



April 2020

# VIRGINIA BEACH ANGLERS CLUB

## *Tight Line*

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## Upcoming Events

### Monthly Meeting:

**April meeting is cancelled.**

### When:

### Where:

### Meeting Speaker:

### Meeting Subject

**Stay Well and Be Safe!**

## **April & Future Information Notes:**

**Most events are cancelled. Members will be notified by email of any events still being held.**

## **This Month's Quote**

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

— Albert Einstein

# VBAC Fishing Roulette 2020

<u>Species</u>	<u>Current Leader</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Bowfin	Jerry Hughes	3 lbs.
Yellow Perch		
Flounder		
Tautog	Kelly Hoggard	6lb. 14oz.
Spadefish		

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 (FWtr)

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 Surf Fishing Announcements

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## 1) Ocracoke Surf Fishing Tournament **HAS BEEN CANCELED**

Those of you who have paid cash for your deposit, I will be reaching out to you to repay. The people who payed by check, they will be voided and not processed.

2) Since our April and May meetings have been canceled, we are shooting for team selection drawings for the remaining tournaments to be made at the **June** meeting.

3) No decisions have been made yet to change intra-club surf tournament dates. We will be following what is going on closely and make an informed decision when events get a little closer.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we all try and get through this difficult and unprecedented time. My thoughts are with all of you! Please stay well and contact me if you have any questions!

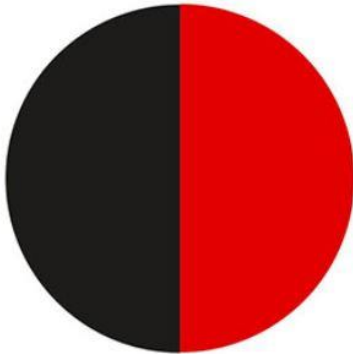
**Bryan Watkins**  
757-831-9724



# Some Quarantine Humor

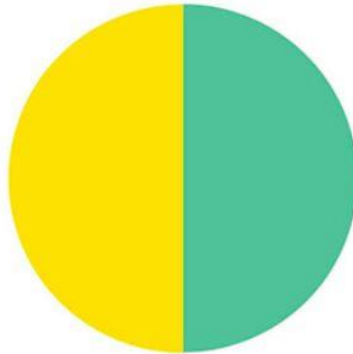
## THE APOCALYPSE

WHAT I EXPECTED



● ANARCHY  
● ZOMBIES

WHAT I GET



● HOME OFFICE  
● NO TOILET PAPER

There are 2 types of people in the world...



Got this big roll of toilet paper as a gag gift for Christmas. Whose laughing now!?

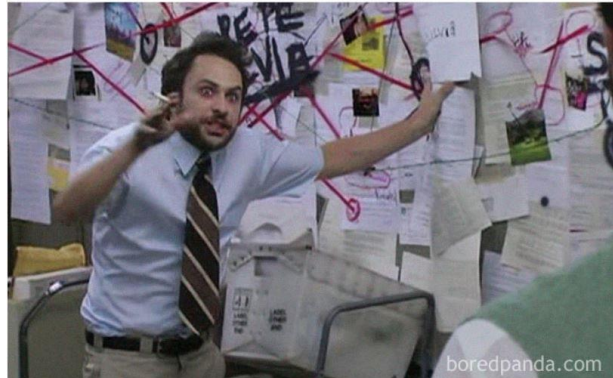


# Some Quarantine Humor

Corona beer changes their name to avoid association with the Coronavirus outbreak



Me explaining my grandchildren how a guy eating a bat soup in China led to toilet paper shortage



