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Now and enjoy your activities at sea with the tides4fishing app This is prime billfish season along the mid-Atlantic coast. White and blue marlin, sailfish, spearfish and swordfish are all available. Dolphin, mahoe and tuna fishing is excellent many days. The 26th Annual Virginia Beach Open Marlin Tournament was held Sunday. Congratulations to the winners. Here's the run down. 1st Place- Sniper 2nd Place- Short Rigger 3rd Place- Freestyle Top Tuna (65.1) Sniper Top Dolphin (16.5) Mercenaria Top Wahoo (39.6) Desperado Top Lady Angler- Alexis Congdon (Short Rigger) Now everyone is looking forward to the 19th Annual Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament August 24-27 at Rudee Inlet. And to our north, the White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Maryland starts Aug 8th and runs thru the 12th. The WMO tournament awards prize money for white marlin, blue marlin, tuna, wahoo, dolphin and swordfish. Last year the event drew 444 boats, over 3,500 contestants, and paid out over \$9.2 million dollars in prize money including the top individual awards of \$3.2 million. Good luck to all the Virginia Beach crews fishing the Open. Inshore, outstanding cobia catches are being reported throughout the lower bay. Some really large ones have been landed recently, a few approaching 80 pounds. Live eels, live croaker are your best bait but they will hit artificial baits when spotted on the surface. Ocean Pearl Charters Spanish mackerel and blues are keeping charters busy. A gold Clark or Drone spoon seems to be working best. Mixed in with the spanish and blues are large numbers of ribbonfish. And don't be surprised to pick up a nice king now. Our flounder season is officially on now, quality fish are being weighed, jigging bucktails dressed with strip bait or a scented Gulp work well. But remember big fish like big bait. A live spot should do the trick. Connie at Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle says red drum are available along the channel above the 3rd and 4h islands of the CBBT. They should continue to be available the rest of the summer. Spadefish are around buoys and structure, Connie said they started biting much better in recent days. Sheepshead are feeding on most bridge structures. Marsh crabs attached to a jig head will do the trick. Dr Ken Neill Speckled trout catches have been good recently on the flats and in rivers. Good numbers of spot are starting to be caught in Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Spot fishing peaks in August and September. The Virginia Beach Pier reports a nice variety of fish. Roundheads, rays, spot, blues, flounder and spanish. Until next week, remember to book a VBSF sponsor and send us your pictures for our next report. RUDEE INLET CHARTER BOATS Permanent link to this article: High Hopes Sportfishing Water temperatures are peaking in the low 80's with lots of species available, the outstanding fishing continues along the Virginia coast. Hooked on Hope Virginia Beach had a great day on the Ocean Pearl! Spanish mackerel provided great action again last week. Fantastic numbers and some nice size fish. Bluefish and ribbonfish are mixed in with them. Brian Dunn and crew had a great day catching spanish with Captain David Wright on the High Hopes and "The Hooked on Hope Virginia Beach" crew had a great day with Captain Steve Wray and Cheryl on the Ocean Pearl. Paige II Charters Flounder fishing is picking up steam. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, bay and coastal wrecks, artificial reefs and inside Lynnhaven Inlet are good spots. Captain Craig Paige and crew on Paige II Charters saw good action. Anglers continue catching cobia throughout the bay and along the coast. Chumming and using live or cut bait is working well. When fish are spotted near the surface anglers are sight-casting to them. Stan Simmerman Catch and Release Stripers Large red drum are around the CBBT and along the coast. Puppy drum and small stripers are feeding inside local inlets, Little Creek, Rudee and Lynnhaven. Speckled trout numbers are decent throughout the lower bay and inlets. Limit on the Healthy Grin There's large sheepshead to be had along the CBBT. Dr Ken Neill caught a limit on a recent trip. Look for spadefish around the CBBT islands and navigation buoys. Triggers and spades are hanging around coastal wrecks. Tarpon have shown up on the Eastern Shore in the barrier islands backwaters. The Virginia Beach Fishing Pier reported roundheads, rays, spot, blues, spanish, flounder and hound fish. AquaMan, Game On Charters Virginia bluewater action is fantastic from now until mid-September. White and blue marlin, sailfish, spearfish and swordfish are showing in good numbers. Dolphin fishing is good. AquaMan Charters had a good day on the mahi! Everyone is looking forward to the 19th Annual Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament on August 24-27 at Rudee Inlet. The Tournament was started in 2004 to raise funds for youth charity and marine conservation and to highlight the phenomenal fishing off Virginia Beach. Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: 62.3 pound cobia caught in the Monarch Cobia Tourney Water temperatures are in the mid to upper 70's everywhere and there are lots of Cobia throught the bay. Sight casting is the most productive technique now. Live eels or live spot are your best baits but bucktails will work as well. Spanish mackerel schools were harder to locate last week. The fish are scattered along the oceanfront from Sandbridge to Cape Henry and in the bay up to Reedville. Anglers are trolling Drone and Clark spoons behind line sinkers or planers. Anglers are catching lots of ribbonfish on diving plugs. Schools of red drum have been surfacing in the lower Bay. As long as no one spoos them anglers can sight cast them. Spadefish and Flounder on the Paige II Flounder fishing is good. Fish in the 4-6 pounds range have been caught near the CBBT, the Cell and around wrecks. Dr Ken Neill and a nice sheepshead Sheepshead continue to bite on structure. Use marsh crabs on a jig head near bridge pilings. Spadefish are hanging around the CBBT, many ocean buoys and the Light Tower. Anglers are floating fresh clam morsels to them on small hooks. If they are not aggressively feeding, try putting some chum in the water. Ocean structures are holding flounder, spadefish, and seabass. The deeper wrecks hold seabass, tilefish and grouper. Amberjack are around the towers. If you are heading to the windmills you can check out the following link to get real time weather: . There are two weather buoys you can click on to get real-time condition info. Golden Tile, Barrellfish, Black Sea Bass and a limit of Blueline Tilefish on the High Hopes The charter boats are bringing in yellowfin tuna, blackfin tuna, big eye tuna, and mahi. White marlin releases are on the rise. Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Our summer fishing pattern is at the half way point. Water temps range from 81 up the bay, 75 near Fisherman's Island and 78 along the oceanfront. At the canyons its in the mid 70's. 47 pound cobia weighed at Long Bay Pointe Marina Cobia action is still very good and should continue through the summer. Live eels and live spot are the best baits now. Try chumming in areas where fish are known to hang out. Look for them near ocean bay and buoys and along the CBBT. Schools of red drum are popping up near the third and fourth islands. If you can't find fish to sight cast try anchoring and chumming near shoals. Ocean Pearl Charters On The Spanish Spanish mackerel fishing is good! Drone or Clark spoons pulled behind a planer or an in-line sinker will do the trick. Watch for breaking fish under birds, work tidelines and shoal edges. Spadefish are around structure and fall for pieces of clam. Once they are spotted chumming can draw them off the structure and keep them near the boat. Hunter Southall Sheepshead fishing is outstanding right now. Fish in the 10 to 15 pound class are available. Anglers are attaching a marsh crab to a medium size bottom sweeper jig head and fishing it tight against structure like pilons of the CBBT. Good reports of flounder are coming from the CBBT area, the Cell and all the artificial reefs. The Virginia Beach Fishing Pier is reporting spanish, blues, flounders and small roundheads. High Hopes Sportfishing Offshore Catch Boats deep dropping on shallow ocean wreck are catching flounder and Sea bass. Deeper wrecks are holding sea bass and tilefish. Offshore bluewater anglers are catching yellowfin tuna, big eye tuna, dolphin, wahoo and swordfish. Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Beautiful day on the water for Ocean Pearl Charters, and the fish decided to cooperate as well. The Spanish were no problem. Visibility was perfect. They saw 15 cobias, 13 didn't want to bite, but 2 did. 1 was a short and 1 was a beautiful 48 incher. The Cobia bite in the bay remains strong. Most are being caught in chum slicks on live eels. Sighted on the surface cobia will hit just about anything you put in front of them. Live eels, spot, menhaden, mullet, large spoons, white buck tails, plastic eels, swimming plugs or cut bait. Keep a lookout for them around buoys and other structure, like the islands and pilings of the CBBT. Knot Wish'n Custom Charters. Quality and quantity now! A nice class of spanish mackerel are available along the ocean front, near the CBBT and as far north as the York Spit area. Taylor blues are mixed in. Charter boats are trolling small Drone or Clark spoons behind small planers. With so many large mackerel around the Virginia State record of 9 pounds, 13 ounces could be in jeopardy! Many are returning with both spanish and spadefish. Look for spades around the Chesapeake Light Tower, ocean and bay buoys and the pilings and rock islands of the CBBT. Spades fall to fresh clam. Float a small piece on a small hook in front of