

Carolina

SPORTSMAN[®]

AUGUST 2018

www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com



TACTICS FOR RIVER BASS

JACKS ARE WILD IN CHARLESTON HARBOR

SUMMER TIPS FOR NC SPECKS

CRANK UP SUMMER SLABS

MACK ATTACK!

TROLLING TRICKS FOR KINGS, SPANISH

DEER '18

WHAT DOES THE SEASON HOLD?

TIME TO GET BOW IN TUNE

SIMPLE STRATEGY FOR FOOD PLOTS

\$2.99 AUGUST 2018



20
18

next level: elite performance



xpress boats®

The original all-welded aluminum boat company
is proud to announce **Bill Lowen,**
Bassmaster Elite Angler to its
Next Level Elite Team.

www.xpressboats.com

"Xpress Boats® truly depicts who I am as a competitive angler and outdoorsman. I fish hard, I play hard, and with Xpress there is a solution for every one of my outdoor pursuit needs".

Xpress Boats prefers to LEAD, not follow, prefers to pioneer, not copy, prefers to be the choice for the finest performing, finest built, original all-welded, high performance aluminum boats on the market today.

For additional information visit our website at
www.xpressboats.com.



Bill Lowen
Bassmaster Elite Angler



Introducing *Pioneer* BOATS
Charting a new course.

NEW 2019 Pelagic 266

- Length 26' 6" Beam 9' 2"
- Fuel Capacity 180 Gallons
- Livewell 50 Gallons



For more information, go to PioneerBoats.com
 or call 843-538-6604
 or like us on Facebook at Pioneer Boats
 for the latest available information.



Avenger

AV-26

For more information, go to AvengerBayBoats.com
 or call 843-538-6604
 or like us on Facebook at Avenger Bay Boats
 for the latest available information.

*From The Back Water
 To The Blue Water*

BULLS BAY

230CC

For more information, go to BullsBayBoats.com
 or call 843-538-6604
 or like us on Facebook at Bulls Bay Boats
 for the latest available information.

Carolina **FALL** **BOAT SHOW** **& SALE**

August 17–19, 2018

NC State Fairgrounds

*The Largest Selection Of Fall
Inventory You'll Find In Any One Place!*



Details & tickets at
NCBoatShows.com

Produced by Southeast Productions
Greensboro, NC • 336-855-0208

HOURS: Friday 10am–7pm • Saturday 9am–6pm • Sunday 10am–5pm
ADMISSION: Adults \$7 • Seniors 60+ & Military \$6 • Children 12 & under FREE



**2018 CLEARANCE,
ONLY A FEW LEFT,
SAVE \$1000'S!**

**#1 CAROLINA
SKIFF®**

Dealer in the USA or Over 10 Years!



**NOBODY
SELLS FOR
LESS!**



**Call Us BEFORE You Buy!
WE WILL SAVE YOU \$\$\$**

**CHATLEE
BOAT & MARINE**

Sanford, NC

919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com



Powered by
SUZUKI
MARINE





Carolina CONTENTS

Volume 25 | Number 8 | August 2018



23
Speed kings

FEATURES:

15 Deer 2018 (cover story)

What does this fall's deer season have for hunters in the Carolinas? New regulations for much of North Carolina, a second year to look at how South Carolina hunters are reacting to regulation changes from 2017. But make no mistake: the deer are still there for the taking.

>>>By Dan Kibler

23 Speed kings (cover story)

Forget the live bait, for weekend warriors, fast-trolling may be a more-efficient way to consistently catch kings and Spanish mackerel.

>>>By Mike Marsh

33 The heat is on

Waters around Sneads Ferry can still produce plenty of gator trout despite sizzling summer temperatures — if you know the hows, wheres and whens.

>>>By Craig Holt

37 Cranking up crappie

When slabs reach their summer haunts in deeper water, it often takes a vibrating, rattling crankbait to draw a strike. Here's how to get one.

>>>By Dusty Wilson

42 Ol' Man River

Topwater baits are the in-baits for summer bass on two of South Carolina's finest blackwater rivers, the Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee.

>>>By Jeff Burleson

49 All jacked up

Charleston Harbor is a great spot to do battle with a summer visitor: the tackle-busting jack crevalle.

>>>By Phillip Gentry

53 Hot Wateree stripers

This South Carolina fishery has rebounded after a few lean years. It's time for anglers to take advantage.

>>>By Terry Madewell

FISHING HOTSPOTS

90 Lake Wylie catfish

91 Grand Strand sails

92 Swansboro reds

93 Cape Fear tarpon

93 Lake Norman catfish

94 Lake Russell stripers

95 SC's reef flounder

96 Harris Lake bass

97 Lowcountry SC reds

98 Kerr Lake catfish

73
Years in
Business

AK has over 150 Models of Aluminum Boats that can be Powered with the NEW  YAMAHA Outboard

Over 150
Different
Models
In Stock

WOW!

AK has over 150 different models of **JON BOATS** 10 TO 26 FT.

JUST ARRIVED! X^{PRESS} 2018 XP 180CC

Buy now and beat the 2019 price increase of 10-15%

AK's Price **\$20,799.00**

Powered by an F70 4 stroke Yamaha, spray in liner, Minn Kota foot control, Hummingbird Helix 5 GPS, custom alum trlr, includes batteries, frt & rigging.



XP 200SC
VF-115LA, Alum trailer, 70lb Edge troll mtr, Helix 5 GPS, mag wheels

AK's Price **\$24,499.00**

YAMAHA

OUTBOARDS
2.5 to 115 HP
IN STOCK!



New for 2018 Alumacraft Prowler 165



16ft All welded hull with Carpet, 4 Dlx seats, live well, depth finder & foot control trolling motor. Powered by Yamaha F25LC four stroke w/ tilt & trim. Includes 2 batteries, rigging and galv. drive on trlr.

AK's Price **\$13,699.00**

New 1652VV Marsh CC & LW



CC & LW, Powered by F40 Yamaha, Load Rite galv. trlr, 2 tempess camo ped. seats, battery box, fuel/water separator, rigging & frt. included

AK's Price **\$14,245.91**

ALWELO 1448LA



.100 gauge Commercial grade Jon with large deck & open interior. Powered by F25 LWHC Yamaha w/electric start. Includes Load Rite galv trlr, battery box, rigging & frt.

