



Raleigh Saltwater Sport Fishing Club

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November 2021

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NOVEMBER MEETING (LOCATION CHANGE FOR OUTDOOR SOCIAL EVENT)

Note from the President — Kevin Clemmer

Fellow Club members, here are several things you need to know:

1. The November meeting will be a social held at Gizmo Brew Works on 11/16. The address is 5907 Triangle Drive, Raleigh, NC. 27617. It starts at 6:30 and lasts until 8 PM. If you did not get the sign-up invite, please contact me to confirm your meal. Meals will be catered at a moderate price. We also hope to supply some fresh oysters if things work out. Note: This will be an OUTDOOR Covid safe gathering. So bring the wife and kids.
2. The Club's KMT was cancelled due to heavy winds. We are considering a new date around December 3rd weekend, We will need club volunteers to help with this event. Contact Jason Fant for details and watch our FB page.
3. There will be no Club meeting in December. Our normal banquet was still considered unsafe by the BOD. Annual fishing awards based on fishing report cards will be made at our January meeting.
4. We will have a booth at the 2022 Bass and Salt Water Show January 14-16 at the Fairgrounds. IF you would like to work the booth watch for a sign-up notice in early January. Booth workers get in free.

**Dues are due. Please pay at the meeting or mail it in.
Thank You!**

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2021 RSWSC CALENDAR

11/16 Members Meeting (Club Social @ Gizmo brewing)

11/23 Officers Meeting

KMT Tournament make up date
(Morehead city) December 3-5, 2021



If you have any topic you would like to see covered in 2022, Captains who would like to talk to the club, have a particularly type of salt water fishing or species you target and would like to share with the Club, etc., please contact one of the Board Members.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

RSWSF Club Meeting October 19, 2021

RSWSF Club Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by club president Kevin Clemmer at the University Club. Kevin promoted the raffle tickets for a chance to win a guided fishing trip with speaker Bald Head Bobby. He reviewed club's upcoming events and introduced our speaker.

Speaker: Capt. Bobby Brewer of Baldheaded Bobby Guide Service www.baldheadedbobby.com
P.O. Box 961 Oriental, NC
bobby@baldheadedbobby.com Phone: 919-349-6112

Topic: Fall Fishing for False Albacore & Spanish Mackerel near Cape Lookout & Morehead City

Capt. Bobby Brewer has a guide service and operates from Oriental, NC; (continued on next page)

he primarily fishes inshore and near shore on the Pamlico Sound and Morehead City area. He targets flounder, trout, stripers, tarpon, shad, and offers fishing trips to the Louisiana. Today is he will discuss his means and methods for Fall fishing for False Albacore, and Spanish Mackerel. These species come in the Fall and hang around Cape Lookout through early December; water temperatures will range in 50 degrees Fahrenheit before the False Albacore begin to depart. As the mullet, and menhaden bait make their way into the ocean they provide food for migratory run of False Albacore and Spanish. The Spanish Mackerel will leave sooner and typically can be fished up until Thanksgiving. False Albacore are fast and fun fish to catch; however, typically they are not known as good table fare. The Fall Spanish can grow large, recently Chasin' Tails, Atlantic Beach, NC weighed an 11-pound Spanish, the record is around 13-pounds. Bobby likes to *site cast* to False Albacore & Spanish and uses basically the same rod & reel setup as Old Drum fishing. (50# fluorocarbon leader for Old Drum, 30# for False Albacore)

Spinning Equipment:

Rod: Med/Light in lengths 7' to 7' 6" Heavy Rod "fast action", (Spanish only med/med heavy rod)

Line: 30# Braid with a #30 fluorocarbon leader for False Albacore

Reels: 4000 or 5000

Lures: Sting Silvers, Cast Masters, and shoreline lures such as New Penny plastics, Bobby tries to mimic what the fish are eating by looking at what falls out of the fish's mouth. Other lures include any "silver lure", such as: Clark spoons, gotcha lures, Johnson Spoons, all lures are at least $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 ounce this allows one to cast long distances into and ahead of the schools of fish as they move up and down through the water column. Bobby does use live bait he nets from behind a shrimp trawler, such as Menhaden, Atlantic Croakers, and Spots fished on a single hook. For the Fly Fisherman in the club, Bobby provided his setup below.

