

SPORT FISHING QUUE

Vol 45, Issue 8

August 2023

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King Tournament Director TBD Members Meeting at the NCSU University Club. August 15, 2023, 7 PM The August meeting will include election of RSWSC Officers.

The speaker will be Captain Victor Tucker speaking on bottom fishing.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Memberships run for twelve months, so they become due in different months for different people. The Treasurer will be sending invoices to renew membership using Square. You may pay using Square with a credit card or by mailing a check to the RSWSC PO Box, or by bringing your payment to the next meeting.

If you have questions, email RSWS-CTreasurer@gmail.com or call 919-353-6894.

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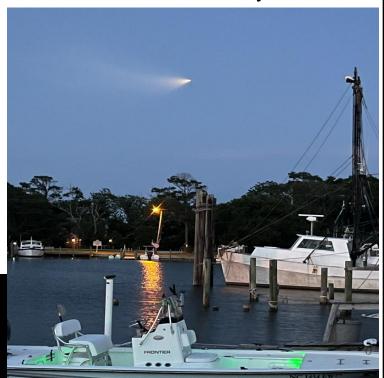
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Jeff Becker on Rocket Fishing

Picture from BHS .. rocket over the harbor.. second stage happened about 10 sec after this picture. Reports of Big Drum Neuse River... Thanks for all you do.



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SUN 7am-5pm



YOUTH FISH CARD REPORT

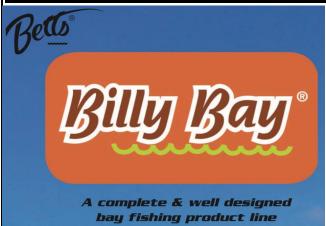
Angler: James Hodges (youth angler 11)

Date: 7/22/2023 Small Boat

Fish: Blackfin Tuna - 27 inches

Detail: Caught at the point of Oregon inlet





Does Anyone Speak Spanish Mackerel?

Apparently Capt. Greg Brissette and a crew comprised of Kevin Clemmer, Doug Rifenburg, and Nate Brissette do. The Emerald Mist boated the most qualifying fish to win our July Spanish Mackerel outing. Congratulations to Greg and his crew. Chris DiGiovanna (fishing with Capt. Trey Lowdermilk) earned bragging rights for the largest fish.

Delayed by a horrible forecast on our original date and stormed on with a good forecast, this outing was still a great example of what this club is about. There was the usual radio and phone chatter about who was catching fish and where they were biting. Sometimes accurate information was truly shared, but perhaps not always. More than information was shared, while on the water and at Sportsman's Wholesale afterwards. We learned a little more about each other and learned from each other. New friendships were formed, and existing friendships made stronger. There were also a lot of laughs on and off the water. Something else was shared that was a great example of what our club is all about. When we fish together we look out for the safety of everyone. One member heard an alert for a thunderstorm headed our way and warned all of us. We all got out of the worst of the

storm thanks to one captain. Thanks Bernie.

Special thanks to our president, Robert Carrol and his family for bringing a tent and cooker and having hamburgers and hotdogs ready for us after the fishing. Finally, I want to thank Sportsman's Wholesale for hosting our cookout and adding a discount for us.







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Capt. Bobby Brewer



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Tarpon Tour 2023 – Bernie McCants



"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming." John Steinbeck

Friends don't take friends tarpon fishing. Jim Kelley

Fished two local, invitational tarpon tournament with Jim and Kandice Kelley as well did some pre-fishing for the second.

Good news was there had been a body of fish for a couple of weeks in the lower Neuse and southern Pamlico sound. Bad news had been a body of in the lower Neuse and southern Pamlico sound that created challenges when the wind blows and the waves jump up.

For the Pungo Light Tourney, everyone headed to the sound but us. The forecast was 10-15 SW and gusty. We chose to fish several places in the Pungo. Saw no fish and pulled on the usually cownnose rays. As the day progressed, several of the boats joined us, I guess tied of getting tossed around in the sound. 4 fish hooked, 3 fished released by 3 teams all out in the sound.

Team made a decision to pre-fish the Pamlico County Championship Tourney. Great tourney with some of the best NC tarpon anglers.

Thursday, the weather was good and we fished the area the fish had been holding. Approximately 14 fish were released that day. We saw fish including several airborne attached to anglers within eyesight. We hooked none and did our usual battles with the cownosed rays. Had one fish roll behind the boat, reel drag starts screaming! Another %#&@ cownose.