Me after washing my hands for 20 seconds 57 times in one day



Working from home

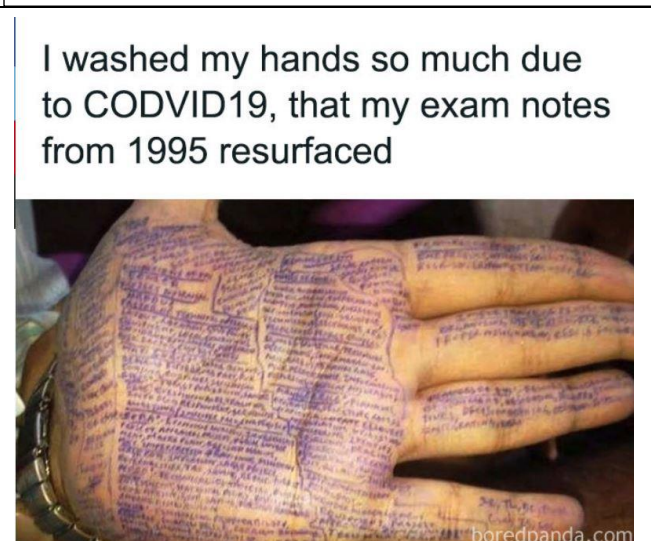
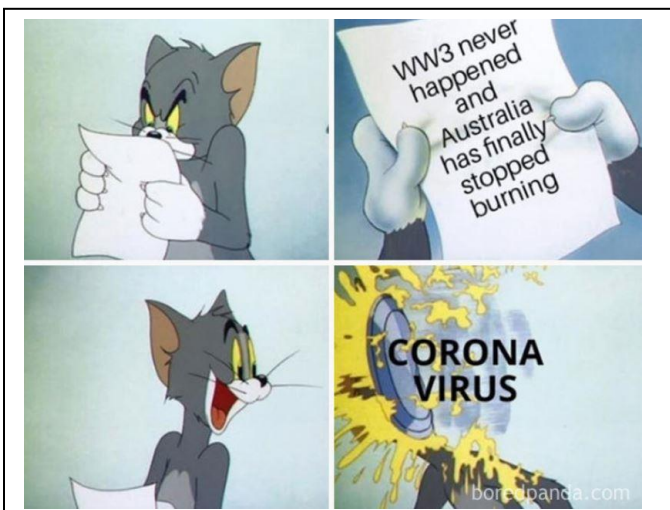
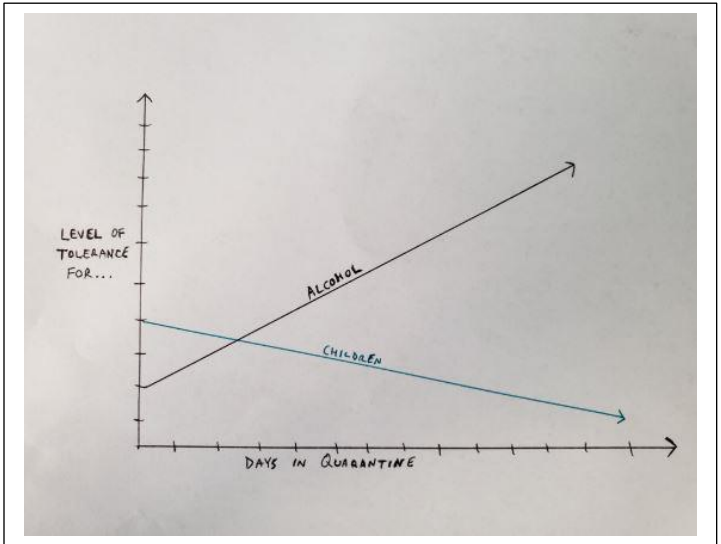
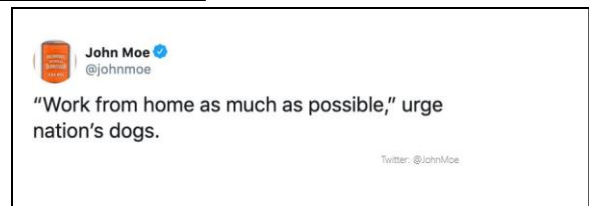


MAKE YOURSELF A QUARANTINI





# Some Quarantine Humor





## VBAC 2020 Fishing Roulette Spin Results

At the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, 36 participants were signed up for the 2020 Fishing Roulette. The VBAC Fishing Roulette is much like a calcutta (a side wager) paid by angler's club members to compete for a little cash. Five fish are selected by the spin of a wheel much like a roulette wheel. The heaviest fish of these five species will win \$144 each for 2020. It is only eligible for those who signed up and paid before wheel was spun at the March meeting. As of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, there are no current entries for these fish.



Yellow Perch



Bowfin



Flounder



Spadefish

**Good Luck Anglers!**



Tautog

Rules: Any fish caught from 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020 will qualify. Only the heaviest fish in each category will win. Must have entered by the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. You are required to submit your fish weight via the clubs standard Prize Fish form. Prize Fish/Roulette entries can be submitted in hand or by mail to the Virginia Beach Anglers Club Prize Fish Committee. Don't forget to provide photos of your catches to the newsletter. A table of the current leaders will be kept up to date and posted in each newsletter. For any questions or concerns regarding the Roulette or Prize Fish contest, please see Kelly Hoggard at one of the meetings.

Mail to: Virginia Beach Anglers Club  
%Prize Fish Contest  
P.O. Box 8602  
Virginia Beach, VA 23450

Email: [VBAnglersclub@gmail.com](mailto:VBAnglersclub@gmail.com)

## **2020 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>
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 – Bryan Watkins</b>
Club Tournaments:	<b>Chair – George Gabriel</b> <b>Co. Chair – Bob Burstein</b>
Pier Tournaments:	<b>Chair – Brian Watkins</b> <b>Co. Chair – Gary Doerhoff</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!**

# Chef's Corner: Grilled Whole Sheepshead Fish

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April 2020

*You'll want to give these tasty "Convicts" a "Get out Of Jail Free" card and dinner invitation once you've tried this incredible dish!*

As I fish more and more across North Carolina's Outer banks (OBX), I make a point of constantly exploring new places and opportunities. One of my 2019 objectives was to uncover new ways to enjoy great fishing across OBX independent of a boat, kayak, or off-road vehicle (ORV).

In this instance, I decided to take a trip down memory lane and do a little pier fishing at my neighborhood fishing pier in located in the heart of Rodanthe Village, NC.

Of all the fishing piers across OBX, the Rodanthe Pier appears the least likely to produce fish. But looks are deceiving!

This pier, like all Hatteras Island establishments, has suffered significant storm damage over the years. But there it sits - *a perfect place to take a proverbial long walk on a short pier* - yet it remains incredibly productive year-after-year and is a carefully-kept Sheepshead angler's honey hole!