AK's Price **\$7,455.96**

ALUMACRAFT MV1648 NCS



2018 Model
Rated 35 HP
AK's Price **\$2,349.00**

Just Arrived - New 26 Ft Sea Ark with Tread Plate Alum Floor



17 to 20 Express Tiller Jon's (consoles can be added)
AK's Price Starting at **\$4,899.00**



LOWE BIG JON DOUBLEWIDE
AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR JONS



2018 Models Just Arrived
14ft Flat. \$2149 16ft Flat. \$2399
14ft MV. \$2249 16ft MV. \$2499

New for 2018 Roughneck Big River



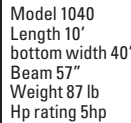
17 to 18 ft. Heavy Duty .100 gauge, welded hull, flat bottom with alum floor. Excellent for commercial use, flounder gigging or fishing.
AK's Price starting at **\$4,399.00**
1755 \$4399.00 1860 \$4999.00

SPORTSMAN SPECIAL ALUMACRAFT 2018 MV1648



25hp Yamaha 4 stroke w/ tilt & trim, Aluminum floor, Windshield, Lights, padded seat, gas tank w/fuel water separator filter, Load Rite deluxe trailer w/guides
AK's Price **\$9,575.90**

NEW LOWE



Model 1040
Length 10'
bottom width 40"
Beam 57"
Weight 87 lb
Hp rating 5hp
AK's Price **\$749.00**

ALWELO



VV1648 Marsh
100 Gauge
AK's Price **\$3,799.00**

LOADRITE GALVANIZED BOAT TRAILERS



600LB. CAP. 8 - 12 ft. starting at **\$659.00**
700LB. CAP 12'-14' \$699.00
1000LB. CAP 14'-15' \$749.00
1000LB CAP 15'-16' \$849.00

ALUMACRAFT Model 1436LT



AK's Price **\$849.00**
14ft. Rated 15hp
2018 Models
12ft Model 799.00

ROAD KING Galvanized Pontoon Boat Trailers



For 18ft to 20ft pontoon, 2700lb capacity.
AK's Price **\$1,899.00**
20'-24' tandem galv. trailer **\$2,599.00**

LOWE JUST ARRIVED! AURA boat



Length 16' Beam 70" HP rating 35 hp.
AK's Price **\$2,699.00**

HIGH GRADE Fold Down Bench Seat



AK's Price **\$219.99**

SPECIAL PURCHASE! MINN KOTA



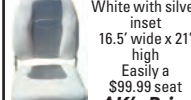
AK's Price **\$479.00**

Factory Original Lund Seat



AK's Price **\$89.99**

Factory original Carolina Skiff Seat



AK's Price **\$69.99**

Factory Original Crestline Ergonomic Fold down seat



AK's Price **\$129.99**

Special Purchase Camo Cordura



AK's Price **\$189.00**

NEW FOR 2018! 1856 TILLER TUNNEL BOAT



ALWELO COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.
Over 50 Models In Stock
AK's Price **\$5699.00**
Rated 50hp, .100 gauge, Alum floor, lights, liner, trolling mtr mount and wiring.

A.K. McCALLUM CO.

715 Ramsey St., Fayetteville, NC
1-800-682-2628
www.akmccallum.com
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm • Sat. 8am - 1pm

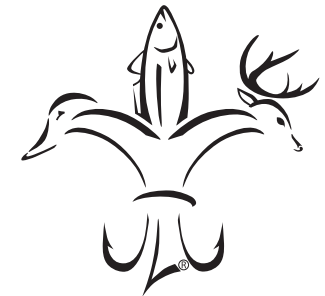
VISIT OUR FISHING TACKLE DEPARTMENT





33 The heat is on

42
Ol' Man River



Carolina SPORTSMAN
www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ron Dorsey
252.299.2138/rond@carolinasportsman.com

MANAGING EDITOR: Dan Kibler
336.416.9631/dank@carolinasportsman.com

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Desiree P. Lewis

ART DIRECTOR: Rodney Anouilh

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:
Jeff Cashio, Kevin Orgeron, Alissa Zeringue

CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry

SALES DIRECTOR: Tony Taylor
504.416.7621/tonyt@lasmag.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
Ron Dorsey, Bret Holten, Asa Faulkner, Jay Forrest, Brent Comardelle, Mark Boyd, Greg Webb, Peter Church, Mark Hiltz (National Sales)

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR:
Rickyn Naquin 985.859.7744/rickyn@lasmag.com

CIRCULATION FIELD MANAGER:
Mitch Eby 919.602.3862/mitchebync@gmail.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:
Contact Tony Taylor
email: tonyt@lasmag.com/504.416.7621

OUTDOOR UPDATE:

- 10** Bag-A-Buck contest returns for 2018
- 11** Waterfowl incident results in fine, jail time

PLUS

- 13** Huge yellowfin tuna is big surprise for SC man

ON THE COVER:



Mackerel, kings and Spanish, are No. 1 in North Carolina's nearshore waters this month. Deer season opens in South Carolina. Mackerel photo by David Brown. Deer cover by Rick Small.

COLUMNS:

- 60 Sound & Sea** By Brian Cope
- 62 Lunker Lines** By David Fritts
- 64 Greener Pastures**
By Jeff Burleson
- 68 Small Craft Advisory**
By Phillip Gentry
- 72 Cooking on the Wild Side**
By Capt. Jerry Dilsaver
- 74 Sticks and Strings**
By Sammy Romano
- 76 Santee Stringer** By Terry Madewell
- 78 Head for the Mountains**
By Robert Satterwhite

DEPARTMENTS:

- 80** New Products
- 81** Astro Tables
- 82** NC Fishing Regulations
- 82** SC Fishing Regulations
- 83** Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook
- 88** NC Tide Guide
- 89** SC Tide Guide
- 99** Classifieds
- 100** Advertiser Index

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES, CALL 1.855.224.1667
Monday thru Friday, 7 am to Midnight
Saturday & Sunday, 9 am - 6 pm EST

CAROLINA SPORTSMAN (USPS #012969) is published monthly by Carolina Publishing Inc., Allen J. Lottinger, President. 14236 Highway 90, P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039. Mailed at periodicals postage rates and paid at Boutte, La., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Carolina Sportsman, PO Box 433294, Palm Coast, FL 32143. All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents is strictly prohibited without permission of Carolina Sportsman. **EDITORIAL** information number is 336.376.5101. Editorial guidelines can be obtained by writing Carolina Sportsman, 433 Holinswood Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Carolina Sportsman is not responsible for the loss of queries, manuscripts or other materials.

