the revenues needed to support these objectives.

## 2019 VBAC Elected Officials

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First Vice President: Chris Schneider

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