The mild, succulent taste comes from the sweet sand fleas, coquina clams, and shrimp that make up the bulk of their diet along the sloping beaches of the Outer Banks.

The under-appreciated sheepshead fish is a deep-bodied, compressed marine fish with sharp dorsal spines. It commonly reaches 10 – 20 inches but can grow as large as 35 inches! It has a hard mouth and stubby teeth that bear a spooky resemblance to human teeth.

Sheepshead feed on clams, oysters, and other bivalves, as well as barnacles, fiddler crabs and a variety of other sweet crustaceans.

As one might expect, its diet contributes to the sweet, succulent flavor of the flesh when cooked.

Grilling, frying, steaming, baking, blackening, and poaching all work well for this richly flavored fish, and when properly iced and vacuum packed, it freezes very well for later use should you have more than you need for supper!

Its black and grey stripes and notorious reputation as a bait-stealer have aptly earned the nickname "Convict Fish," but I was able to capture a few for the cooler and hope you can too because the culinary reward is well worth the chase!



***Grilled Whole Sheepshead with Smoked Paprika and Mediterranean Spices!***



***July 2019: Author with a nice Rodanthe Convict Fish!***





***The Signature Teeth of a Sheepshead!***



***Step 1: Catch a Nice Mess of "Convict Fish!"***

## **Ingredients:**

Simple is best for this delicious fish! That's what makes this recipe so great!

Here's all you need:

- Five medium-sized Sheepshead (1.5-2.5 pounders), scaled, cleaned, and rinsed
- Olive oil spray
- Fresh lemon, halved
- Spices for the fish include sea salt, fresh ground black pepper, granulated garlic, oregano, and smoked paprika.

## **Directions:**

***Fire-up the coals and allow to get white-hot before grilling.***

I like to use a charcoal chimney to start the coals rather than lighter fluid, which can taint the smoke when grilling. I have also found that hardwood charcoal produces the best results and smoke. Just load the chimney with the hardwood charcoal and place balled-up newspaper underneath the chimney; light the newspaper, and in 10-15 minutes – voila! Dump the hot coals into the grill basin; spread evenly; and *patiently* let them get white-hot.

Spray or wipe a light coat of oil on the grill to season the cooking grid. This will help make the fish easier to flip.

***Preparing and grilling the cleaned Sheepshead.***

Cover two sheet pans with aluminum foil for ease of cleaning.

Place whole fish on covered pans and coat or spray each side of the fish with olive oil.

Dust with salt and pepper.

Flip the fish over and repeat.

The coals should be getting nice and hot by now!



***Building a Perfect Bed of Coals.***



***White-Hot Coals Ready to Go!***



***Preparing the Fish for Placement on the Grill using Olive Oil, Salt, and Pepper.***

Once the coals are white-hot, arrange the fish on the cooking grid and close the grill to control the heat and allow the smoke to billow inside as the fish cooks.

Allow to cook for 10-12 minutes.

Open the lid on the grill and baste the exposed side one more time to moisten the surface.

Dust with garlic, oregano, and smoked paprika (you can also add a little more salt and pepper to taste if needed).

Use a wide grilling spatula to carefully loosen each fish before flipping – try to keep the flavorful skin intact!

Flip each fish and either spray or baste with olive oil to revitalize the charred surface.



Dust with garlic, oregano, and smoked paprika (you can also add a little more salt and pepper to taste if needed).

Close the lid and adjust the vents to snuff any flames and get the desired smoke and heat.

Cook for an additional 8-12 minutes based on desired level of doneness.

Remove the lid and squeeze fresh lemon juice over each fish to moisten and deglaze before removing and serving.

The lemon will add that wonderful acidity so revered in Mediterranean dishes!

Carefully loosen each fish from the cooking grid before removing, taking care to preserve as much crispy, delicious skin as possible!



***Grilling Side One.***



***Baste, Season, and Flip!***



***Ready to Flip!***



***Grilled, Seasoned, and Charred to Perfection – Mmmmm-Mmmmm Good!***



***Remove each fish and serve – guaranteed to generate smiles all around the dinner table!***



***Wife Frances and neighbor Jeff ready to carry the fish upstairs for a Salvo Village feast OBX-style!***

Here are a few more notes on grilling Sheepshead and other fresh fish whole:

- The oil behind the head is buttery and releases a sweet flavor into the fish when grilled whole!
- I do not score the fish when grilling because I like to keep the oils and juices locked in vice letting them out! It takes a little longer, but your patience will be rewarded with moist, succulent flesh and a beautiful homogeneous glaze on each surface!
- It's okay to peak under the hood and spray a little oil on the fish as it cooks and to flare-up the fire provided the lid and vents are used to snuff the flames and create trap that beautiful smoke inside the grill!
- Don't wait too long for the first flip else the skin could char too much and the flesh could become too soft to flip perfectly intact.
- I sometimes squeeze a little lemon juice on the fish while its cooking to increase the glazing effect and create a little more smoke. The lemon moistens the surface and allows the smoke to really penetrate nicely!