P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039-1199
800.538.4355

Volume 25 | No 8

THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS CALLING YOU



Hunting and outdoor recreation is a calling that many of us share. From Texas to Virginia, our timberlands offer some of the best lease opportunities available in the south, and the largest private selection of recreational access in the United States.

If the great outdoors is calling your name, visit us online at www.WYrecreation.com to view all of our available hunting lease offerings.

www.WYrecreation.com

 Weyerhaeuser

Outdoor UPDATE

with
Dan Kibler



Dan Kibler of Winston-Salem, N.C., is managing editor of *Carolina Sportsman* magazine. He has been reporting on outdoors issues in the Carolinas since 1985.

Dan Kibler



BAG-A-BUCK CONTEST KICKS OFF

ENTER YOUR DEER KILL ONLINE FOR MONTHLY, GRAND-PRIZE PACKAGES

Jay Garner killed a nice 8-point buck last Sept. 17, but he didn't really think it was anything special. Turned out, he was wrong.

Garner, from Murrells Inlet, S.C., entered his buck in *Carolina Sportsman's* Bag-A-Buck contest a few days later, and in late January, his entry was drawn as the grand-prize winner.

A hunter in the Carolinas will repeat Garner's feat sometime this season — maybe a with a spike, a forkhorn or a doe — because the Bag-A-Buck Contest is back for the 2018-19 season.

All subscribers to *Carolina Sportsman* are eligible for the contest, which is divided into four monthly contests (August-September, October, November and December) with prizes that include a \$25 gift certificate to the online Sportsman's Store and a free, one-year subscription to the *Sportsman*. Monthly winners will be

announced monthly in the *Sportsman* and on www.CarolinaSportsman.com.

The grand prize winner, announced in March, will receive a prize-package including a two-day deer/hog combination hunt for two people at Cherokee Run Hunting Lodge in Chesterfield County, S.C., a \$50 gift certificate to the online Sportsman's Store and a free, three-year subscription to *Carolina Sportsman*.

The rules are simple. Take a photo of yourself with a deer you kill during the 2018-19 season, upload the photo to the Bag-a-Buck contest forum on www.CarolinaSportsman.com, and write a short account of your hunt, including the date of the hunt, county of the kill, your name and hometown. You can enter multiple times, with multiple deer, as long as they are legal kills in your state of residence or in the Carolinas. ■

Jay Garner of Murrells Inlet, S.C., won the grand prize in last year's Bag-A-Buck contest with his entry of this 8-point buck killed last September.



> BAG-A-BUCK returns August 15

Beginning Aug.15, Don't forget to post photos of your bucks in the *Carolina Sportsman* Bag-A-Buck Contest to be eligible to win monthly prizes of great Sportsman swag from the online Sportsman's Store.

Log onto CarolinaSportsman.com and click on the Bag-A-Buck contest link. Entering is quick and easy, just a few steps and you're in.

WATERFOWL INCIDENTS

RESULT IN JAIL TIME, FINES

A Dare County man was sentenced in early June to seven days in jail and fined more than \$2,500 after pleading guilty to 10 misdemeanors relating to two incidents over a period of 11 days last December in which he confronted and threatened four hunters in a lake in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County.

Jarrold Thomas Umphlett of Manns Harbor also had two 45-day jail sentences suspended, was given an 18-month probation, lost his hunting license for two years, was ordered to write a letter of apology to all four hunters and undergo a psychological evaluation. He had two felony assault charges dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

Umphlett pled guilty to eight misdemeanor charges — communicating threats, simple assault, injury to personal property, unlawful harassment of persons taking wildlife and operating a boat in a reckless manner — related to an incident on the afternoon of Dec. 16, 2017, when he was alleged to have rammed his boat into a boat in which Clark Purvis of Roanoke Rapids and Richard Edwards of Wilmington — the former a cousin of Gov. Roy Cooper and the latter a member of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission — were riding, scouting for ducks, in Swan Creek Lake in Hyde County.

According to the arrest report, Umphlett threatened Purvis and Edwards, boarded their boat, punched Edwards twice, tried to remove the outboard motor from the boat's transom and throw it overboard and repeatedly described them using racial epithets.

Those eight charges carried the 7-day jail term and fines, restitution and court costs totalling \$2,030, plus a 45-day suspended sentence, suspension of Umphlett's hunting license for two years and a prohibition against participating in any hunting-related activities for two years.

He also pled guilty to four misdemeanor charges of communicating threats and unlawful harassment of persons taking wildlife relating to a Dec.

GOT PICS? We want 'em

Email images to: dank@carolinasportsman.com

All images will be considered, but those taken on the water or in the woods will have the best chance of being featured. *Digital images must be sent in jpeg format. High-resolution images (taken on your camera's highest setting) will work the best. All images (physical and digital) become property of Carolina Sportsman and cannot be returned.

27, 2017, incident in which he was alleged to have threatened and harassed Larry Gammon of Plymouth and his teen-aged son, Wesley Cole Gammon, for hunting in the same lake where he confronted Purvis and Edwards. He was fined \$500.

Umphlett's father, Wayne Thomas Umphlett of Manns Harbor, pled guilty of one charge of unlawful harassment of persons taking wildlife, received a prayer for judgement continued and ordered to pay \$180 in court costs. He was in the boat with his son when the Dec. 27 incident took place. ■

**Hunting ■ Fishing ■ Firearms
Ammo ■ Clothing ■ Footwear
Wild Game Processing**

NICHOLS STORE
Outdoor Paradise

#GAMEON

SITKA
SPECIALIZED WEAR AND EQUIPMENT

**Outfitting Hunters From
Sport-to-Sport and
Season-to-Season**

**1980 Mt. Holly Road ■ Rock Hill, SC 29730
I-77, Exit 73**

**(803) 328.9792
www.nicholsstore.com**



BRIDGES' AIM: IT'S THE KIDS

Eddie Bridges' singular goal always has been viewed as a project to preserve wildlife. But that really isn't the main reason he has helped raise millions of dollars when he was a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commissioner and as executive director of the state's most-powerful non-profit sportsman's organization, the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

It may be a cliché, but Bridges has spent nearly half his life as a conservation-by-example icon "for the kids."

"I was lucky," he said. "Things just broke well for me, and I've been in front of good causes."

