



HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter



Member Spotlight: Captain Carl Brown

What's inside this Issue:
Club News, Tournament Updates,
Fishing Reports, Boating Safety Tips
and more

COBIA CLASSIC

June 2021 Edition



Greetings NNAC Members,

As we finish up this month's newsletter, it reminds me of Christmas in July. However, to us, and I'm sure you will agree, Christmas in June is better and that means the opener of cobia in Chesapeake Bay. I certainly think a case could be made that Cobia has supplanted Rockfish as the undisputed king of the bay. That's not the way it used to be but it's the way it is now. We think there's more money spent currently targeting cobia in 2022 than there is chasing a depleted stripers/rockfish fishery in the Bay and its tributaries. I mean, you go south in the bay, and everybody has a tower on their boat now. And that's not a rockfish tower! It's for the new \$ king.....COBIA.



No that's not all bad. Cobia is a blast. Both with a rod and with a fork. Cobia can strip your reel's drag system, break your leader, break your main line, break your rods, and break your net. And if you put one on the deck and he still pretty green, he actually could break your shin. Make no mistake, they don't like coming on board and they don't mind telling you they are PO'd! One of my best investments has been a small aluminum T-ball bat from Wal-Mart. Make sure you add that to your tackle list when you head out after cobia. We make sure we dispatch a keeper sized cobia while he is in the net at the side of the boat before we ever try to bring him on board. Just make sure you know what 40 inches looks like in your net! Here's Tom practicing with his:

Member Spotlight

CAPTAIN CARL BROWN

Joined NNAC: 2022

Cover Story – I was raised in Riverdale MD & Vienna VA. Caught my first fish one month short my 5th birthday, a small catfish from a feeder creek called Indian Creek. I was "hooked." Fishing has been the one constant in my life. I have fished coast to coast, the Keys, reservoirs, rivers, impoundments, the Bay, the ocean, the Bahamas, and a lake on the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains in southern Morocco. I have owned various boats: a 12-foot john boat as a kid. Boston whaler, two Everglades, & currently a Robalo center console. I earned my merchant Marine Captains license (master of a 50-ton vessel) in 2009. I am a class A guide in VA & MD. While I am a licensed Captain I am not for hire. I prefer to take friends and club members. I am the past President of New Horizon Bass Anglers and remain active with them. But I much prefer the saltwater for the opportunity to catch something other than a 12"-18" bass. I went offshore 80 miles out of VA Beach from 2015-2020 for tuna, mahi, marlin etc. Also, near shore for cobia, big drum, croaker, white perch, & the inevitable sharks. I have enjoyed multiple careers. I have coached state & NCAA champions in track. I was a Marine Corps infantry officer & experienced combat in the middle east, a survived Beirut. I resigned my commission in 1985 (to be a dad) and became a Certified Financial planner & business owner. I was called back to active duty for Desert Storm. After 25 years of being a business owner I retired. After a year of retirement, I went back to work for the Navy. Then I was stationed at the Navy Yard for 10 years as a Program Manager for the Seabees. I live in Fairfax Station in Northern VA, have a wonderful supportive wife, (she says I need to get a bigger boat.) A son and daughter doing great in Richmond. My Robalo Cayman 24'6" bay boat is docked at Buzzard Point Marina. I usually fish two days a week all members of the club are welcome aboard.



Here's NNAC board member Mark Roy taking a much "needed" cobia lesson from his son, Master Cobia Angler Barrett Roy.



Club News

OK, back to the business at hand. Since it's world cobia month, we have a great schedule of speakers and info for you on Saturday night. The great thing about our club is that we have some excellent cobia fisherman. And I guarantee they will of already fished about four days prior to our meeting on Saturday (Wicomico Parish church, 7 PM, June 18, 2022. As a bonus, we will have 50 copies of Tom's "all you need to know about cobia fishing handbook" that he wrote a couple of years ago for us. The first 50 attendees will get a free copy. Autographed copies are negotiable. Tom prefers payment in Mich Ultra.

Currently, there are 102 members in the club and the budget is just over \$7650.

So don't miss out on Saturday night. If you don't come and you can't catch cobia, we can't help you further!!!!