Friday, the weatherman blew the forecast – no surprise here. 5-10 became 10-15+ and reach across the sound created some 2-4 close period sound waved. After about 5 hours of pulling on rays – there's a theme here – radar indicated a squall line headed our direction. We beat a hasty retreat back to Broad Creek and got to the down as the downpour began. The completely refurbished 80's 21-foot Privateer did great in the hard chop.

Captains' meeting was great as usual. Capt George Beckwith had talked Capt Rick Caton and Owel Lupton into joining the captains' meeting and it was had great to have the two who first started fishing and catching tarpon in the Pamlico. We even had a biologist who provided the teams with a fin sampling kit to aid in his tarpon research. Think everyone was stoked after Thursday fishing and looking at a reasonable weather forecast for Saturday.

Trey Loudermilk's Second place Dolphin and first place Spanish of the day Friday Carteret Community College Dolphin & Spanish Mackerel Tournament.





Little less than idea for spotting fish in the morning and most team chose the set up and fish after a hour of looking.'

The short version: No fish released. No fish hooked. And no fish seen rolling!!!! The only fish seen were on some Garmin Livescope sounders.

Pamlico Championship Series

Tarpon Tournament - Winners

2023 - No Tarpon Caught

2022 - Capt. Gene Wooster

2021 - Capt. Brynn Thomas

2020 - Capt. Brynn Thomas

2019 - Capt. Gene Wooster

2018 - No Tarpon Caught

2017 - Capt. Greg Voliva

2016 - No Tarpon Caught

2015 - Capt. Mitchell Blake

2014 - No Tarpon Caught

2013 - Capt. Travis Hardison

2012 - Capt. Brynn Thomas



Mark your calendar... Old Drum Outing

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16th or SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd (alternate).

Captains are encouraged to not only enjoy the adventure with their fishing buddies, but to also extend an invitation for others to join the crew. Please indicate your boat's name and how many additional fishermen, besides yourself, that you will be able to accommodate. If you have a full boat, please advise so that I do not put you down as having openings.

The plan is to launch from the cedar island boat ramp at: Location: 3619 Cedar Island Rd, 115 Driftwood Dr., Cedar Island, NC 28520

This is not a requirement. You may launch from any Neuse River Tributary (Pamlico Sound) including the Pamlico River. Kayak fisherman are eligible, you must declare your launch location.

The outing is set for Saturday, September 16th, but you may choose to prefish the area on Friday, the 15th...if you feel lucky. That will be up to the captain and his crew to coordinate. Only fish caught on Saturday will count for our "friendly" competition, 27" and larger are eligible for the competition.

The traveling trophy will be awarded during an upcoming club meeting to the boat catching and releasing the most "old drum" during competition hours. We are on the honor system. A catch means you were able to grab the leader defined as the required "Owen Lupton" style circle hook rig. You do not have to physically place the fish in the boat to count as a successful release.

Note that the time frame for fishing has been opened up from 5:00AM to 12 Midnight on the 16th to allow for daytime poppin' cork fishing as well as traditional nighttime cut bait fishing. Official VHF Channel is 10. Cell phone service in the area is spotty.

Fishermen will be expected to help with fuel and bait costs. You will coordinate those purchases directly with your crew. Trey Lowdermilk is the outing chairman. Please contact him with questions at 919-270-4120 or email at hllowder@hotmail.com.

Fish Card via the website from John Karsonovich.

Date: 6/26/2023 Caught on: Small Boat

Fish: Flounder

Size: 4-5lbs. 21 inches

Released: Yes

Details: Fishing w/ Fred ADAMS behind Bear Island using artificial shrimp with J. Price's bait enhancer,

shrimp scent, in 2-4 ft water. Picture sent to Bo





Drone Fishing: Not Allowed in North Carolina

Drones have become quite popular for all kinds of recreational and commercial uses in recent years, so it is reasonable for anglers to ask if they can use them for fishing.

The answer is a simple one: No.

North Carolina law (G.S. 14-401.24) makes it a class 1 misdemeanor to fish or hunt with an unmanned aircraft system (a drone).

Specifically defined in state law (G.S. 113-130), fishing includes all operations during, immediately preparatory and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill or otherwise harm any fisheries resource.

This means:

- It is illegal to use a drone as a spotter to look for bait or fish.
- It is illegal to use a drone to carry a baited line out into the water to help you cast.
- It is illegal to use a drone to corral fish closer to the boat where you are fishing.
- It is illegal to use a drone for fishing in any way.