Bridges, 85, of Greensboro, N.C., proposed an inspired trust-fund idea in 1981 — invest-the-principal/spend-the-interest — while a member of the Commission, that pulled the cash-strapped agency

into the black. Twenty-six years later, he adopted the idea for the NCWHF, but his passion never has been totally about money.

It's why the Foundation has been supported by countless people, and Bridges has gotten hundreds of sponsors for numerous "youth days" where kids learn about wildlife and received hands-on instruction from experts in fishing, hunting and gun safety. In late June, the Foundation underwrote two youth days at Beaver Pond Sporting Club in Snow Camp, N.C.

Under the watchful eyes of nine enforcement officers and hunter-safety experts from the Commission, plus officials and members of Beaver Pond, about 100 children learned each day about waterfowl, waterfowl identification, how to use duck

CAROLINAS OPEN THREE NEW FISHING FACILITIES IN JUNE

Fishermen have three new places to access good freshwater fishing thanks to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and S.C. Department of Natural Resources

In early June, the Commission opened two access areas on rivers in northwest North Carolina: one on the New in Alleghany County near Sparta, the other on the Ararat in Surry County west of Pilot Mountain. Both have access stairs for fishing and launching kayaks, canoes and other small vessels.

On June 6, the SCDNR dedicate a new fishing pier at Lake Edgar Brown in Barnwell. Lake Edgar Brown, which covers 100 acres, is one of the 18 fishing lakes in the agency's State Lakes Fishing program. ■

Eddie Bridges has been instrumental in fund-raising for many, many conservation projects over the past 40 years.



calls, fired shotguns at clay targets and .22 rifles at stationary targets in addition to a catered lunch.

And Bridges enjoyed being in the thick of it.

"What we've got to do is get children away from TV screens and video games and get them outdoors," he said. "If they take to it like I did when I grew up in Morganton, they'll see the need to save habitat, not only for wildlife but for themselves.

"We should want our children to learn to keep in touch with the outdoors, the land and the creatures that live on the wild. As adults they'll support wild habitat and wildlife." ■

— Craig Holt

**FOR EVEN MORE
CAROLINA SPORTSMAN NEWS,
VISIT WWW.CAROLIANSPORTSMAN.COM**

First mate Derek Eager of the *Marshgrass* poses with huge yellowfin tuna caught off Charleston in June.

HUGE YELLOWFIN TUNA STUNS SOUTH CAROLINA CREW

Yellowfin tuna were once a common sight in the bluewaters off South Carolina's coast, but very few have been caught in the past 10 years. That made it an even bigger surprise for a group of anglers from the Lowcountry near the end of June when they hooked up with a huge yellowfin while trolling in about 200 feet of water fishing out of Charleston, S.C.

The group was fishing aboard the *Marshgrass*, a 23-foot Sea Hunt owned and captained by Marsha Hass, who told editor Brian Cope of www.carolinasportsman.com that they had king mackerel and a dolphin in the fish box when, when all of a sudden, line started peeling off one of their Shimano TLD 20 reels.

Jon Lucas grabbed the rod and began a fight that lasted about an hour. Neither Hass nor any of the crew had any idea

what might be on the line until the fish was

right at the boat, because they never got a good look, and because the tuna didn't fight the way tuna normally fight, bulldogging for the depths.

"It was the shock of a lifetime. It didn't do what a tuna is supposed to do," Hass said. "It's supposed to go straight down and circle — the death circle. This thing kept running. I thought we had a marlin, and since it wasn't jumping, it must be hooked pretty bad in the bill."

Lucas finally won the battle, and the yellowfin came aboard. When Hass announced the catch over the radio, according to Cope, she said she could almost hear other captains giggling.

The yellowfin didn't hit the scales until back at dock, after it had been gutted.. At

that point, it weighed 110 pounds.

While yellowfins are still caught regularly off the North Carolina coast they've all but disappeared in South Carolina waters in the past decade. The reason isn't known, but Dr. Mitch Roffer, who founded Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service, has some ideas.

Overfishing for yellowfin off the coast of West Africa, where many tuna historically traveled to South Carolina waters from, is one cause. Another, Roffer said, is because of shifts in ocean currents. The Antilles Current is one that many fisheries biologists say had once been responsible for bringing yellowfin to South Carolina's waters, and it has shown lots of changes in the past 10 years. ■



Marsha Hass

BRING THE FISH TO YOU!



Toss. Wait. Fish!

- A multi-sensory fish attractant combining **SOUND, SCENT, & VISUAL** triggers that excite the bite!
- Earth-friendly, biodegradable product that is harmless to aquatic life
- Works for all species of fish
- Unlike chum, does **NOT** contain fish parts, live or prepared bait
- Watch our video to learn more about how BaitCloud works! <http://bit.ly/BaitCloud>



Scan code with camera to see BaitCloud in action!



Available where you buy your bait and tackle
Or visit us online at www.baitcloud.com
800-524-6644



BaitCloud™
BRING THE FISH TO YOU

LET THE TEAM FROM AMERICA'S #1 OUTDOOR BRAND HELP YOU
FIND YOUR FAVORITE PLACE.



MOSSY OAK[®]
PROPERTIES
NC LAND AND FARMS
America's Land Specialist

844-480-5263 // NCLANDANDFARMS.COM // INFO@NCLANDANDFARMS.COM

Now serving eastern NC in 3 locations: Outer Banks, Greenville, Lake Waccamaw

Each Mossy Oak Properties office is individually owned and operated.



What does this fall's deer season have for hunters in the Carolinas? New regulations for much of North Carolina, a second year to look at how South Carolina hunters are reacting to regulation changes from 2017. But make no mistake: the deer are still there for the taking.

By Dan Kibler

DEER 2018

If you haven't started thinking about deer hunting yet, you're already way behind. South Carolina hunters in about one-third of the state get to bring out their archery equipment on Aug. 15, the same day hunters in another one-third of the state will be carrying their bean field rifles to their deer stands. North Carolina bowhunters get the first crack at any Tarheel State deer, but not until Sept. 8, when archery season arrives statewide. >

But with trail cameras, food plots and deer feeders to maintain or get going, plenty of hunters are already well into the mental side of things, wondering where to set up their stands for opening day, and what their goals should be for the season.

- How many bucks is enough? Are we looking for big deer or big numbers?
- How many does should be tagged to keep the herd in line?
- What should I shoot, and when?