Fly Fishing Equipment:

Rod: 9- 10 weight rods

Line: float or intermediate line, if marking fish, he will use a sinking line

Flies: for Spanish he uses 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and cuts or trims flies with scissors to a length fish are biting

Where do you fish: Coming from Adams Creek into the Morehead City's turning basin, he fishes the "no wake zone", and Beaufort Inlet all the way to Cape Lookout. Shark Island's east side, back down towards the Oceanana Pier, and off Atlantic Beach water tower. All Artificial Reefs off Atlantic Beach are all good locations where one will find the Fall run of False Albacore and Spanish feeding on the moving inshore into the ocean bait. These fish may be seen tailing on the surface, or birds diving on the pods of bait where fish are likely feeding underneath the bait balls. Bobby shared his technique using a video of fishing behind a shrimp trawler where he cast lures, throwing it into the trawler wash, staying clear away from its nets. Once he's hooked-up, he lets the other fishing vessels know to go around him allowing him room to fight the fish.

On a North wind, Capt. Bobby uses another technique by fishing outside of the Cape Lookout hook on a “flushing tide” where bait moves out with the tide and attracts feeding Spanish & False Albacore. After the bite slacks, he will take the 30-minute boat ride back to Beaufort Inlet’s “flushing tide” where False Albacore and Spanish will congregate to consume the bait on the oceanside. From a low tide to high tide, Capt. Bobby uses the opposite technique. “Sandmen” or dirt fisherman can also apply these same methods when fishing from the shoreline at the Cape, and at Beaufort Inlet fishing the sandy beaches between Ft. Macon and the Coast Guard Station.

On the way in from fishing, Bobby looks for Red Fish. He keeps an Old Drum rod & reel rigged with a ½ oz bucktail & soft plastic and looks for a pumpkin patch of red fish in about 10’ of water outside the surf. These red fish will have left the Pamlico Sound and school up along the beach. Bobby is careful not to get caught in the surf; one needs to be a good boat operator!

Trout fishing: Fall Trout are moving into South River, bait is inside creek mouths, and fish are on the banks they will move into the creeks at deeper depths as the water cools. Trout will move on the creek banks as the temperatures warm up. Use top water lures when water is warmer water such as 77 degrees. Bobby uses Spook Jrs., cigar poppers and MirroOlures MR17 in chartreuse.

Club Business:

-November 5-7 **RSWSFC KMT 2021 club fund raiser will be November 5-7, 2021*, at the Big Rock weigh-in dock. Contact Jason Fant, KMT Director by email jfant@rswsc.org or text 919-802-2799. Fishing Teams shall have a choice to fish either Saturday or Sunday and weigh their two largest fish. Tournament details are posted to the club’s KMT website. <https://fishska.com/tournament/view?id=1100>

-November 16 Gizmo Brew Works & Tap Room (club social & Holiday party)

A Raffle for a 2 person, half day fishing trip with Capt. Bobby Brewer

25 Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win a ½ day fishing trip with Capt. Bobby Brewer “Baldhead Bobby Guide Service” Winner: Dustin Thamm

Next Meeting Tuesday, November 16, Gizmo Brew Works & Tap Room

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by:

Fred Adams, Jr.

Fred Adams, Jr., Secretary

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October Surf Fishing Competition Results

The October clubmember surf fishing competition left a lot to be desired. The only entry was Bernie McCants and his 21 inch bluefish. Congrats to Bernie! There were no entries in the Speckled Trout or Drum category. Bernie will receive a gift card from a local business that supports the RSWFC.

For information on how Bernie caught this fish, please see last month's newsletter. Great article!



PICTURES FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Speaker Capt. Baldheaded Bobby Brewer

Chuck Ward wins the Old Drum Event award



Cameron Wright "The Southern Surfcaster" rewards Dave Sneed with 1 of 2 of his books.