them. Once sighted many anglers like chumming the fish up behind the boat. Randy Morton Sheepshead are hanging around structure. They feed on barnacles and crabs that live on the columns. On May 30, 2022, Randy Morton fishing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel landed a 4.14-kilogram (9-pound, 2-ounce) sheepshead. Randy can potentially set the IGFA Men's 4-kg (8 lb) Line Class World Record for the species. This large sheepshead fell for a fiddler crab on a jighead and was landed after a short fight. Randy took it to Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle for an official weight on a certified scale. This record is currently pending and under review. Congratulations Randy! A number of anglers found large schools of red drum this week. Anglers are having success sight casting and bottom fishing. Captain Paige, Paige II Charters reports good flounder fishing now! Flounder catches are on the increase. Some of the larger fish are being caught jigging bucktails tagged with strip baits or Gulps near the CBBT. Virginia Beach Pier and surf anglers are finding bluefish, spanish, flounder, croaker, sea mullet and small spot. Look for seabass on offshore ocean wrecks and reefs. Tilefish are also available in the same areas. There should be plenty of amberjacks around the towers and on offshore structure. Keith Newman brought his father n law out for a day of offshore fishing on the High Hopes. They pulled the hook on a swordfish, caught a few bottom fish in addition to three pretty yellowfin tuna! Offshore bluewater anglers are catching dolphin and tuna. Add to that a few big eye tuna, wahoo and swordfish. Our marlin bite is increasing. Offshore fishing is really good right now! Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Virginia Beach's offshore Bluewater action is getting better by the day. white marlin, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, wahoo and gaffer dolphin. Blue marlin encounters will increase in July and peak in August ... just in time for the Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament. Virginia Beach Tuna Tournament Winner Marlin Maniac The 18th annual Virginia Beach Tuna Tournament took place over the weekend. Over one hundred teams competed for more than \$290,000.00's in prize money. MARLIN MANIAC took first place at 258.3 pounds. LULU finish second runner up at 222.4 and third went to LORIEV at 173 pounds. Final leaderboard. High Hopes Sportfishing Offshore deep droppers are still catching plenty of tilefish and sea bass. Spanish mackerel and ribbonfish continue to bite along the oceanfront. Spanish should be available near tide rips in the Bay. Dr Neill tagging cobia Cobia action remains excellent. Most are falling to live bait fished in chum slicks. Spadefish are around buoys, pylons of the CBBT and the Chesapeake Light Tower. Connie Barbour at Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle said there are a lot of sheepsheads hanging around the CBBT. Big red drum are still plentiful throughout the lower Bay. Catching flounder on the Paige II Flounder catches are on the rise at the CBBT, around inshore wrecks and artificial reefs throughout the lower bay and along the coast. Coastal wrecks are also holding bluefish, amberjacks and triggerfish. Pier and surf anglers are finding bluefish, spanish, flounder, croaker, sea mullet and small spot. Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Virginia boat approaching 75 degrees. At the mouth of the Elizabeth River, it's a warm 77. Offshore at the Norfolk Canyon its hovering around 68. That means just about everything's biting now! Inshore, red drum, cobia, spadefish, sheepshead, flounder, bluefish and spanish mackerel. Offshore, tuna, dolphin, marlin, tilefish and seabass. High Hopes Sport Fishing Charters Anglers trolling the ocean front are catching spanish mackerel. Bluefish and ribbon fish are mixed in with the spanish. Spadefish are around buoys, the pylons of the CBBT and the Chesapeake Light Tower. Also hanging around the pylons are hungry sheepshead. Big red drum are throughout the lower Bay. Anglers are having success sight casting and bottom fishing. Cobia action remains good. Most anglers are fishing live bait in chum slicks. But you never know when they'll pop up on the surface, so always have a rod ready to sight cast. Spadefish are around buoys, pylons of the CBBT and the Chesapeake Light Tower. Sheepsheads are hanging around structure. Look for them around the Cell, CBBT, Plantation Light, York Spit Light, the buoys at the mouth of the bay, the Chesapeake Light Tower, Tower Reef, and around wrecks off the lower Bay. Latimer Shoal and the shallow water near the northern section of the CBBT are where the fish are caught. Paige II Charters Flounder catches are on the rise. Look for them along the CBBT, around inshore wrecks and artificial reefs throughout the lower bay and along the coast. Captain Craig Paige on the Paige II put his crew in the meat this week. Pier