Both Carolinas had increases in the deer harvest between 2016 and 2017. North Carolina hunters killed 161,854 deer last season, an increase of 8 percent over 2016 levels. Two interesting notes: the harvest in the Southeastern section was up 13.3 percent; the harvest in the Northeastern section was down 4 percent.

In South Carolina, hunters took 185,286 deer last season, a 7-percent increase over 2016 levels. With more-restricted buck harvest limits in effect, most of the overall increase was powered by a 12-percent rise in the number of antlerless deer killed.

But Charles Ruth, the deer project leader for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources said plenty of factors probably contributed to the increase, which ended a series of harvest decreases dating back to 2002, when the record harvest was better than 300,000 deer.

“We expected a little bump in the harvest last year because of conditions in 2015 and 2016,” he said. “I would guess that we left some deer in the

woods because of the flood in 2015 and the hurricane in 2016 that would have been harvested under better conditions, and they were harvested last fall.”

Ruth doesn't expect any big differences in where and when hunters take deer this fall, nor how many. But he said he and other biologists will be monitoring details of this fall's harvest — and the next two or three seasons — to see if the more-restrictive buck limits instituted in time for the 2017-18 season are having an impact on what hunters are tagging.

“Most of the increase we had (in 2017) was related to the doe harvest,” Ruth said. “Maybe that's an indication that the buck limits are working at some level, but it will take a few years to really determine that. It will take at least three years or more before we'll be sure about it. I don't think the increase we saw last year was enough to predict how it will set up in the next few years, but we have that big question to answer: Are we actually, with the limits, are we going to save some bucks?”

Ruth wonders aloud whether or not last year's increase was just a one-season wonder, or if South Carolina's deer herd is on the increase.

“This is anecdotal, but I'm starting to talk to more people who say they are seeing more deer than they have been in recent years,” he said. “And



Jason Ray killed this 142-inch, 10-point buck on Dec. 7, 2017, in North Carolina's Rutherford County, where the herd is expanding.

one thing we highlighted in our deer report (www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2017DeerHarvestReport.html) was that the coyote harvest was down last fall. Has our coyote population finally hit the wall and is no longer increasing? Is that affecting our deer population?”

As far as where to hunt in the Palmetto State, nothing has really changed. The same handful of counties is spitting out the most deer every season, and some of the same counties are spitting out the biggest number of trophy bucks.

Hunters in Orangeburg, Hampton, Colleton and Williamsburg all killed better than 7,000 deer last season. Hunters

**TOP SC COUNTIES
2017 OVERALL DEER HARVEST**

County	Harvest
1. Orangeburg	9,319
2. Hampton	7,529
3. Colleton	7,462
4. Williamsburg	7,096
5. Anderson	6,602
6. Fairfield	5,965
7. Berkeley	5,849
8. Spartanburg	5,285
9. Bamberg	5,212
10. Newberry	5,186

**TOP SC COUNTIES
2017 DEER HARVEST BY AREA**

County	Harvest/Sq. Mile
1. Anderson	19.3
2. Bamberg	17.0
3. Hampton	14.8
4. Calhoun	13.8
5. Spartanburg	12.7
6. Abbeville	12.1
7. Saluda	11.8
8. Orangeburg	11.8
9. Barnwell	11.1
10. Allendale	10.9

**TOP NC COUNTIES
2017 OVERALL DEER HARVEST**

County	Harvest
1. Northampton	4,120
2. Halifax	3,821
3. Anson	3,692
4. Randolph	3,670
5. Wilkes	3,438
6. Rockingham	3,179
7. Stokes	3,052
8. Bertie	3,012
9. Union	2,862
10. Montgomery	2,736

**TOP NC COUNTIES
2017 BUCK HARVESTS BY AREA**

County	Bucks Sq. Mile
1. Mecklenburg	5.49
2. Forsyth	5.17
3. Alleghany	4.81
4. Cabarrus	4.52
5. Gaston	4.46
6. Union	4.15
7. Ashe	4.14
8. Vance	4.01
9. Northampton	3.95
10. Guilford	3.80

in Anderson, Bamberg and Hampton counties killed the highest number of deer per square mile, and Orangeburg, Aiken and Anderson counties continue to fill up the South Carolina deer record book with the most entries.

North Carolina hunters will have plenty to think about this season. Those in the eastern half of the state are facing a season limit of two antlered bucks for the first time ever, thanks to regulation changes in the offseason.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission divided the eastern third of the state into two management regions: Northeastern and Southeastern, but seasons and bag limits are the same in both regions this fall. The statewide limit on antlerless deer is now four, with bonus tags only allowed during Urban Archery seasons in specified locations.

Rutherford, Polk and Cleveland counties were moved from the Western to the Northwest section, and in those three counties — plus the remainder of the Western section — antlerless seasons of various lengths will move from the end of gun season to the beginning.

Last season, North Carolina hunters tagged 161,854 deer, an 8-percent increase over the previous season, a harvest made up of 52-percent bucks and 41-percent does.

continues >

5 BEST HANDGUNS FOR WHITETAILS

Selecting the right handgun for hunting whitetail deer can be daunting, in part because there are so many excellent options. This list of five only scratches the surface, but these are some of the finest handguns available for whitetail hunters.

- **Ruger Blackhawk, .44 Remington Magnum.** This classic wheel gun is a personal favorite. The weight balance and look of the Blackhawk make it an excellent choice. Choose the seven-inch barrel and top it with quality optics. This gun is capable of killing deer out to slightly more than 100 yards. The .44 Remington Magnum is arguably the best choice for handgun hunters. The single-action revolver is powerful and capable of handling the heaviest rounds.

- **Taurus Raging Bull, .454 Casull.** This has been long thought to be too much gun for whitetail. The .454 Casull with a 300-grain bullet carries more than 1,600 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. You will not be underpowered with this comfortable-shooting revolver. The built-in porting from Taurus allows for the recoil to be manageable.

- **Smith and Wesson 629 Classic, .357 Magnum.** This double-action action revolver in .357 Magnum is thought by some to be on the light side; however, the .357 magnum is plenty capable of killing deer in the Carolinas. The light, 500 foot pounds of energy make this a close-range gun for deer.

- **Freedom Arms .500 Wyoming Express.** The last of the revolver options, this might be the finest handgun being made today. Freedom Arms' single-action revolvers are a thing of beauty and functionality, and if you are getting the best, you might as well get the biggest. The .500 Wyoming Express shoots a thumb-sized, 400-grain bullet at a whopping 1,250 feet per second, carrying 1,387 foot pounds of energy. This gun will stop anything in its tracks. Plus, it is just fun to shoot!