Winner of the guide trip with Captain Brewer



Fishing Reports

I believe I had the most exceptional catch of the year. In the space of 3 hours on a private boat on 10/26, I was able to land multiple species as follows: 2 red drum 1 flounder 1 monster spotted sea trout 1 star gazer 1 small sting ray 1 weakfish (barely legal) 1 slippery dick (not brought into the boat) 2 blue fish 1 sheephead (about 4 lb and tasty)

This is an amazing feat given all fish were boated in less than 10 feet of water. Respectfully, Wild Man Mandulak

If you have nothing better to do but make rigs, this might help. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KL8ej_8jMs



Hatteras Anglers Club Surf Tournament Report RSWSFC Team

The RSWSFC surf team composed of Jim Beetham, Fred Jelinek, Ray Carroll, his friend Mike Davis and John Bryant rented a house in Frisco and fun fished for three days prior to the Thursday, Nov. 4th tournament date. We used this time to scout the beaches for troughs and good fish holding surf.

Many of you who have fished the Hatteras “Point” in the past would be really surprised with the changes out there. Our “Point” has now been nicknamed the “Nub” since so much of the point has disappeared. It used to be a good ride on the beach going out to the point, but not anymore.

John Bryant went to the team registration area and drew a tag linked to a set of morning and afternoon stations. The whole registration process was drive-thru and managed professionally by cheerful volunteers. Our Thursday AM and PM stations were far apart. The morning station was buffeted by a Northeast wind and there was a fair amount of sweep to the water at our station. Mike Davis caught a 3-point Virginia Mullet and we felt good to “be on the board”. Unfortunately, those would be the only points scored. We went down south toward Frisco in the afternoon where the water was flat – protected by winds blowing from behind us. We should have scored a blue fish or two, but nobody got a bite.

That night, we were preparing to host the Bait Wasters for a cocktail gathering when we got a call from Bernie McCants. One of their team members had gotten hypothermic and their house members decided to watch their mate. That wind was fierce and multiple layers of protection are a necessity.



Friday morning had us going North again, to Ramp 34. It was high tide at our lines in 8:00 am start time. The station did not look promising which proved to be correct. We zeroed out that session and it was down to the wire for the afternoon session. Well, the afternoon session beach proved to be difficult due to a steep bank making it a challenge to navigate back and forth from the beach to our vehicles parked above. Of course, the fish did not co-operate again to add insult to injury, we finished the tournament with a mere 3 points.

That evening, we celebrated Jim Beetham’s 91st birthday with a cake and hearty wishes. He is quite the guy. Jim has been a finalist in the US Seniors archery competition and has competed for in archery tournaments for many years. He shoots in a specific category called No Notch, referring to requirement to not have a stationary arrow string notch. We also presented the “coveted bucket” award to the team member scoring the most points. The photo shows Fred Jelinek, on the left and Jim Beetham on the right of Mike Davis holding the “coveted bucket”.



We left the house Saturday morning and narrowly escaped a wash over event in Rodanthe. The DOT had cleared the sand that had washed over the road Friday night. We drove up to Nags Head with no issues (after being updated by Bernie). Thinking back, had our rental been from Sunday to Sunday, we would have been delayed by the heavy washovers Saturday night that closed Highway 12 until Tuesday.
— John Bryant

BaitWasters' 63rd Cape Hatteras Anglers' Team Tournament 2021

This marks the 28th year of Team BaitWasters. I fished the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club (CHAC) tournament on the RSWSFC Club team for ~ 6 years, loved the tournament, but never knew if I would be fishing on the team or who I would be fishing with so I put my name in for a team. In 1992, my name came up and formed the BaitWasters around 3 Club members not fishing the Club team and two guys I met on Hatteras Island when the Bonner Bridge was knocked out by a dredge.

Over the years, there have been a number of iterations of the BaitWasters with Club members joining the team. This year Club member or former Club members Bo Nowell, Dan Sitko, Kip Baker along with Eric Emerson and Dave Burnetz (subbing for Duke Emerson who, unfortunately, had to withdraw). Also staying with us were Kyle Garrison and Quiller.

First part of the week, the weather was reasonable. Fishing/catching was OK with a number of small stuff (black drum, pompano), what-would-have-been keeper flounder in September, sea mullet and a few puppy drum including two that were over slot. Some nice 16-18 inch bluefish were caught Wednesday by Dan and Bo over by Ramp 43.

On Wednesday, the weather freshened as a coastal low worked its way up the coast portending challenging conditions for the tournament on Thursday and Friday.

Tournament format is 120 six-person teams assigned to four designated ~ 100-yard sections of beach. Each team gets two section north of Cape Point and two section south of Cape Point. For this year, the north section would be challenging with a 20-25 mph wind blowing down the beach left to right. The south stations would have the same wind but at our back.