To view the applicable state laws, visit https://www.ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes.

FISH CARD Report: Here's a little fish card/testimonial for you. I attended my first ever RSWSC meeting back in May when Brandon from Fathom spoke about Mahi lures. It was a great program and I felt like I learned a lot. The following week, I used the 25% off Fathom discount code to purchase some new tackle including the pre-rigged meatfish 6 pack and spreader bar. Finally made it out last week on 7/27 and put them to work. I usually fish out of Atlantic Beach (BFT inlet), but went out of New River Inlet this time with my buddy Steve Carlson (Raleigh native) who now lives on the water in Sneads Ferry. We headed S/SE to the Nashville wreck (about 45 miles) in 100-ish ft of water. We spent the day trolling around the greater Nashville/23 mile rock general area targeting mahi on the troll, and bottom fished a few spots in between looking for grouper. Grouper eluded us, but we picked up a few pink snappers, b-liners, and bunch of grunts. Threw back some big fat alberts (on the troll), a barracuda (also on the troll), and of course some obligatory amberiack and other misc. bottom critters. All mahi were caught on the new Fathom gear. The spreader bar was very effective, as was the "Mini Soft Heads" rigged with ballyhoo.

If you speak with Brandon from Fathom, please convey my thanks for coming to talk to RSWSC. Will Owens

New Striped Bass Stocking Effort Aims to Restore Population

Over 2 million Striped Bass have been released in the Roanoke River and Albemarle Sound

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) have partnered on a three-year stocking effort to aid in restoring Striped Bass populations in the Roanoke River and Albemarle Sound.

Restoration efforts began in May with the release of 1.5 million fry (2- to 4-days -old) into the Roanoke River at Jamesville. An additional 650,000 fingerlings (2 inches in length) were released in late June into Albemarle Sound near the town of Edenton. The Striped Bass are produced at NCWRC's Watha State Fish Hatchery in Pender County.

"The objective of the stocking effort is to supplement the natural recruitment that has been lacking over the last several years," said Chris Smith, a district fisheries biologist at NCWRC. "The intent is for these fish to ultimately contribute to the Roanoke River spawning population naturally when they reach age 3 and 4."

Due to overfishing and recent declines in natural spawning success on the Roanoke River, the Striped Bass population in Albemarle Sound has become depleted.

NCWRC and NCDMF share management of this migratory population and have developed a three-year stocking strategy to bolster the stock. The N.C. Marine & Estuary Foundation has provided \$10,000 in funding to each of the two state agencies to support this effort. The non-profit group is a coalition of North Carolina anglers, business leaders, and concerned citizens who provide resources to support the state's coast through funding research and educational projects.

"The N.C. Marine & Estuary Foundation is committed to building world-class fisheries and thriving coastal economies," said Chad Thomas, executive director of the non-profit foundation. "We are excited to help fund the Striped Bass hatchery production and the follow-up evaluation of stocking success using genetic marking techniques. After the fish are released into the sound, the next step is to find out if the stockings worked."

Throughout the summer, NCDMF staff have been sampling locations in Albemarle Sound as part of their annual assessment of juvenile Striped Bass abundance. A small sliver of fin is removed from each Striped Bass before release and stored in a vial. Biologists will compare the genetic material of each young Striped Bass with the genetic material from the adult Striped Bass that were used during hatchery production to determine its origin.

"The use of genetic markers allows us to determine conclusively whether the Striped Bass we capture in Albemarle Sound originated from the Watha State Fish Hatchery or if they were spawned naturally in the wild," said Charlton Godwin, biologist supervisor at NCDMF. "The technology can also be used to help us understand any differences in the contribution of hatchery fish between the three separate stocking years," Godwin added.

Adult hatchery contribution on the Roanoke River spawning grounds near Weldon will also be assessed by NCWRC, once these stocked fish reach maturity in three to four years.

The recreational and commercial harvest seasons for Striped Bass in the Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River have been significantly reduced over the last three years as the stock has declined. Stocking is intended to be part of the solution to help reverse this trend.

"A robust Striped Bass fishery is vital to our local economies spanning from the upper Roanoke River spawning grounds in Halifax and Northampton counties downstream through Martin and Washington counties, and then continuing across the entire Albemarle Sound region," Thomas remarked. "The N.C. Marine & Estuary Foundation views this initiative as a prime example of how we can collaborate with our state partners to improve depleted fisheries along our coast."