***ENJOY!***

***Contributed by VBAC Angler John Germanos, aka "The Instinctive Chef" with an assist from our friends at the Rodanthe Pier in Hatteras, NC!***

# *Saltwater Fishing News*

## 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/>

### **READ FISHTALK ONLINE**

Rudow's FishTalk Magazine is a monthly magazine focused on fishing the Chesapeake Bay and Mid-Atlantic region. Read the current issue here online or browse through the archive of past issues below. If you can't find what you're looking for drop us a line [HERE](#)

### **CURRENT ISSUE**

GEAR | HOW TO | WHERE TO | TACTICAL ANGLER | FISHBOAT REVIEWS | FISHING REPORTS

## **Thank you, anglers, for picking up FishTalk!**

We hope you'll enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed making it, and more importantly, that it helps you catch more, bigger fish. We love to hear from you. Please send your fishing pics and reports anytime to [lenny@fishtalkmag.com](mailto:lenny@fishtalkmag.com)

<https://www.fishtalkmag.com/read-fishtalk-online>~ Lenny Rudow, Angler in Chief

Read the Latest Issue Online

## **See What's New in the 2020 Fishing Regulations**

**Click the link below.**

[https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/?utm\\_source=mailchimp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=header](https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_content=header)

# Saltwater Fishing News

## Salt Water Largest Fish 2020

Species	Angler	Date	Size	Where	Weight
Amberjack					
Black Drum					
Blackfin Tuna					
Blackbelly Rosefish					
Blueline Tilefish					
Bluefish					
Cobia					
Dolphin					
Flounder					
Golden Tilefish					
Grey Trout					
Houndfish					
King Mackerel					
Oyster Toad	Kelly Hoggard	29-Mar		CBBT	3lb 4oz
Pinfish					
Pompano					
Puffer Fish (smooth)	Kelly Hoggard	26-Mar	10"	Emerald Isle NC	
Puppy Drum					
Red Drum					
Roundhead	Kelly Hoggard	4-Mar	13"	Cape Hatteras	
Sea Bass					
Shark					
Spanish Mackerel					
Spadefish					
Speckled Trout					
Spot					
Swallowtail Bass					
Tautog	Kelly Hoggard	29-Mar	22"	CBBT	6lb 14oz
White Marlin					



# Saltwater Fishing News

Tog In The Fog 3/28 and 3/29

By Kelly Hoggard

The weather window turned out nicer than expected for the last weekend of March. I made plans to go toggin' with Robert and Mary aboard their boat. After loading up on some live blue crabs, we went out to the CBBT and set up with our wreck anchor.

The first day, one boat was on the fish heavy as we first pulled up. We set up about 100 foot away and were quickly rewarded with some nice togs. Mary had a fish in the boat before we had all our lined in the water. It was a beautiful fish that measured in at 19". Robert quickly followed with a solid 17" and myself a 17.5". There were numerous bites and misses along with hookups and lost fish. We were fishing half female blue crabs they are still small right now so it was the best size bait to use. The current was difficult to deal with as it turned quickly. We found ourselves headed home with 3 nice togs.

Day two started with really thick fog. At times, visibility was down to 50 yards. Mary did not join us on the second day. Robert and I got there earlier so we could set up on the full current change. We had two bites early, but failed to hook either. The current did not slow as early as expected. The bites were picking up in the deeper holes on the back side of the rocks. I landed behind the face of a rock and was instantly met with heavy bites. I made contact with a tog that did not enjoy being pulled out. He was fighting hard to get back down and was pulling drag on my full lever-drag setting. I had to tighten the tensioner to control this fish. Moments later, a 22" tog came to the surface with a beautiful blue line across the top and bottom of the fish. We immediately lost anchor and unfortunately never recovered. Bites were more scattered and we only boated one more fish. My tog weighed in at 6lb 14 oz. I was excited to meet my goal of catching a tog I can be proud of for the season. I also caught 4 oyster toads that each weighed between 2lb 7oz and 3lb 4oz. All full of eggs. They were brought home and filet and released. 3 tags were sent back. TB 448861 - TB 448863

Hopina to ao fishing again soon. It was a fun two days.



# Saltwater Fishing News

## March 4: "What a Day in Hatteras!" By Kelly Hoggard

As usual, the lack of an ORV can really hurt your fishing prospects by limiting the area you can cover and fish. But I am used to fishing in Virginia Beach which requires a mobile fishing setup. The day started slow. I stopped and walked down at Ramp 34 early in the morning to check out what the beach looked like since I hadn't been there since the Hatteras tournament in November. The beach looked quite different except the surf was fairly shallow, as it was in the tournament. I had not picked up bait yet so there wasn't much hope of a bite. I walked to a spot that gave me the opportunity to throw over the break at the bar. It was still very difficult to launch the baits far enough to be fishable. 8 ounces wasn't enough in the nasty rip between me and the bar. I did have one small bite in about an hour and a half of fishing at low tide. It gave me hope that there were schools of small roundhead nearby.