As expected, the first session was challenging to say the least. Nondescript beach with strong L to R current. Nothing for 2 ½ hours while we watched the team down current from in a nice "bowl" out of the brunt of the current bring in a puppy drum about every 20 minutes. L With about 30 minutes left in the 3-hour session, Bo pulls in a 4-point bluefish. (Points are by length once species is of legal size with 1 point per inch and 3 points per inch if over 20"). In the last 20 minutes, after Bo broke the ice, we scored an addition 5,6,9 and 10 point bluefish for a surprising 34 point first session.

For the second session, we had the 20-25 mph wind to our back, making fishing a bit easier but we got the 'bonus' of rain to go with the wind in the last hour. A 2- and 3-point bluefish were the only scoring fish, but we were in 17th place out of 120 teams, so not too bad, considering. The team to our south in the first session were in first place with over 160 points.

We started the third session to the south with the wind to our back. Slow again, but Dan Sitko had 4 2-point blues to go with an additional 2- and 3-point blues for 13 more points.

Fourth session was back in the grind on the North Beach with 25 mph north wind and strong current. Dan wound in a 1-point blue and things were looking bleak. With about 20 minutes left in the session, Dave hooked up and landed a pretty 24" puppy drum for a team total of 23 points.

The BaitWasters ended up with 84 points good enough for 15th place. Fish Hoggs from VA won with 70 fish and 355 points. Second went to South Jersey Surfcasters with 73 fish and 353 points. Third to Merchantville Club (NJ) with 30 fish and 216 points. As usual, location, location, location and making the most of the opportunity.

All in all, not bad, with all team members scoring fish, we scored in all sessions and we won 3 of 4 of our judges stations. Kyle and Brandon 'fun fished' in the nasty weather Thursday and Friday while we were tournament fishing and were rewarded with several nice bluefish and 3 slot puppy drum.

(continued on next page)

Never fished close to the RSWSFC team, but apparently they struggled with poor stations only scored a 3-point sea mullet.

Again, challenging weather with a quarter of the teams not scoring double digits. Fortunately, we and the Club team got off Hatteras Island Saturday before the coastal low arrived full force along with a King Tide causing loss of protective dunes and island flooding.

Didn't get a lot of pics but a shot of Dan's 18' flounder Dave's puppy drum and team pic of BaitWaster (missing Duke Emerson).



Dan Sitko with a release flounder



Dave Brunetz's nice 24 inch puppy drum scoring 24 points

Team Baitwasters plus subs (L to R) Dave, Kip, Dan, Bo, Eric, Bernie, Kyle and Brandon.



Always Good Fishing Tips from Dr. Bogus! “Letting baits sink slowly, acting as suspenders”

RICHARD EHRENKAUFER "Dr. Bogus Report" Nov 3, 2021 0

Some years ago, talking about some new baits at the time, Don Willis (Custom Marine Fabrication, New Bern) made this insightful observation, “Suspending baits have made mediocre and poor trout fishermen into experts!”

And he was right.

First, “suspending” is a bit of a misnomer, if you actually watch them, since they have nearly neutral buoyancy and thus sink slowly. Their sink rate depends on the temperature of the water and salinity, which both help determine the density of the water. So, one time that I measured the sink rate of the 17-MR MirrOlure, it took about 10 seconds to sink 6 feet, which is a good starting point estimate for the 17-MR, the most popular of these baits, which includes 14, 17, 27-MR, the 20 and 22 models and the larger Catch 2000 MirrOlure.

To use these baits most effectively, you throw them out and let them sink, add a few twitches, and during the pause and drop-down “sleep phase,” they are nailed by hungry, aggressive fish – spring, summer, fall – and these slow-moving baits are even deadly in the winter for even sluggishly cold fish. To retrieve, twitch to make the bait rise and then let it again slowly drop down...repeat. Working them fast defeats their seductive sinking of a sluggish or injured fish.