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Since 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities. ###

Division of Marine Fisheries releases annual Fishery Management Plan Review

How much blue crab was harvested commercially and recreationally last year? What's going on with striped bass in the two management areas? What did the division see in its sampling last year? These are all questions that are answered in the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' 2022 Fishery Management Plan Review, released today.

The annual Fishery Management Plan Review summarizes available information, such as long-term trends in catch, biological data and management, through 2022 for North Carolina state-managed species. It also provides links to information on federally-managed and interstate-managed species important to North Carolina. Read the full plan or individual species pages at https://deq.nc.gov/fishery-management-plans.

Highlights of this year's review for state managed species include:

Bay Scallop –After many years of low abundance, a limited bay scallop season was opened in specific regions in 2021 and 2022. Harvest was set to the lowest allowed level under Amendment 2 management. Spotted Seatrout – The Stock Assessment of Spotted Seatrout in Virginia and North Carolina Waters was completed in 2022. The stock assessment indicated the stock is not overfished, with spawning stock biomass well above target levels. However, overfishing is occurring, meaning too many fish are being removed annually to be sustainable. A formal review of the plan is currently underway and will address the overfishing status of the stock.

Striped Mullet – The Stock Assessment of Striped Mullet in North Carolina Waters was completed in 2022 and indicated the striped mullet stock in North Carolina was overfished with overfishing occurring. Based on the stock status, the DEQ Secretary determined it was in the interest of the long-term viability of the fishery to implement temporary management to address overfishing while the plan is under review. Supplement A to Amendment 2 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan was recently approved and requires regional season closures. In 2023, the striped mullet season will be closed in Coastal Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean from Nov. 7 – Dec. 31 in waters north of the Highway 58 Bridge and Nov. 10 – Dec. 31 in waters south. A formal review of the plan, currently underway, will fully address both the overfished and overfishing status of the stock.

Blue Crab – Blue crab landings have remained below average since 2020, prompting the Division to conduct a stock assessment update in 2023. The Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3, approved in February 2020, implemented management measures to address the overfished and overfishing status of the stock based on results from the peer-reviewed 2018 benchmark stock assessment. Amendment 3 includes adaptive management to address results of the stock assessment update.

Estuarine Striped Bass – The N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2, jointly developed with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, was approved in November 2022. Additionally, due to ongoing low juvenile recruitment, a stock assessment update was completed in 2022 for the Albemarle-Roanoke estuarine striped bass stock. The update indicated the stock decline has continued since the 2020 assessment, in large part due to the very limited juvenile recruitment. As a result, the stock remains overfished with overfishing occurring. Amendment 2 adaptive management measures prescribes that management changes be implemented to end overfishing and address the overfished status determined from the 2022 stock assessment update results.

Shrimp – The N.C. Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 was approved in February 2022. The Division continues to implement management focused on reducing bycatch of non-target species and minimizing ecosystem impacts.

Southern Flounder – The N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 was approved in May 2022. Amendment 3 provides comprehensive and robust management strategies to address the over-fished and overfishing status for the portion of the Southeast Southern Flounder stock that occurs in North Carolina. The Division implemented Amendment 3 management during the 2022 fishing season.

For more information, contact Lee Paramore at 252-473-5734.

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KING TIDES

King tides occur when the earth, the sun, and the moon are aligned. When the sun and the moon are aligned and moon closest to the earth, we get "king tides". The result is extreme high tides, and extreme low tides. This is because the gravitational pull is essentially "stretching" water on the earth. Seawater is then pulled in an upward manner causing higher tides in some areas and lower tides in others.

Knowledge can allow you to plan a trip to look for tailing red drum in spartina or avoid getting trapped fishing skinny water on a falling tide.

Nice article on tides from Carolina Sportsman:

2023 North Carolina King Tides Calendar

January 2023			February 2023							March 2023						April 2023											
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HOW TO SUBMIT AUTOMATED FISHING REPORTS

Dates, locations (general), tackle, bait and tips are greatly appreciated. You can easily utilize the new reporting tool on the Club's website. Fish Card: https://www.rswsc.org/fish-cards

Tripp made updates to the website for members to submit Fish Cards. The application for submitting information is through Google Forms and has been embedded into the website. When submitting a responses, members will have the ability to view other submissions.

"Google does require a Gmail account be used, if a picture was uploaded in the questionnaire. To make things easier, pictures will be emailed separately. We believe the ease of submitting responses and the ability to view all member results will outweigh having to submit a pictures separately."

You can also use the form on the following page if desired and not computer savvy.