- **Thompson/Center Contender G2, .41 Remington Magnum.** Moving from the revolvers to a single shot, the Thompson/Center Contender G2 multi-barrel pistol is a great choice for beginning handgun hunters. Look at the .41 Rem Magnum as an option. Carrying a muzzle velocity of 1,560 feet per second and 1,135 foot pounds of energy from a 210-grain bullet. It carries more than enough energy and power to kill white-tails out to around 100 yards.

Choosing any of these fine handguns for your next deer hunt will guarantee you a gun that is more than capable for the job. ■

— Pete Rogers

SOUTH CAROLINA 2018-19 DEER SEASONS

Game Zone 1 — Private Lands
Primitive Weapons: Oct. 1-10
Gun Hunts: Oct. 11-Jan. 1, 2019

Game Zone 2 — Private Lands
Archery Only: Sept. 15-30
Primitive Weapons: Oct. 1-10
Gun Hunts: Oct. 11-Jan. 1, 2019

Game Zone 3 — Private Lands
Archery and Gun Hunts: Aug. 15-Jan. 1, 2019

Game Zone 4 — Private Lands
Archery Only: Aug. 15-31
Gun Hunts: Sept. 1 - Jan. 1, 2019

Public lands: Seasons vary between individual Wildlife Management Areas. Consult S.C. Regulations Digest for details.



Pete Rogers killed this fine South Carolina buck with a Ruger Blackhawk in .44 Remington Magnum with a Bushnell 2X scope.

Pete Rogers

John Shaw, the deer-project leader for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, said the changes were responses to trends noticed in harvests over the past decade.

“Generally speaking, we’ve seen declines in the deer harvest in the eastern half of the state for about a decade,” he said. “The harvest has been fairly stable in the Central section and the Northwestern zone, and in the Western zone, we’ve seen some pretty strong increases in harvest trends, mostly on private lands. We may be reaching a point where deer numbers start making some exponential gains in some western areas.”

In the eastern third of the state, however, things may be headed in the other direction.

“We have encouraged doe harvests for decades, and maybe we’ve gotten on top of the herd,” he said.

Shaw said the two-buck rule in the eastern half of the state is half of a Commission goal.

“The two-buck limit is designed to help balance the sex-ratio in the eastern part



**NORTH CAROLINA
2018-19 DEER SEASONS**

Northeastern/Southeastern Seasons
 Archery: Sept. 8–28
 Blackpowder: Sept. 29–Oct. 12
 Gun: Oct. 13, 2018–Jan. 1, 2019

Central Deer Season
 Archery: Sept. 8–Oct. 26
 Blackpowder: Oct. 27–Nov. 9
 Gun: Nov. 10–Jan. 1, 2019

Northwestern Deer Season
 Archery: Sept. 8–Nov. 2
 Blackpowder: Nov. 3–16
 Gun: Nov. 17–Jan. 1, 2019

Western Deer Season
 Archery: Sept. 8–30, Oct. 14–Nov. 18, Dec. 9–Jan. 1, 2019 (antlered deer only)
 Blackpowder: Oct. 1–13
 Gun: Nov. 19–Dec. 8

Rick Small

Extensive doe harvests across North Carolina have stabilized the size of the herd in the eastern two-thirds of the state.

PENNINGTON Innovative Seed Products Since 1945

RACKMASTER®

Food Plot Seed Mix

WITH **RAPIDRESULTS™** TECHNOLOGY

Enhanced for faster germination and stronger plants

Take the guesswork out of food plots with mixes that optimize nutrition and herd health

Rackmaster® Oats
An improved forage oat developed for wildlife*

Rackmaster® Early Draw
A blend of warm and cool season annuals developed for the early season.

Rackmaster® Feeding Frenzy

Rackmaster® Deluxe Fall Deer Mixture

Rackmaster® Carolina Complete Fall Deer Mix

Pennington.com
1.800.285.SEED

Find Rackmaster® at your local independent seed dealer or find a dealer using our “where to buy” button at www.pennington.com

* compared to conventional southern oats
Pennington with design, Rackmaster, RapidResults and Feeding Frenzy are registered trademarks of Pennington Seed, Inc.

of the state, and the age structure in our bucks," he said. "But the timing of the (doe) harvest is just as important. We want to have that balanced sex ratio in the herd going into the breeding season. We want to shoot (does) earlier. That can have a tremendous impact on concentrating the timing of breeding and fawning activities."

Eliminating bonus antlerless tags — except in areas with an Urban Deer Season — is a recognition that hunters have gotten control of the herd in most areas. Limiting hunters to four antlerless deer per season is another step in that direction.

"We believe that's going to help stabilize our deer numbers



Biologists expect a two-buck limit in eastern North Carolina to change the age structure among bucks in the herd..

in some places" Shaw said. "All we can look at is past trends, because it's hard to predict the future. Things can change."

Statistically, hunters are killing deer just about everywhere in the eastern two-thirds of North Carolina. Top counties are the traditional Roanoke River counties, Northampton, Halifax and Bertie, but top harvests also came last year from counties in the southern Piedmont (Anson, Randolph, Union), the northern Piedmont (Rockingham, Stokes) and Wilkes County in the northwestern mountains.

Counties in the northern Piedmont continue to dominate the honor roll kept by the Wake County Wildlife Club of trophy bucks scored at the annual Dixie Deer Classic. Multiple Boone & Crockett bucks have been taken from Rockingham, Person, Guilford and Caswell counties, most of them since the two-buck rule was instituted in the western half of the state in 2000. ■



Dan Kibler of Winston-Salem, N.C., is managing editor of Carolina Sportsman. He has been covering outdoors issues full-time since 1985.

EARLY SEASON STAND OPTIONS >

The Archery Shop

Area's Oldest Mathews Dealer!

MISSION In Stock

FULL LINE OF ARCHERY ACCESSORIES BY:

Rage, ILLUZY, GOLD TP, Zebra, PRIMOS

COME SHOOT OUR INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE!