Some of the original suspending baits were designed and made by Paul Brown way back in 1974, the “corkies.” These were soft-plastic mimics of hard-plastic or wooden baits of the time, with cork in the interior to adjust the buoyancy to float or sink slowly, and were known as Gumbys with fins. Today, these baits are still available with some new twists, including “corkie” (i.e., Soft-Dine) versions of the popular 17-MR MirrOlures that are great imitations of small shad or peanut bunkers. Both the 17-MRs and the Soft-Dine baits remain upright on the bottom, and additionally the Soft-Dine baits rock seductively back and forth as they descend the water column.

Suspending baits are one way to attack the middle depths between top and bottom of the water column, but lightly weighted (1/16-, 1/8-ounce lead heads) or unweighted flavored and/or soft plastics baits are another approach. There is, however, some finesse when fishing these baits as well.

These and other soft plastics are also excellent producers fished on the ultimate of suspending baits, the cork, where you have total control of the depth and movement of the bait. If you fish these often, you will quickly notice again that most of the hits occur in the settling and drop-down phase, when “nothing” is seemingly happening.

So, fish both the corked and uncorked baits slowly and only twitch the baits from time to time. Cast, let the current or wind drift the bait when possible, occasionally twitching the bait. Again, in the sleep phase is when you should expect the hit, bite or bump, so be ready or you may miss the fish. And by the way, these suspending baits, corked or not, especially in cold water, are best fished with a non-stretch braided or low-stretch fishing line with a fluorocarbon leader. The fall trout are here, so good fishing with the suspenders!

So, I mentioned that the fall trout run is here, not only in the backwaters, but now as the surf water temperatures breached 70 degrees, we now have specks in the surf and from the ocean fishing piers...finally!

A week ago, we had a limited run of specks from Bogue Inlet Pier but nothing in the surf. Now on Oct. 25, the fish showed up in good numbers from both the pier and on the beach surf just east of Bogue Inlet Pier.

I saw fish landed that morning. MirrOlures and soft plastics, including the old school Christmas tree green grub and red lead-head combo, were catching fish to 2.5 pounds. I guess it’s time to get my chest waders out of the closet and check for leaks! Just in case, I’ll check for leaks too!

This time of year is my favorite for fishing. Fish are hungry, and the variety is awesome. Backwaters are yielding red and black drum, speckled trout, sheepshead and, of course, flounder. As you proceed to areas around the “B” inlets – Bogue, Beaufort, Bardens, Browns – including the Morehead City Port at the port walls, bridges and the train trestle, along Shackleford Banks and out to Cape Lookout, be ready to add gray trout, blues,

and Spanish until the water drops a couple more degrees. False albacore and even blackfin tuna are being caught within a mile of the beach. The appearance of the blackfin tuna in both spring and fall has become more reliable over the past few years. So, if you get a break, while fishing Spanish or albies...think blackfin tuna as a possibility.

Bottom fishing is also perking up off the piers, in the surf and around inlets with the fall run of sea mullet, croakers, puffers, black drum and pompano. As the water continues to cool, the pompano will be gone in short order. Interestingly, the availability of sand fleas this fall has been unpredictable. One day they are thick around Bogue Inlet Pier, the next, who knows where they went! In the Bogue Banks surf, we are finally seeing some of both red and black drums along the beach. The red drum fishing is going full-fall on Ocracoke and Portsmouth islands, and finally we're seeing some here on Bogue Banks too, with occasional citation fish to 43 pounds, and slots as well.

It's about time.

This past week, I did some fishing in the local Highway 24 creeks with no success, but with specks now in the surf, they should be in the creeks soon, as well as Trout Creek, Three Fingers and Banks Channel here in Emerald Isle in the shadow of the Emerald Isle bridge.

So how about the spots? Have you seen spot yachts around the Emerald Isle bridge? Not me. On the other hand, a week ago, there was a great spot run at Bogue Inlet Pier at night, with unfortunately several anglers taking "multiple limits." Hmmm, don't do it! There are some around with good catches being reported at night on several of the Topsail Island piers, but not much here along the usual fall hot spots, the Emerald Isle and Swansboro Intracoastal Waterway channels. We got yellow butterflies, so where are the spots? Don't they know?

I mentioned sheepshead. Remember, sheepshead are on their way out for the winter and feed heavily around the jetties and ocean piers. It's a great time of year to stock up on this great-tasting fish. For information on sheepshead and their migratory patterns, check out this article on current sheepshead tagging studies: <https://coastalreview.org/2021/10/tagging-study-yields-new-understanding-of-sheepshead/>.