I continued down the road to the other tackle shops to get fresh bait. Shrimp was all I could find at. I drove down to the park and walk and Ramp 45. It's a bit of a walk if you've ever been there, but the area features good beach with some deeper cuts past the break. There is no bar in this area and the beach faces mostly south, and a little west. I was only able to fish 3 rods with the distance required to cast and fish. Waves here were pretty big as well. There was also a little grass that would occasionally catch the line and get caught in the rip. Fishing heated up as the 2:30 pm high tide came about. I caught three slot sized puppy drum on the front end of the high tide. The biggest measuring about 21". One of them didn't have a spot, which is just my luck, since I've always wanted to catch one with multiple spot patterns. With little luck, I decided it best to move back north.

ed to an area that looked promising. I was going to Ramp 38. A lot of times, it helps just to see the beach





# Saltwater Fishing News

## February 27: "Like A Kid In A Candy Store" By Kelly Hoggard

I was a little late getting motivated today with the cold front and strong winds. After doing some errands, I ran down to Wrightsville Beach to enjoy the last few minutes of the afternoon. The surf was very calm but the water is still a decent temperature here, about 53.5 degrees, though it felt warmer by touch. I was fishing with fresh shrimp again and the same rigs I did yesterday. I'm using everything from plain circle hooks to beads, floats, squids, and jigs.

I set up at about 5:15 this evening. Low tide was late in the afternoon. I noticed one small bite early on, but failed to hook it. By sunset, little was happening and I started to pack up. With two rods already put away, I started having many small bites. I missed the first six, but the seventh was a hookup! It was not a puffer bite so I was really excited. After a lengthy retrieval, I beached my first roundhead of 2020!

I had a double hookup on an even smaller pair of fish while caring for the first one. Three fish were caught on about 15 bites up through dark. All were released to be caught later. I threw about a half pound of fresh shrimp back hoping to provide some food for these hungry little guys. They seem to be pretty thick out there right now. I got my shoes and feet wet working on releasing these fish properly. Going to focus on getting warm again before dinner.



## February 28: "Bad Water"

It was a pretty disappointing day today in Kure Beach, North Carolina. The water here looked dirty or tanned, like it was a brackish mix. It seemed to stretch along the entire beach there. It was also cold with water temps at about 52 degrees. This area has been much colder than some of the northern waters. I ran my normal setup with very little luck. I had 2 bites in 4 hours in an area that looked very promising. The high tide gave me access to deep water past the bar. Only one stingray came along for the bite. It wasn't much to show for but I had a great time fishing in February. Not often you can get out fishing and catch fish on the same day. I'm hoping to enjoy the bounty of Hatteras Island soon. Water temps are getting close to 60 there. Shouldn't be long before the fish moving along the beaches there.





# *Surf Fishing News*

## **March 4: "What a Day in Hatteras!"**

I left the house a little after 4:30 this morning. I stopped in at many of the Hatteras Island regular tackle shops. None gave promise of anything but sharks at the point. There were almost no reports of anything else. I stopped at Frank's to check on the renovation. It's coming along nicely. Later, I picked up some fresh shrimp at red drum tackle along my route. This fresh shrimp was definitely the bait to have today. I wasn't able to find any other fresh bait on the island.

As usual, the lack of an ORV can really hurt your fishing prospects by limiting the area you can cover and fish. But I am used to fishing in Virginia Beach which requires a mobile fishing setup. The day started slow. I stopped and walked down at Ramp 34 early in the morning to check out what the beach looked like since I hadn't been there since the Hatteras tournament in November. The beach looked quite different except the surf was fairly shallow, as it was in the tournament. I had not picked up bait yet so there wasn't much hope of a bite. I walked to a spot that gave me the opportunity to throw over the break at the bar. It was still very difficult to launch the baits far enough to be fishable. 8 ounces wasn't enough in the nasty rip between me and the bar. I did have one small bite in about an hour and a half of fishing at low tide. It gave me hope that there were schools of small roundhead nearby.

I continued down the road to the other tackle shops to get fresh bait. Shrimp was all I could find at. I drove down to the park and walk and Ramp 45. It's a bit of a walk if you've ever been there, but the area features good beach with some deeper cuts past the break. There is no bar in this area and the beach faces mostly south, and a little west. I was only able to fish 3 rods with the distance required to cast and fish. Waves here were pretty big as well. There was also a little grass that would occasionally catch the line and get caught in the rip. Fishing heated up as the 2:30 pm high tide came about. I caught three slot sized puppy drum on the front end of the high tide. The biggest measuring about 21". One of them didn't have a spot, which is just my luck, since I've always wanted to catch one with multiple spot patterns. With little luck, I decided it best to move back north.

On the back end of the high tide, I went with my gut and traveled to an area that looked promising. I was going to fish at Ramp 34 again, but I decided to stop short and check on Ramp 38. A lot of times, it helps just to see the beach to get an idea of where the better holes might be. Immediately after walking over the ramp, I identified a huge difference in the beach there. The distant bar had been cut to an unusual shape. It had a big SE taper in it with a deep slough still visible between the beach and the bar (I've included a picture to show the side of the bar, a favorite area for myself to target). I knew that if I could find some clean water, the roundhead would be there. I moved down the beach a little way until I found a clear pocket of water and setup my gear. There was little action in the first thirty minutes. I decided to cast a little further and the roundhead (Sea Mullet) were thick. The area I set up in turned out to have a huge side moving rip along the tapered bar that opened to a deep hole. As the rip extended outwards, it lightens and swirls into the clearer water. This was an obvious sign for me that it would be a preferred feeding area. This is especially since the fish don't have as much energy in cold water to fight the current and wait for food where the current is less strong. In 2 short hours, I caught three dozen roundhead from 8" to 13". The majority of fish were in that 10-11.5" range. Lots of points if today was a surf fishing tournament. I hope I am able to save my luck for later in the year. I caught 5 fish in my last four casts and left the fish biting. I needed to get on the road to meet a tackle shop before they closed and make a purchase.