328 Industrial Dr • Summerville SC • 843-875-9613

HOMEOWNER • MOBILE HOMES • AUTO • BOATS • MOTORCYCLES

Sarah Judy's INSURANCE AGENCY

Personal Service Guaranteed

3090 Jefferies Hwy • Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone (843) 538-5856 • Fax (843) 538-5282
www.sarahjudysinsurance.com

Fourth Generation Outfitters

www.FourthGenerationOutfitters.com

NOW BOOKING September Goose and Teal Season!

Call today to reserve your days!

Also Booking October Duck Hunts!

NEW T-SHIRT Order Online!

NEW T-SHIRT Order Online!

Call Aaron Mathews at 252-619-2880 or visit www.quackkills.com

EARLY SEASON REQUIRES PLENTY OF STAND OPTIONS

With deer season approaching, hunters are running out of time to make preparations to put themselves in the right spot for a big buck.

These deer don't make "Bullwinkle" status from making mistakes, and if hunters want to punch a tag and plan a trip to the taxidermist, a "shotgun" approach — plenty of stands in different areas — is the only way to make a dream into a reality.

Hunters need to be in the woods during the first few weeks of the season because every deer is alive and well. The crop of new bucks is out and settled in its late-summer pattern, with very few real threats to disrupt daily movements. It's not until the season begins that they become wary of unusual sounds and smells in their living rooms. Bucks will quickly learn they're no longer alone, and the time for hunters to easily take a buck quickly dwindles.

Hunters should add a full complement of trail-camera data and wind-shield surveys to their existing knowledge of the land to learn where their deer are bedding, feeding and traveling in the weeks before the season begins so their daily movements are predictable.

But little mistakes can shatter a hunter's plan and eliminate his opportunities.

Early in the season, deer follow a daily routine, with consistent bedding, feeding and loafing areas. The only time they change their routine is when environmental conditions change: the arrival of weather and/or a shift in wind direction. A

prepared hunter can still make it happen when Mother Nature throws a curveball.

Hunters can set up on a specific deer or herd in many places, including food sources, bedding areas and along travel corridors. They should erect stands in multiple places so they can encounter deer in different places when conditions change. And it's not just different places, either. Hunters should set up multiple stands around the same spots, such as

two different stands on a peanut field, to account for alternative winds. Second and third stands don't have to be the same kind as the primary stand. They can be small ladder stands, an extra lock-on or two, or even a small ground blind — instead of a tower stand.

Deer will change their travel patterns when the weather changes, and hunters need to make changes to get their target buck in their sights or prevent an early season failure.

Hunters need options, and without them, the best decision may be sitting at home to prevent any mishaps. But if another stand is set up for a different wind, the hunter may still get a chance at their prize. It's all about options. Hunters need choices to make sure they can hunt in the right spot at the right time.

— Jeff Burleson



A hunter who does his homework and gives himself plenty of stand options — a shotgun approach — has a better chance of connecting with an early season buck.

Ben Lecroy

BOST ARGO/CENTAUR SALES

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD!



XTREME TERRAIN VEHICLES

Hwy. 152 E. 6540 • Rockwell, NC 28138 • Email: bostatv@gmail.com
www.atvargo.com

CHEROKEE RUN
 Hunting Lodge

Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey in the wilds of South Carolina



Trophy Managed Whitetail on the Great Pee Dee River



Trophy Wild Boar in the SC Swamps

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year' round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
 Dear/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC. Comfortable lodging including satellite TV, pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
eatsleephunt.com

CROSS CREEK OUTDOOR SUPPLIES

www.crosscreekoutdoorsupply.com

537 Cross Creek Rd.
Henderson, NC 27536
252-492-9770

26th Anniversary
BLOW OUT SALE
August 25th
Up to **50% OFF** On Hunting Supplies!

Over 45 Vendors
On Hand!

Food by
Chick Fil A

Games &
Silent Auctions

HUNTING LAND FOR SALE

CHIP CAMP
Agent, Land Specialist
Western North Carolina
(704) 473-3833

JIMMY UNDERWOOD
Agent, Land Specialist
Southeast South Carolina
(843) 421-9995

SCOTT HICKS
Agent, Land Specialist
Eastern North Carolina
(919) 610-4796

JOSEPH MORRIS
Agent, Land Specialist
Western South Carolina
(706) 910-8557

SEAN MALOY
Agent, Land Specialist
Central North Carolina
(844) 412-1200

RICK ELLIOTT
Broker, Land Specialist
South Carolina
(843) 450-5668

**\$2.3
BILLION
& 615,000
ACRES**
sold company
wide in the last
5 years

**CONTACT AN AGENT TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT BUYING AND
SELLING HUNTING, RANCH,
FARMLAND AND TIMBERLAND**



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE
HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC | dba Whitetail Properties | Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC | Lic. in IL, MO, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker | Lic. in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker | Lic. in OH & PA - Kirk Gilbert, Broker | Lic. in TX - Joey Bellington, Broker | Lic. in IN - John Boyken, Broker | Lic. in LA, MS & AL - Sybil Stewart, Broker | Lic. in TN - Chris Wakefield, Broker | Lic. in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker | Lic. in AR - Johnny Ball, Broker | Lic. in SC - Rick Elliott, Broker | Lic. in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker | Lic. in MI - Brandon Cropsey, Broker



The Carolina's Largest Boat Dealer!

Over 300 Boats
in Stock!

- Huge selection to choose from!
All the best brands

- On site test lake
- Over 70,000 sq ft of inside showrooms
- 9 full time sales and finance experts
- 8 factory trained service techs



Powered by



CALL US BEFORE YOU BUY...
WE WILL SAVE YOU MONEY!