and surf anglers are finding bluefish, spanish, flounder, croaker, sea mullet and small spot. Big amberjacks are at the south tower and should be at the Chesapeake light tower. Coastal wrecks are holding bluefish, amberjacks and triggerfish. AquaMan Charters, tuna and tile Offshore boats are catching dolphin, yellowfin tuna and an occasional big eye tuna. The Virginia Beach Tuna Tourney takes place June 22nd - 25th. 2022. Weigh stations are Long Bay Pointe Marina and The Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Deep droppers are catching plenty of tilefish and sea bass. Be sure to book a VBSF sponsor boat and then send us your pictures for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Knot Wish'n Charters Water temperature along the oceanfront and near the CBBT its approaching 75 degrees. At the mouth of the Elizabeth River, it's a warm 77. Offshore at the Norfolk Canyon its hovering around 68. That means just about everything's biting now! Inshore, red drum, cobia, spadefish, sheepshead, flounder, bluefish and spanish mackerel. Offshore, tuna, dolphin, marlin, tilefish and seabass. High Hopes Sport Fishing Charters Anglers trolling the ocean front are catching spanish mackerel. Bluefish and ribbon fish are mixed in with the spanish. Spadefish are around buoys, the pylons of the CBBT and the Chesapeake Light Tower. Also hanging around the pylons are hungry sheepshead. Big red drum are throughout the lower Bay. Anglers are having success sight casting and bottom fishing. Cobia action remains good. Most anglers are fishing live bait in chum slicks. But you never know when they'll pop up on the surface, so always have a rod ready to sight cast. We'll be able harvest some for the table after the season opens June 15th. Until then you can earn a Virginia Release Citation for any released over 50 inches. Don't forget your VMRC cobia permit and recordings. Flounder catches are picking up. Look for them along the CBBT, around inshore wrecks and artificial reefs throughout the lower bay and along the coast. Pier and surf anglers are finding spanish, bluefish, flounder, croaker, sea mullet and small spot. Coastal wrecks are holding bluefish and triggerfish. Big AJ's (amberjacks) should be arriving as well. Tuna on the docks at Rudee Inlet!!! Offshore, yellowfin tuna action is excellent which is great news for the Virginia Beach Tuna Tournament. This week a couple of boats caught nice tuna limits. Dolphin fishing should take off any day. The Virginia Beach Tuna Tourney takes place June 22nd - 25th, 2022. Weigh stations are Long Bay Pointe Marina and The Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Anglers bottom bouncing the edge of the canyon continue catching blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and sea bass. Good luck to the Virginia Beach boats fishing in the Big Rock this week! Book a VBSF sponsor and send us your pictures for our report! Permanent link to this article: A 16-pound 12-ounce Atlantic tripletail (Lobotes surinamensis), caught on July 23, 2021 by Richard H. Stuart Jr. of King George Va, has been certified as a new Virginia State Record for the species by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. The record-setting tripletail measured 28 inches (TL) and sported a 23-inch girth. Richard Jr. and his dad, Richard Stuart Sr., were primarily sight fishing for cobia in the vicinity of York Spit Light, when Richard Jr. saw a flash at a distance. Instinctively he piloted the family's private vessel, Fish-On, over to take a look. The pair were able to approach close enough to identify the "flash" as a tripletail and Richard Jr. pitched a 2-ounce cobia jig near the fish. That initial offering was ignored. A second cast put the jig on a path closer to the fish and as jig passed the tripletail the response was a solid hookup. After a spirited 10 minute back forth tussle the fish was brought boatside. The catch was made on gear suitable for cobia, a Shimano Tetramar XX spinning rod mated with a Shimano Twin Power SW 5000 spinning reel spooled with 40-pound Power Pro braided line. The fish was officially weighed at Grafton Fishing Supply in Yorktown and viewed and positively identified by VSWFT Committee member Dr. Ken Neill. Tripletail are not a new arrival to Chesapeake Bay waters but, with the rise in the popularity of sight fishing for cobia, encounters seem on the increase. Along the Atlantic Coast tripletail have been collected as far north as Massachusetts but are only rarely found north of the Chesapeake Bay. In more southern states, and especially in Georgia and Florida and the Gulf States, tripletail are highly esteemed by recreational anglers for both the challenge they offer and as a table fish. Their flesh has been compared to other mild tasting white fleshed fish as snapper and grouper. Tripletail were added to the list of eligible species for state record consideration in 2020 with an initial qualifying weight of 8 pounds. No entries were submitted that first