Tournament Updates

Cobia season opened on June 15 in all 3 fishing jurisdictions. The NNAC Cobia Classic Tournament begins June 18. The target species include cobia and white perch. Minimum size for cobia is 40". For those of you who plan to cobia fish but have not applied for your free cobia license please do so. You can log into your saltwater journal and find it. Again, it's free but you do need one. There are a couple of reporting requirements that you need to be familiar with. The big thing is log at least one trip or say you did not fish at all. If they don't hear from you by October, you will **not** get a permit next year. That's how this works. They just want to make sure they get information about how many you caught, how many released, and how many days you fished.

Best of Species Contest Leaders

Speckled Trout: (1) Jan Jamrog

Puppy Drum: (1) Robin Cunningham

Striped Bass: (1) Earl Pierotti, (2) Erin Wild

Fishing Reports

Cobia: The cobia bite is **red hot** in Virginia waters of the bay. Several NNAC members fished on opening day and reported several keepers in the 40+ range and several released fish. Cut bunker seemed to be the bait of choice. There were also a few rays mixed in. The hot ticket was on flats or bars close to deep drop offs, ledges, or structure.



Puppy Drum & Specks: Speckled trout have also begun to show their spots. Several keepers have been caught over the past 2 weeks. Soft Plastics and MirrOlures were the baits of choice. Puppy Drum seem to be following the Trout arrival. Again, several are being caught in the same areas as the trout. Underwater vegetation is starting to get established in the creeks and rivers which is luring in the trout and puppy drum. Find the grass and you'll find the fish. NNAC Secretary Robin C. landed a 6 lb 7oz 25"+ puppy drum. The fish hit a MirrOlure. Robin leads the Puppy Drum category of the Best of Species Contest. Jan J. caught a pair of keeper Specks also on a MirrOlure.



Bluefish & Spanish Mackerel: Some bluefish are in the area. There are no reports of mackerel yet in the area.

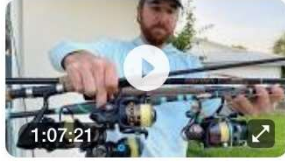
Tackle Box

I know what you're thinking. You tell yourself maybe other guys buy things they don't need but not me. I need everything I buy. Well, I have a garage full of mistakes. If something comes out and it's new and shiny and has a Trout on the package, that's for me. But take it from the Salt Strong boys. Run down this video on YouTube as it's worth a look. Plus it's funny. And true...



https://m.youtube.com · Salt Strong

Top 3 FISHING TACKLE MISTAKES (Most Saltwater Anglers Make) - YouTube



UPLOADED BY:
Salt Strong

POSTED:
Jan 14, 2021

In this video

10 key moments

Bay News (Good)

Here's a restaurant in the Matthews area on the middle peninsula that many of us know and love. Nice to get to see it designated as a "best of the bay" category restaurant. Located just over the mainland bridge on Gwynn's Island, Va., **Hole in the Wall Waterfront Grill** offers ample views from the bright dining room and two-sided waterfront deck. The casual-comfort menu complements the scenery with locally sourced seafood, fish baskets (grilled, fried or blackened), oysters aplenty, and a fun menu of cocktails and mocktails to make any day feel like a weekend. holeinthewallwaterfrontgrill.com

Bay News (Bad)

The winter crab dredge report is looked upon as a pretty good prediction as to future crab numbers. In the winter report this time is bad. It's an interesting read as it affects many predator fish besides the fact that crabs per bushel will be up over \$300 this summer and soon. But don't tell that to the crabs around my dock. They are fat dumb and happy and walk into my pots daily.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/video-new-blue-crab-limits-proposed-amid-dismal-winter-dredge-survey/>

BAY SEES SECOND MAJOR MARINA FIRE IN 3 DAYS

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/bay-sees-second-major-marina-fire-in-3-days/>

That's it for now, see you on Saturday night. We will have some giveaways, some guest speakers and a fantastic "Cobia 101" class. I know 101 sounds like an entry-level course but take it from us it's not. You can get your Cobia Techniques PhD after this one!

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



Fish on!!



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If you would like to contribute content or photos to be included in the newsletter or on the club website, please forward it to the club's email address at: fishNNAC@gmail.com and we would be more than happy to publish it.

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