Every fish I've caught so far this year has been released. Including my last roundhead of the day which had some red braid tangled in his mouth and gills and had somehow become entangled in a circle. I proved that either nobody there knows how to fish, or the locals are keeping all the info secret.

Can't catch fish on the couch!

These  
Pictures  
From  
Kelly's  
March  
4  
Trip





# *Surf Fishing News*

## **February 25: "Learning Day" By Kelly Hoggard**

Stopped in to check out the scene around Moorhead City (Atlantic Beach). Water was a bit rough and it was moving towards low tide in the afternoon. I stopped at Chasin' Tails Bait and Tackle to get some local knowledge and stock up on bait. He told me of a spot nearby that was off the beach that had about 20-25' of water within casting range. I set up in this area on Radio Island. I only had an hour or so to fish before the clouds made it too dark. I ended up with no bites. I did find some unique water to fish in the future.

## **February 26: "No Complaints"**

Fished in Emerald Isle, North Carolina. Today featured thick fog as well as off and on rain showers. Found a good window in the afternoon on an incoming tide to cast a line, or five in this case. The water is about 55 degrees here so not much is running in the surf. I fished with some fresh shrimp I bought it at Chasin' Tails Outdoors Bait & Tackle. It was really good quality and I received a lot of info regarding local knowledge for when I come back to fish in the future.

I had only a few bites but took advantage of them. Fished a variety of rigs, but the only hooks that received bites today were hooks without any beads or teasers. The teasers this time of year are usually the go to fishing technique for me. Three puffers came home, all good size. They were measured at 8-10 inches. The slough here has good water and is about 6-10 feet deep so there's a few fish moving close enough to the beach to catch. Hoping for some better luck tomorrow somewhere in the vicinity of Wrightsville or Kure Beach.





# Surf Fishing News

## February 27: "Like A Kid In A Candy Store" By Kelly Hoggard

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I had a double hookup on an even smaller pair of fish while caring for the first one. Three fish were caught on about 15 bites up through dark. All were released to be caught later. I threw about a half pound of fresh shrimp back hoping to provide some food for these hungry little guys. They seem to be pretty thick out there right now. I got my shoes and feet wet working on releasing these fish properly. Going to focus on getting warm again before dinner.



## February 28: "Bad Water"

It was a pretty disappointing day today in Kure Beach, North Carolina. The water here looked dirty or tanned, like it was a brackish mix. It seemed to stretch along the entire beach there. It was also cold with water temps at about 52 degrees. This area has been much colder than some of the northern waters. I ran my normal setup with very little luck. I had 2 bites in 4 hours in an area that looked very promising. The high tide gave me access to deep water past the bar. Only one stingray came along for the bite. It wasn't much to show for but I had a great time fishing in February. Not often you can get out fishing and catch fish on the same day. I'm hoping to enjoy the bounty of Hatteras Island soon. Water temps are getting close to 60 there. Shouldn't be long before the fish moving along the beaches there.