year. Stuart Jr.'s fish replaces the initial state record tripletail, an 8-pound 9-ounce fish caught by Hayden Head earlier in July and caught in the same vicinity. Permanent link to this article: Hunter Southall This week water temperatures rose to 72-73 degrees in the Bay and warm water extends all the way out to the Norfolk Canyon. There's some 75-degree water along the beach at Sandbridge. Cobia action remains good along the oceanfront and inside the Bay. They should be available for the rest of the summer. Watch for fish on the surface. Chumming is effective, create a chum slick and use live eels, live spot or croaker for bait. The fishery is all catch and release until June 15th. Knot Wish'n Charters Spanish mackerel are available to trollers from Sandbridge to Cape Henry. A large class of fish has arrived along the oceanfront and some smaller ones were caught in the tidal rips inside the bay. Captains are trolling small spoons like the 00 Drone or a 00 or 01 Clark behind a small planer. Spanish mackerel average between 1 and 3 pounds but the Virginia state record is 9 pounds, 13 ounces. VBSF sponsors, Knot Wis'n, Ocean Pearl, Paige II, AquaMan and High Hopes will be targeting spanish over the next few weeks. Red drum schools have been popping up along the oceanfront and around the shoals at the mouth of the bay. Some captains reported catching and releasing dozens last week, it's just a matter of finding a large school. Remember, approach schools slowly, so not to spook them. Sheepshead are around the pilings of the CBBT. The spadefish bite turned on this week. Look for spades around buoys, the pylons of the CBBT and at the Chesapeake Light tower. They tend to draw a crowd; divers, snorkelers and anglers, so pack some patience. Anglers are picking up a few flounder and speckled trout inside Lynnhaven, Little Creek and Rudee Inlets. Specks are also being caught in the Elizabeth River. Look for small stripers inside Rudee Inlet. Anglers fishing off the Virginia Beach Pier have caught some nice spanish mackerel, small croaker, spot and sea mullet. Virginia's offshore, summer-time bluewater action is kicking in. Over the past week yellow fin tuna were caught, look for gaffer-sized dolphin numbers to increase. Captain David Wright on the High Hopes had a good offshore trip last week. Deep dropping action remains good, crews are catching nice tilefish bottom bouncing. VBSF sponsor AquaMan Charters is running charters targeting blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and snowy grouper. Be sure to book your VBSF charter boat sponsor and then send us your photos for our next report. Tight-lines! The VBSF crew will be out to town to take in the sights and sounds of the Big Rock Marlin Tournament down in Carolina. Permanent link to this article: AquaMan Charters And A Nice Cobia Release Anglers enjoyed outstanding fishing over the long weekend! Water temperatures hit the magic 70 degree mark and lots of cobia arrived along the oceanfront and in the lower bay. Our cobia capture season opens June 15th, until then anglers are releasing them. Cobia will hit just about anything you throw in front of them, live eels, spot, menhaden, mullet, large spoons, white buck tails, plastic eels, swimming plugs or cut bait. They hang around buoys and other structure, such as the islands and pylons of the CBBT. AquaMan Charters On The Red Drum The red drum bite really took off. Schools of fish were encountered along the oceanfront and in the lower bay. When encountering schooling fish on the surface, you should approach slowly and not spook them. Another hot spot for 25 to 50 pound feeding red drum will be near Latimer shoals. Trolling spoons or bucktails over and around the shallows or by anchoring nearby and fishing fresh cut spot, menhaden or blue crabs are the best methods. We have enjoyed an outstanding black drum season. Continue looking for them along the shallow channel ledge running from Fisherman's Island to Cape Charles. Good spots are Kiptopeake, the Cabbage Patch and the Concrete Ships. Sheepshead numbers are increasing and fish will be available through September. The best baits are fiddler crabs, sand fleas or clams. The average size sheepshead is 3 to 8 pounds. Some larger ones were caught this week. Spadefish have arrived on the buoys, look for them at the light tower and around the CBBT as well. Boats looking for spanish mackerel are still finding mostly ribbonfish. This week Virginia Beach Pier anglers were catching puppy drum, roundhead, trout, rays, skates, spot, blues, drums and a few spanish. Great Tuna Catch Out Of Rudee Inlet Offshore anglers are enjoying a great tuna bite. Hope the bite continues until the Virginia Beach Tuna Tournament June 22nd - 25th. Boats running out of Oregon inlet have been finding large gaffer dolphin, and billfish numbers are on the rise. Tilefish On The Dock At Long Bay Pointe Marina Sea Bass fisherman are reporting limits of Jumbo's in short order! Further offshore at