Offshore was pretty bumpy last week with the powerful coastal storms. We didn't get much rain, but it was very windy with gale-force warnings to boot, and the surf was in washing machine mode. And how did I miss Tropical Storm Wanda? We finished up the main list of tropical storm names, so if the need comes, here are the supplemental names: Adria, Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn, Emery, Foster, Gemma...

BOGUS NOTES:

1) Check me out at www.Facebook.com/Dr.Bogus.) Log onto my web site at www.ncoif.com.

2) "Ask Dr. Bogus" is on the radio every Monday at 7:30 a.m. WTKF 107.1 FM and 1240 AM. The show is also replayed on Sunday morning at 6 a.m. Callers may reach me at 800-818-2255.

3) I'm located at 118 Conch Ct. in Sea Dunes, just off Coast Guard Road, Emerald Isle, NC 28594. The mailing address is P.O. Box 5225, Emerald Isle, NC 28594.

Don't forget a gift certificate for your favorite angler for fishing lessons or my totally Bogus Fishing Report subscription.

Please stop by at any time and say "Hi" or call 252-354-4905.

SPECKLED TROUT FISHING SUCCESS!!

Club President and Club Member-at-Large Greg Brissette went trout fishing with Capt. Dale Collins out of Swansboro this past Monday. Braving chilly air temps, water temps in the low fifties and King Tides we were able to limit out on some fat 18-21 inch Specks. Because of the gale force winds and King Tides that we had prior to our trip the water was a little muddy and the fish were a little lethargic at first. Once the proper technique was dialed in we were able to catch some nice fish, and a good time was had by all.

Highly recommend Capt. Dale for inshore fishing.
Submitted by Greg Brissette



CCA UPDATE: CALL TO ACTION

The NC Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) will meet next week at the Islander Hotel in Emerald Isle beginning Wednesday night with a public comment period. The MFC is scheduled to Vote to approve draft Amendment 3 to the Southern Flounder FMP for review by the public and advisory committees and Vote to select preferred management options and send the draft plan to the Department of Environmental Quality for review. The public is encouraged to provide comments either in person or by submitting written or online comments. You can find the link for more information on attending or submitting comments here: [Marine Fisheries Commission Meetings | NC DEQ](#)

CCA NC has prepared the following positions for guidance on these important plans ahead of the meeting next week:

“The Division of Marine Fisheries is dedicated to ensuring sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina.” With that mission statement in mind, the goal of all fisheries management plans should be to restore, rebuild, and create a sustainable fishery for all citizens of North Carolina, including our children and grandchildren. Historic fisheries' management in NC has ignored conservation in favor of maximum exploitation, and we are paying the price for it now with numerous finfish and shellfish species listed as overfished with overfishing occurring. State fisheries managers have failed to properly identify and delineate nursery areas and have allowed the overcapitalization of our coastal resources through the use of highly effective, yet destructive and wasteful gear. This has led to decades of habitat destruction, bycatch waste, and overfishing of many important species managed by the state.

Southern Flounder Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 3

CCA NC supports the division recommendation for the phasing out of large mesh gill nets when the current Incidental Take Permit (ITP) expires in 2023. Efforts to rebuild a severely depleted stock will result in dramatically reduced quotas, overage paybacks, and short harvest seasons for both user groups. Faced with at least a decade of these restrictions, any commercially harvested southern flounder can (and should) be taken by gears that are cleaner and more sustainable, those being pound nets and gigs.

Prior to the proliferation of the use of cheap, monofilament gill nets, the pound net fishery was the dominant source of harvest and can easily capture the proposed total allowable catch of southern flounder. Despite the warnings of many, pound nets have been allowed to increase as the southern flounder harvest has dramatically decreased.

The phase out of the use of large mesh gill nets would eliminate the need for the sea turtle and sturgeon ITPs and with it the expense of observers and the headaches associated with non-compliance. Commissioners have to be questioning why the DMF is even considering a renewal application for a permit to allow endangered sea turtles to be killed in large mesh gill nets when the gear is no longer needed to harvest the allowable commercial harvest limit? Moreover, the removal of large mesh gill nets would minimize dead discards of important species such as red drum, black drum, and sheepshead. With the severity of the restrictions that lie ahead, DMF should not allow any new pound nets until the stock has sufficiently recovered. Once recovered, a limited entry system should be employed when issuing any new pound net permits with priority given to displaced gill netters.