Please send in your fishing reports, Fish Cards and photos to share with members in 2022. The newsletters are much better with fishing reports and photos.

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Website & Social Media Report—Tripp Adams

Newsletters and Communication:

All other communication is managed through our listserv. Keep an eye out for meeting, newsletter, outing, etc. related emails.

You will also be received the monthly Newsletter.

Be sure to check your spam! Your first few emails could get caught up there..

Lastly – The club website has past newsletters, our events calendar, and club forum. Some features require you to register as a site member. Follow the instructions below to sign up.

- 1) Visit https://www.rswsc.org/
- 2) In the top right corner, select 'Log in'
- 3) Select 'Sign Up'
- 4) Select a method for registering. Your options are Facebook, Google, or your personal Email
- 4B) Be sure to select, 'Join site community' for event updates and forum access.
- 5) If using your personal email, you will need to create a password

Club Website Improvements — from Tripp Adams:

With the help from Tom Zemonek and Janson Fant, the club has a new website. We launched the new RSWSC website in November of 2020.

Built on a different platform from the old site, the club site now has a more updated and professional look/ feel. You will notice many of the tabs from the original site are the similar, with only a few key differences. Users will experience much faster load times and, a webpage made to fit mobile devices.

One key addition to the new website is the 'Meetings and Outings' tab. https://www.rswsc.org/meetings-and-outings

As the outings calendar is planned and updated, events will be added to the page. We also plan to have virtual club meetings in 2021, which will have meeting information listed. As the club grows into the new site, there is functionality to manage event registration, and event specific communication. These are transitions from our current procedures and will be adopted over time.

The other new feature is the 'Forum' tab. https://rswsc.org/forum visitors to the website will have to make an account to access the information. The idea behind the forum is that, this will be a great way for members to interact with each other, especially during these quarantine times. Several message board topics have already been created in the forum; members can post pictures, experiences with guide services, baits/tactics, etc. This will also be a great way for members to meet other club member who have experience in their area of the coast.

As we continue to grow into the new website, you may notice changes along the way. While much of the site was built before it was published, there are always new features that can be added or adjusted. in the long term the site should be able to handle club communication for both emails and social media postings. Some of this will be a "learn as we go" process so, bear with us.

We are open to feedback on the new website. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions, suggestions, and/or recommendations. Email me at tripp.adams@field2base.com

Past Speakers List and contact information

Presenter	Website/Email	Topic	Phone
Rob Koraly	www.sandbarsafari.com	Bonita Fishing	252-725-4614
Capt Bryan Goodwin	www.nativeguide.net	Light tackle fishing	252 725-3961
Dave Anderson	www.collinsboating.com	Engine & Boat Maintenance	919 934-3143
Jerry Dilsaver	captjery@captjerry.com	Throwing Casting Nets	
Fuzzy Lambert	www.dunkilewisinc.com	Humming Bird Electronics	336 416-3733
Capt George Beckwith	www.downeastguideservice.com		252 671-3434
James Garner	www.otseg@aol.com	Boat Building w/Hi Tech Composites	
Robbie Hall	hallemincharters@yahoo.com	Fishing in Emerald Isle / Swansboro	252-354-6692
Capt Daniel Jarvas	www.flatfootcharters.com	Bonita Fishing in New River Inlet	828-308-6726
Capt. Gary Dubiel	www.specfever.com/blog	Large Drum on artificial bait	252-249-1520
Capt Dave Tilley	www.portal.ncdenr.org/web/ mf/home		910-456-0611
Seth Vernon	www.captainsethvernon.com	Double Haul Guide Service	910-233-4520
Gary Ballard	www.deepcreeklures.com www.captaingarysproducts.com	Deep Creek Lures & <i>Captain</i> Gary's Marine Care Products	(910) 892-1791
Capt. Richard Andrews	http://tarpamguide.com/	Tar-Pam Guide Service	(252) 945-9715
Seaview Pier	www.seaviewfishingpier.com		910-328-3172
Captain Greg Griffin	greg@greggofish.com	Greggofish Guide Service	919-434-4183
Captain Stewart Merritt	www.saltairventures.com/ contact	Salt Air Ventures	252-725-1725
Jody Gay	Bluewatercandylures.com	Blue Water Candy	910-270-3718
Capt Bobby Brewer	www.baldheadbobby.com	Baldheaded Bobby Guide Service	919-349-6112
Capt. Scooter Lilley	www.cwwcharters.com	CWW Inshore Charters	252-799-9536