the canyons deep-droppers are finding plenty of tilefish and a few snowy grouper along with other bottom dwellers. If you want to get in on the action, give a VBSF charter boat sponsor a call. Then send us your picture for our next report! Permanent link to this article: Black seabass fishing has been excellent, boats are catching limits of jumbos. The Triangle Reef is a popular spot. Connie played hooky, took a day off from Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle and got in on the action. Black drum numbers are very good on the eastern shore both sea-side and bay-side. Red drum numbers should increase dramatically on the shoals near Smith Island in the coming days. Another good location to look for them will be near the islands of the CBBT. Anglers fishing out of Oregon Inlet reported schools of drum on the surface this week. Cobia have been cruising the surface along North Carolina beaches, anglers have been sight casting to them. Most likely they are available in local waters. Don't forget the Virginia cobia season doesn't open until June 15th. Each captain or vessel operator must have a Recreational Cobia Permit from the Marine Resources Commission. Management measures for the recreational cobia fishery were adjusted for the 2021-2023 seasons. The management measures are a season of June 15-September 15; 1 fish per person, 2 fish per vessel possession limit; and a prohibition on gaffing. If you plan to charter for a cobia trip ... you better book a VBSF sponsor ASAP! Water temperature along the oceanfront is 64 degrees. A few spanish mackerel have been caught. As the water temperature approaches 70 degrees look for numbers to increase from Cape Henry to Sandbridge. Boats looking for them this week picked up a lot of ribbonfish. Some nice spanish should be available off the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier soon. Puppy drum, roundhead and skates are being caught by pier anglers now. Early season sheepshead numbers are excellent, they are feeding along the CBBT. Spadefish are usually at the Chesapeake Light Tower, on buoys and at the CBBT by Memorial Day weekend. They will become more numerous and aggressive as water continues warming. Trout, flounder and puppy drum are scattered in our local inlets and tidal rivers. Boats running to the canyon deep dropping are catching nice tilefish. Boats running offshore to blue water should start picking up tuna and dolphin. Tuna fishing is very good off the OBX's. Look for billfish to be hooked in Virginia waters any day. Permanent link to this article: Wind gave way to fog last weekend, allowing anglers to get back out on the water. The water temperature at the weather buoy off Cape Henry in 50 feet of water is 62.1. Bay temperatures range from 57 to 65 degrees. The cooler water is near Fisherman's Island and the warmer water near Oceanview. An outstanding tautog season closed and the black seabass season opened May 15th. The seabass bite was very good; with several boats catching limits of jumbos. The Triangle Reef is a popular spot. Dr Ken Neil sent a report, "Saturday morning, I spent a little time on the flats then ran to Back River Reef and caught a dozen togs to 17 inches long. Two of the togs had tags in them. Today, we (Johnny Boyd and Stan Simmerman) hit a couple of ocean wrecks for the last day of the tautog season and the opening day of the sea bass season. We caught larger tog up to 28.5 inches long and an easy limit of sea bass. The spring black drum bite has been on fire, some really large ones have been landed. Some have topped 70 pounds, but the 20 to 25 pounders are best for the table. The best action is coming from Virginia's Eastern Shore, where fish are being caught seaside and bay-side. Whole clam, peeler crab, whelk, peeler crab/clam sandwich, buck tails and lead head jigs are all good baits. Large red drum are in their usual spots and cobia should be joining them, if they haven't already. Remember it's unlawful to harvest or possess cobia before June 15 and a recreational Cobia Permit from the Marine Resources Commission is required. Sheepshead are feeding on crustacean clinging to the CBBT pylons. They can be caught using fiddler crabs, mole crabs or clam tight against the structure. Some large fish in the 12-pound range have been caught. Flounder and speck fishing inside Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets should keep getting better. Two good flounder baits are a buck tails dressed with a Gulp, or a minnow/squid sandwiches fished on a Sea Striker Fluke Killer. Now that weather is improving look for VBSF sponsor charter boats to start finding spanish mackerel and bluefish along the oceanfront. Spanish usually show up when the water hits 70 degrees. They hit very small spoons like the 05 Drone or Clark pulled behind a small planer. Virginia Beach Pier anglers are catching nice puppy drum, roundheads, rays, skates and spot. Deep-droppers will be targeting tilefish, snowy grouper and other bottom