Any thought of a recreational ONLY hook and line slot limit on flounder should be immediately rejected as arbitrary and capricious. If a slot limit is applied, it should be applied equally to both user groups.

CCA NC fully supports the removal of the RCGL flounder fishery.

Unfortunately, recreational anglers throughout the state are facing a quota with a likely one fish per day creel limit in a fall season during a window from August 16 – September 30. To “increase recreational access”, the DMF is proposing a spring season from March 1 – April 15 where one ocellated (gulf or sum-

mer) flounder may be harvested. This is a poor choice for a number of reasons, the most important of which is angler safety as the weather during this time of year is very unsettled and not conducive to fishing in the ocean. Also, Southern flounder are migrating from the ocean back into the rivers and sounds in the spring, so waiting until later in the year should minimize interactions with these migrating fish.

Since North Carolina manages all three of its flounder species under a single FMP, recreational access to the ocean flounder fishery will be unfairly curtailed. During the last two decades a recreational fishery has evolved in North Carolina for flounder on nearshore wrecks and reefs in the EEZ (federal waters). This is a fishery almost completely dominated by gulf and summer flounder. In this fishery, catches of Southern flounder are almost non-existent during the spring and summer seasons. In addition, it is a very clean fishery with no discards reported in 2019-2020 from this sector. For these and other reasons, recreational access to this fishery should continue AT LEAST in a season from late spring through fall. According to the latest DMF economic impact figures, recreational flounder fishing alone provides \$240 million to the state's economy. Increased recreational access to summer and gulf flounder will help mitigate potentially substantial losses to the economy of Eastern NC as a result of continued Southern flounder seasonal closures.

In addition, because of how dead discards are estimated, the recreational Southern flounder season could be shortened or closed based on discard estimates alone. This is another reason why increased ocean access to the other flounder species is so important.

If anglers need to be educated on how to identify each of the flounder species, that is an easy task for Division staff, as education is one of their central tenets. Mobile recording apps currently under development can only help in real-time data collection, and CCA NC fully supports their use.

If there are compliance issues with a federal quota for additional recreational harvest of summer and gulf flounder, the MFC and DMF should work to resolve them to prevent the recreational angling community from being shut out of this ocean fishery.

Establishing conservation equivalencies are supported by CCA.

Commercial discards of southern flounder throughout the industry need to be accounted for comprehensively. Discards from trawling, pots, dredging, and other such wasteful gear must be more thoroughly investigated; most importantly, discards must be accounted for in future modeling and stock assessments.

In the terminal year of 2017, there were 713 participants that reported trips and landings in the Southern flounder gill net fishery, yet there were 2672 estuarine gill net permits issued, which is roughly 60% of all Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses (SCFLs). The Division must account for SCFLs that report no landings in each FMP and report its findings.

Shrimp FMP Amendment 2

The data from DMF found in the proposed Shrimp FMP Amendment 2 speaks for itself. P195 trawl data from June and September CLEARLY shows that the ENTIRE Pamlico Sound functions as a nursery area for important species that are in severe decline. Juvenile spot, Atlantic croaker, weakfish, Southern and summer flounder, as well as others, depend on nursery areas in the Pamlico Sound to grow to maturity. Constant shrimp trawling through these important habitats is preventing the recovery of these species.

Moreover, the discussion and role of spot, croaker, weakfish and shrimp as a forage base for predators is largely ignored. Forage are a part of habitat, and most management agencies are addressing this. These species must be designated forage fish and protected.

In the text of Amendment 2, DMF staff recognizes that status quo management will not meet the goals of amendment 2. DMF staff also state that closing the sound to trawling is the only way to guarantee the necessary reduction in bycatch and protect the habitat each of these juvenile finfish.

(Continued on page 15)

With that in mind, CCA NC recommends that the Pamlico Sound be closed to trawling.

The current divisional recommendation for closing all rivers to trawling is an important first step that CCA NC fully endorses. Likewise, the conversion of all Special Secondary Nursery Area (SSNA) designations to that of Secondary Nursery Area (SNA), and the associated trawling closure in them, is also a positive step that CCA NC again, fully endorses.

