

Trolling for Spanish Mackerel



Tips, Tricks and Techniques

Presented by NNAC

Know Your Target Species



- Colorful Fish
- Lightning fast and aggressive feeders
- Swim in schools usually mixed in with bluefish
- Sharp Teeth
- Bleeders
- Tastes great fresh
- Generally, feed on small baits such as silversides, anchovies and similar small bait
- Generally, 3 – 7 lbs.
- 14" Minimum all 3 fisheries
- Limit 15 per person per day in all 3 fisheries

Targeting Methods

Trolling

- Most popular
- Troll Fast 6-8 MPH
 - Bluefish and Mackerel tend to school together
 - If you are only catching Bluefish, increase your troll speed

Casting

- Plugs, spoons or Jigs under birds or near rock piles
- Worked very fast

Chumming



Gear for Trolling

Baits

- Clarkspoons
 - Gold/Silver in size #00 - #4
- Drone Spoons
 - Assorted Colors in size #1 - #4
- Mackerel Dusters rigged with Drone spoon or Clarkspoon
- Surgical Tubes

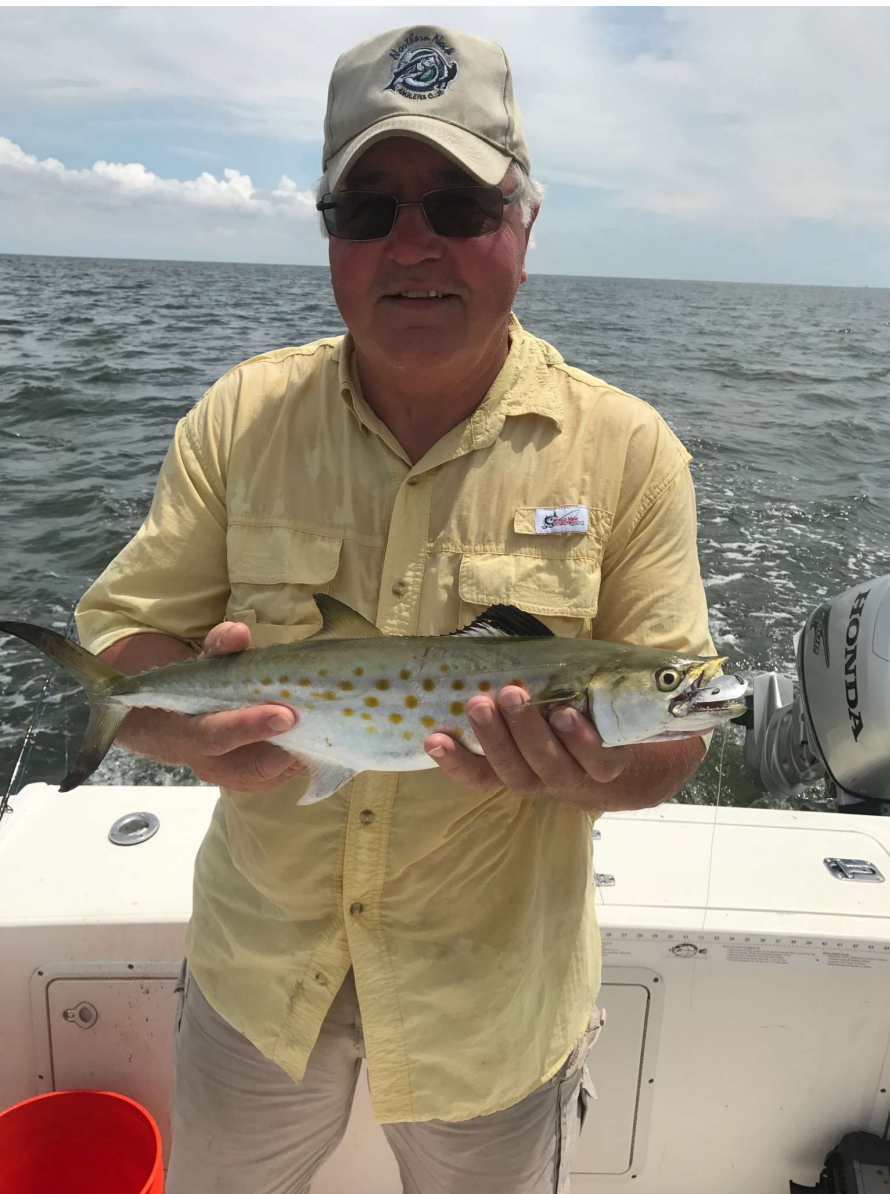
Conventional Rods

- Rod medium to heavy with a flexible tip
- Reel Conventional 30lb. Series w/30lb Braid

Additional Tackle

- Planer size #1 – 2 (#3 – 4 run deeper and require much heavier tackle)
- Trolling sinker can be used instead of planers
- Bird rig for the surface feeders
- 20-30lb leader 10'-20' long with a swivel in the middle to reduce line twist





Spread

5 rod setup

- (1) surface with bird (Calm conditions)
 - #00 - #0 Clarkspoon
- (2) #1 planer 80 - 100 feet back
 - Clarkspoon #1 (Stagger length to minimize tangle)
- (2) on #2 planer toward the end of prop wash
 - Clarkspoon #2 (Stagger length to minimize tangle)



Accessories

Peroxide

5-gallon bucket

Fishing Pliers

Fishing Gloves



Location

Specific Hotspots

- Northern Neck Reef
- Buoy 62
- Asphalt Pile
- Target ship
- 63A to SP Buoy
- Smith Point Light
- Channel Edges

Tips and Helpful References

Bleed the fish after you catch it

- Keeps fish fresh

- Cut the throat and let bleed in a bucket of salt water

- Put fish on ice shortly after bleeding

Youtube

- Search for “Fishing for Spanish Mackerel in the Chesapeake Bay”

Lenny Rudlow Fishtalk (fishtalkmag.com)

Seastriker [Manual](#) for Fishing using planers