# ***Freshwater Fishing News***

## Fresh Water Largest Fish 2020

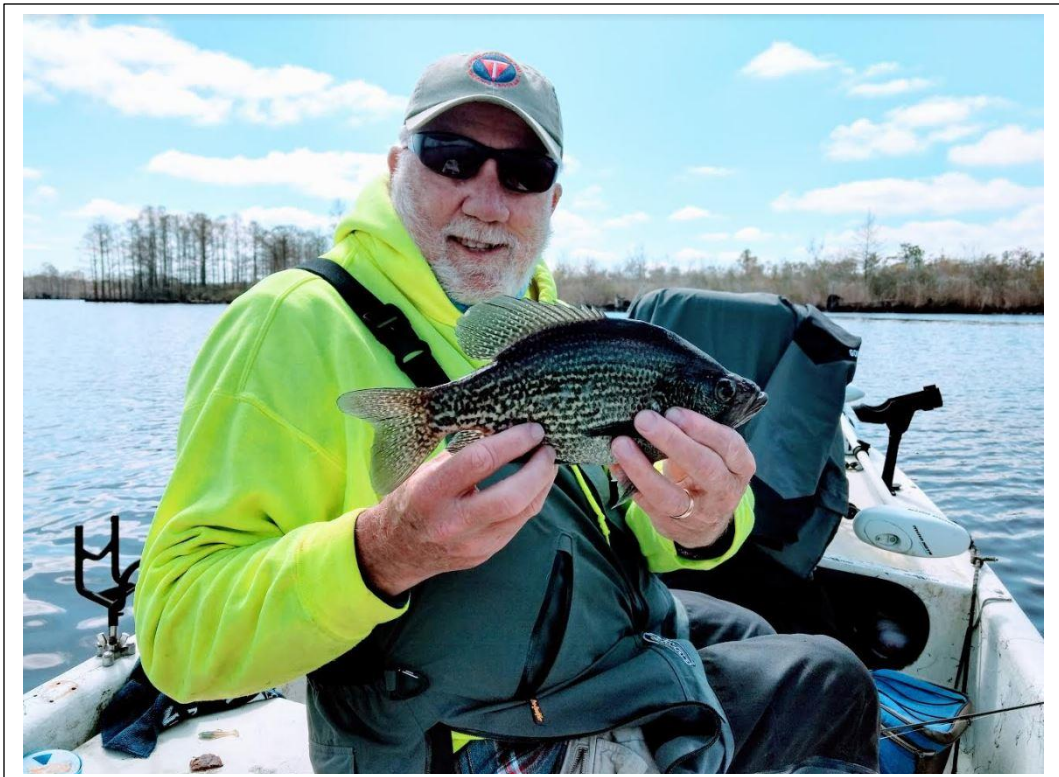
Species	Angler	Date	Size	Where	Weight
Blue Catfish	Ike Eisenhower	31-Jan	38"	NW River	
Bluegill	Melanie Bayford	20-Mar	9 1/2"	Piankitank	
Bowfin	Melanie Bayford	7-Jan	23"	Piankatank	
Carp	Alan Hunter	17-Mar	30"	Piankitank	
Chain Pickerel					
Crappie	Ike Eisenhower	24-Feb	14 1/2"	Lake Smith	
Largemouth Bass	Ike Eisenhower	4-Mar	22 1/2"	Lake Smith	
Longnose Gar					
Snake Head					
White Perch	Alan Hunter	20-Mar	10.375"	Piankitank	
Yellow Perch					

# *Freshwater Fishing News*

**By Ike Eisenhower**

Russell and I did get out a few times this week. We fished twice this week, once 3/24 on Lake Smith and again yesterday 3/26 on the Northwest River. On Lake Smith it was colder than the days before and just couldn't find any fish during the morning but did get a few. Russell had a 13" release club minimum black crappie but I forgot to take a picture of it before releasing it. We later caught several small bass and several small crappie, i.e. 10" but Russell's was the largest.

On 3/26 we headed for the Northwest River. The water was really low because of the NE winds that had been blowing for the last three days. The NW River has no current or tides but depth is determined by direction of the wind. We were looking for crappie and bowfins and yellow perch, the latter two being Virginia Beach Angler's Club Roulette fish for this year each paying out about \$145 for each of the largest of each species. We ended up with my catching a 12" club minimum crappie and several more 10inch fish. Russell got a 3.11lb bowfin and a 3lb blue catfish and a couple of crappie. We fished with shiners, mostly medium sized. Beautiful bluebird day with minimum wind.





# *Freshwater Fishing News*

Fishing Lake Smith with Russell 3.4.20

When crappie fishing with [Russell Willoughby](#) first half of the day on Lake Whitehurst and got skunked, so we moved to Lake Smith. Minimum winds out of the Southwest 65 to 68 degrees. Things for slow at first but Russell got 2 big crappie for 12inch club minimum releases. He let me throw there and I caught the biggest largemouth bass I've ever caught. 22.5 inch, 6.3 lb that was safely released after weighing, photos and measuring. It's a DGIF release prize fish. The third one I've hooked up on a crappie jig over the last month but the first two threw the hook when they went airborne. This one was hooked solid in the corner of it's mouth. Medium sized shiner was the bait.

Blessings,  
Dr. James W. Ike Eisenhower



# ***Freshwater Fishing News***

## **Relaxing at Lake Smith By Kelly Hoggard**

I went down to lake smith for a couple hours on the afternoon of March 10th. It was about 70 degrees with a little haze. I drown a few minnows with only one bite that didn't get caught. I did catch this nice little bass on my second cast with one of my spinner baits. It was up shallow along a tree line. The bass was about 12" and was released to enjoy the water more. Looking forward to the spring warm-up and going fishing more soon.