However, these closures do not go far enough to protect key juvenile finfish nursery areas, and other options should be considered by the MFC. Short of the MFC adapting this optimum management option (closure), the next best choices are those highlighted in several issue papers that accompany Amendment 2. They include: closing the northern and western half of Pamlico Sound, along with all of the rivers.

All of the day restrictions, headrope reductions, decreasing tow times, etc...are effective management measures. They should also be incorporated into this management plan.

To more accurately quantify bycatch, an observer program for the shrimp industry should be initiated. These observers should be: independent (potentially out of state), neutral, randomly assigned, and required with no "outs" by vessel captains. Observers should be industry-funded. A phase out of large mesh gill nets under the Southern flounder FMP would allow funding that is already in place from the SCFL to be redirected to a shrimp trawl observer program.

CHPP – Bottom Disturbing Gear

CCA NC was disappointed with the decision by the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) Steering Committee to pass the buck on the impacts of bottom disturbing gear on water quality. Their lack of a decision requires that the MFC take a stand on this issue.

Gears such as shrimp and crab trawls, along with oyster dredges and clam kickers, all re-suspend sediments laced with pollutants, such as heavy metals, from areas upriver that have been secured in soft bottom areas by various filter feeders and scavengers that live in this habitat. Such activity reduces water clarity, which, in turn, damages areas of subaquatic vegetation (SAV). Re-suspended sediments can settle on shell beds, choking out what little remaining oyster reefs we have. Re-releasing toxins in our sounds can only harm the multitude of "critters" that live in these areas.

Commercial fishermen and DMF staff often state that the damage done to these areas of soft bottom is temporary and minimal. Yet satellite imaging shows numerous regions where deep scarring and channelization have occurred in areas where bottom disturbing gears are allowed.

Running these gears over areas of soft bottom also strips them of the typical diverse benthic communities full of juvenile fish, crabs, sponges, barnacles, and more. Leaving behind nothing but the dead bycatch that was shoveled overboard and some bristleworms to feast on the buffet raining down on a once fertile bottom.

Please submit your own online comments in support of conservation of our coastal marine resources here: NC Marine Fisheries Commission Comment Form | NC DEQ The deadline for comments submitted by this method is 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15.

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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



LEFT CHEST: 3.5"W x 1.5"H
 BACK: 12"W x 10.6"H
 RIGHT SLEEVE: 14"W X 2"H

Raleigh Saltwater

Raleigh Saltwater

Raleigh Saltwater



You Fish...
We'll Make You Better!

RSWSC T-Shirts

The price for short sleeve t-shirts is \$20 each See next page for pictures. The price for the long sleeve Performance T-shirts is \$35 We paid from \$15.65 to \$19.75 for the short sleeve shirts (smaller shirts cost less while larger shirts cost us more}. Performance long sleeves were also more expensive at \$28/ We also paid a tax and processing fee of \$200. So this is almost break even pricing.

If you want to purchase, please reach out to Ron Reijerkerk reijerke@gmail.com 919-846-088

See also next page for short sleeve t-shirts.

Front 4"w x 1.7"h



Back 12"w x 10.5"h



Front 4"w x 1.7"h



Back 12"w x 10.5"h



RSWSC FISHING REPORT CARD

Angler (Club Member): _____

(Age if Junior/Youth angler) _____

Small Boat

Charter

Pier

Surf (Circle one)

Location: _____ Date: _____

Best Catch: Species: _____

Weight _____ lbs. _____ oz _____ Length _____ (inches)

Released? Yes No (Circle one)

Comments: _____

Drop card off at meeting or

Email your report to: Bernie.mccants@gmail.com or Bonowell@aol.com

Also submit information in a fishing report for the Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewals — Please only enter changed information

Name: _____ New member
Include spouse's/children name if family membership Renewal

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell _____

E-mail address: _____ Boat Name: _____

Dues: Single - \$50: Family - \$60: Sponsor (business card) - \$130:

Corresponding (newsletter only) - \$25: (Corresponding not eligible for catch awards or banquet attendance)

(Note: larger sponsor ads or short term ads are available and negotiable. Contact a club officer

Mail to: RSWSC, PO Box 41427, Raleigh, NC 27629

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	captjerry@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 <i>Charters</i>	252-799-9536