dwellers. In May boats running offshore to the south should start finding water temps in the upper 60's to 70 and begin picking up yellow fin tuna and eventually dolphin and billfish. Boats fishing off the OBX out of OI caught a lot of dolphin last weekend and Captain Ned Ashby on the Sea Breeze caught his first blue marlin of the season. Permanent link to this article: Not much fishing going on this week due to weather conditions. NE winds 25 to 35 kt and ocean waves 6 to 8 ft. The forecast calls for it to start settling down Thursday, so the weekend looks promising. Water temperatures in the Bay are 61 to 63 and river temps have reached 67 degrees. Tautog fishing was outstanding before the blow and if we're lucky we might get in one more trip before the season closes May 15th. Large schools of red drum continue to migrate along the coast on their way to the Chesapeake Bay. If you run across a school on the surface you'll be able to sight-cast them, but your best chance of landing one is to anchor up near the shoals at the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Black drum are still a good possibility in the same area. Released red or black drum measuring 46 inches or more qualify you for a Virginia State citation award. The much-anticipated Virginia sea bass season opens May 15th. The bass are plentiful and large. If you would like to get in on some great fishing contact one of the VBSF charter boat sponsors that runs seabass trips, AquaMan, High Hopes, Ocean Pearl charters. Our upcoming cobia season should be good. Before the blow schools of cobia were migrating along the OBX on their way to the Bay. The water off Oregon Inlet was 67 degrees and anglers were sight-casting them. In Virginia its unlawful to harvest or possess any cobia before June 15. A recreational Cobia Permit from the Marine Resources Commission is also required to possess or land them. Speckled trout are scattered in the marshes along the lower Chesapeake Bay and in local inlets. Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle said puppy drum are in the same areas inside Lynnhaven Inlet. Starting Friday, nighttime air temperatures will remain above 60 degrees which will improve the inshore flounder bite. It's already off to a good start with most of the big fish coming from the inlets and tidal marshes on the Eastern Shore barrier islands. More sheepsheads are arriving the Bridge Tunnel daily. Their numbers will peak in June and they will hang around until September. They love fiddler crabs, sand fleas or clams fished up against the pylons. Schools of bluefish and spanish mackerel should start showing along the Virginia Beach shoreline very soon. Spadefish should start showing anytime as well. They will be available all summer. Deep-droppers will be targeting tilefish, snowy grouper and other bottom dwellers. In May boats running offshore to the south should start finding water temps in the upper 60's to 70 and begin picking up yellow fin tuna and eventually dolphin and billfish. Permanent link to this article: Water temperatures have risen to 60 degrees in the Bay. The air temperature will be in the 80's Wednesday, then drop into the 60's and 70's for the rest of the week. Winds are forecast to be 10 to 15 mph all week. Tautog action continues to be good, especially on ocean wrecks. Catches along the CBBT and on Bay structure are improving. Drew Aladi weighed a 13 lb. 4 oz. tautog and John DeGruttola a 10 lb. 5 oz. with Long Bay Pointe last week. There are only a few days left in the Virginia season. It closes May 15th. Red and black drum arrived on the Virginia shoals a couple of weeks ago and there are more on the way. Jeffrey Windsor registered a 51 in. black drum release and Collin Lewis a 50 in. red drum release at Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle recently. Schools of drum and now cobia are starting to migrate together along North Carolina's Outer Banks heading for the Chesapeake Bay. The first Cobia of the season was landed off the OBX last week. Sheepshead fishing is off to a great start. Fish to 10 pounds have already been caught in the bay. It's time for bluefish to become plentiful along the oceanfront. Later this month as water temperatures start pushing 70 degrees look for spanish mackerel to start mixing with the blues. This is when nice speckled trout usually show up in local inlets. Anglers fishing the rivers have been catching lots of puppy drum and a few trout and stripers. Flounder catches continue improving as our water temps warm, especially around Wachapreague and Chincoteague on the Eastern Shore. Flounder are also showing up in our local inlets and along the CBBT. The Virginia Beach pier has been catching some spot, roundheads, gray trout and small blues. Virginia offshore anglers are looking forward to the opening of the sea bass and tile fish season. Tuna catches are good to fair off Carolina. Permanent link to this article:

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