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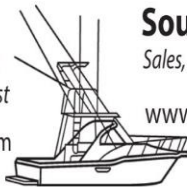
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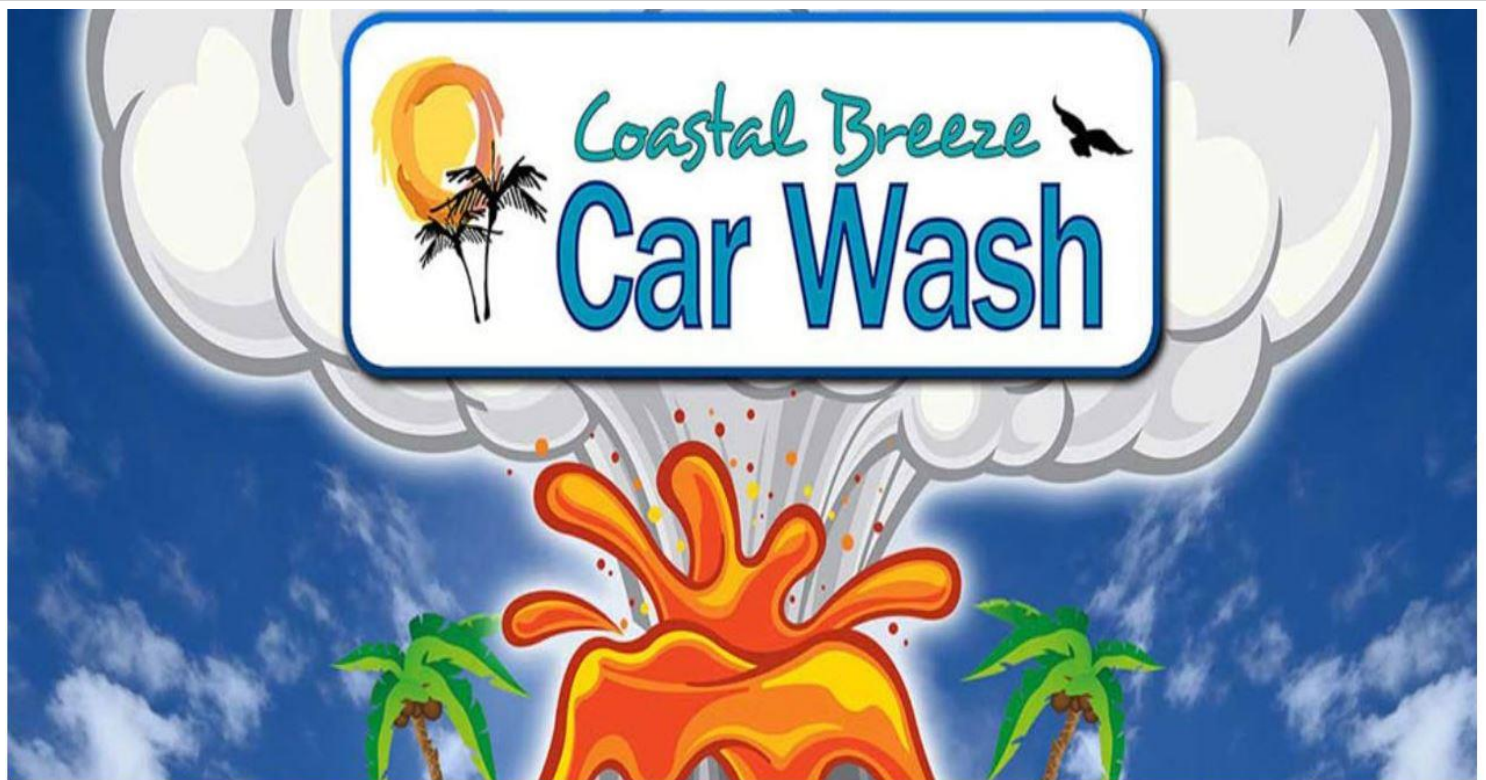
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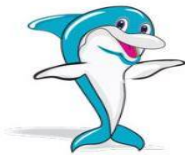


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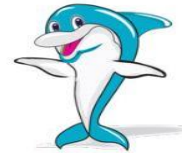
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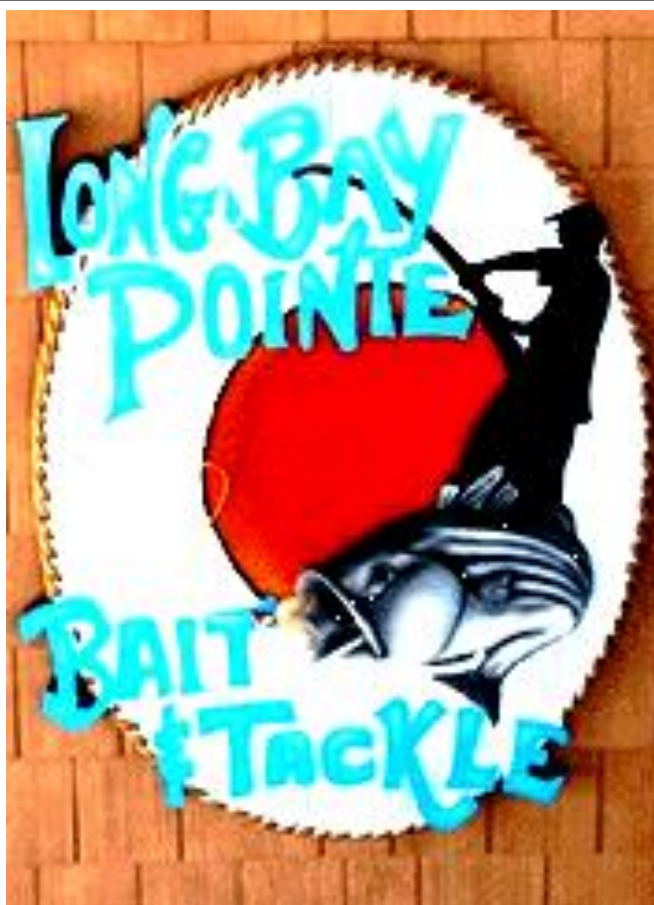


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The purpose of the VBAC is to encourage sport fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, while supporting prudent governmental and other policies that promote the preservation, conservation and ecology of all marine life.

## 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.

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