Sanford, NC
919-775-7259
chatleeboats.com





SPEED KINGS

By Mike Marsh

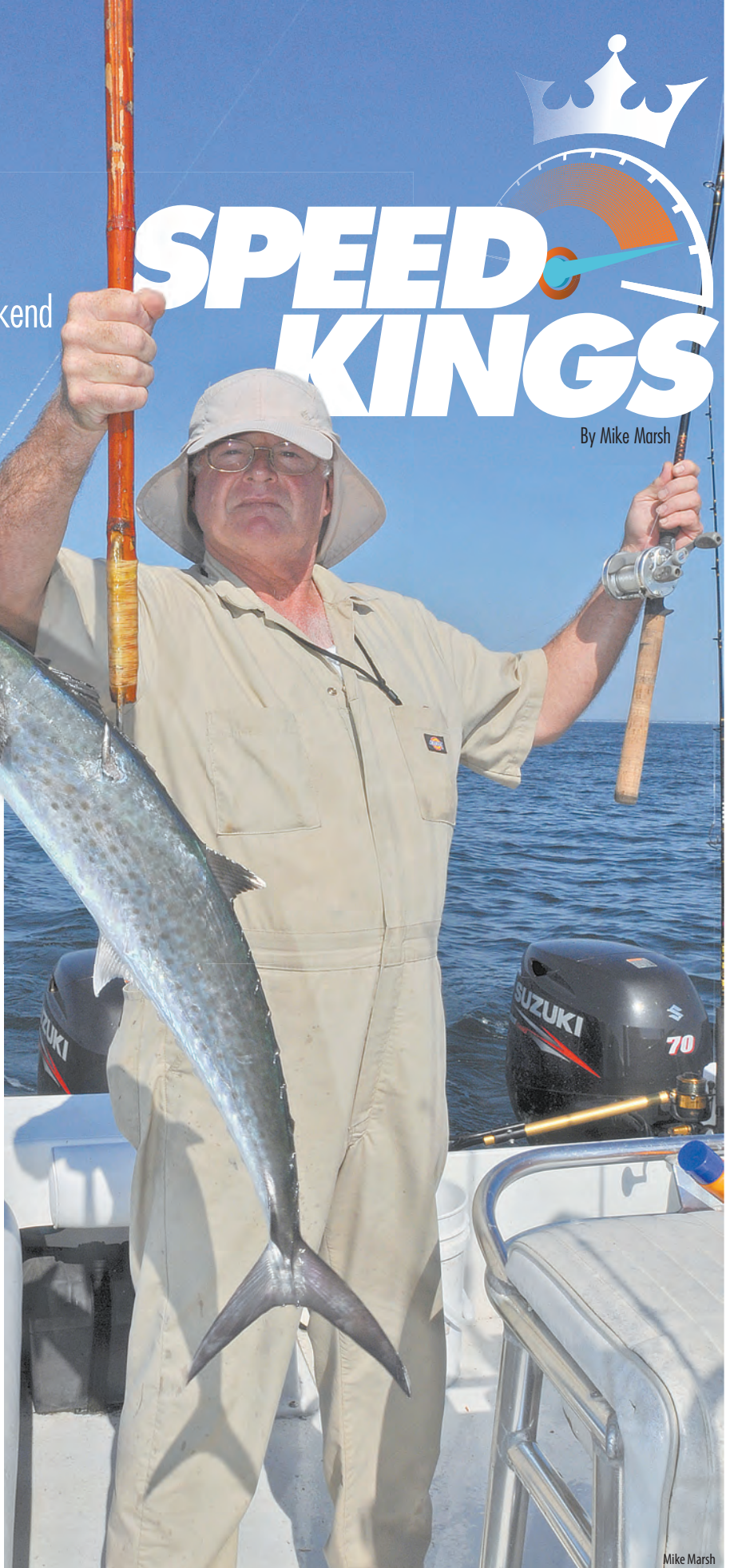
Forget the live bait. For weekend warriors, fast-trolling may be a more-efficient way to consistently catch kings and Spanish mackerel.

Sure, most anglers who land king mackerel big enough to win tournaments use live menhaden or mullet as bait, but the typical weekend warrior can make fishing more fun by concentrating on efficiency and, who knows, still might catch a citation king or Spanish mackerel. All that is necessary is switching to lures and frozen squid.

Always a leader in the pragmatic fishing department is Bruce Trujillo, who operates Tight Loop Charters out of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., and that means everything he does points to catching fish. One morning last summer, he and fishing partner Russ Luhm launched at daybreak, wasting no time.

"During summer, if you don't get to the ramp early, you may not find a parking space," Trujillo said. "On busy weekends or holidays, it can also seem as busy on the water."

Trujillo and Luhm rolled out for a day of trolling, their favorite way of fun-fishing. On the way through the lengthy no-wake zone between the ramp and Masonboro Inlet, they spotted other anglers throwing cast nets and bringing them up empty. They were careful to give them wide berth to avoid rocking their boats or scattering scant baitfish schools.



Mike Marsh



"Catching live menhaden when it's hot can be the ultimate in frustration," Luhm said. "You just launched your boat after finding a tight space in the parking spot, finally hit the water and now, since you did not prepare for a day of fishing without live bait, you are going to have to spend the best fishing hours in the cool of morning chasing bait along with everyone else. That's why live-bait fishing is not for me anymore."

Luhm is 75, and Trujillo is 66. Trujillo remembers when fishermen did not use live menhaden when they fished from boats. Before the tournament craze, only pier fishermen used live baits. "Back then, we used cedar plugs and Drone spoons," he said. "But today, we have much-better lures and one certain bait, so inexpensive and easy to find, it's a wonder everyone isn't using it. I prefer using squid in my mackerel trolling setups for other reasons, too. I can use the same live-bait rig most anglers use for menhaden and troll it with a squid at the same speed as my favorite lures, which are Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow deep divers. Just about any fish I want to catch will eat a Yo-Zuri or squid. King mackerel and Spanish mackerel go bonkers over them."

Luhm and Trujillo both have decades of mackerel fishing under their belts, and when fishing as a team, they divide duties. Trujillo

Shimmer and shine incite **SHOCK STRIKES**

King mackerel are suckers for hard-plastic lures like Yo-Zuri's Crystal Minnow, and several big advantages exist for trolling lures instead of live baits.

- You don't have to waste valuable fishing time trying to catch bait in a cast net or on a Sabiki rig.
- Lures don't require livewells with pumps and switches that can malfunction at the worst times.
- They are much easier to troll in rough seas without tangling the lines.
- An angler can pick different colors in an instant.

On the other hand, cost is a downside. Some of these hard-plastic lures cost \$20 each, and guide Bruce Trujillo counts on losing at least one or two on each trip, with barracuda the culprit in most of the cut-offs.

The use of heavy, wire leaders can impair lure action, so he uses heavy monofilament leaders in most cases. He may use a short wire leader if barracuda are snipping off his lures, but most of the time, he moves on to the next spot. ■

Bruce Trujillo opts for trolling lures over live bait because anglers can spend too much valuable early morning fishing time trying to catch bait.



Mike Marsh

Hard-plastic diving plugs like Yo-Zuri's Crystal Minnow are an alternative to live-baiting or trolling spoons for mackerel.



Mike Marsh

was at the helm on the way to the first artificial reef, while Luhm thawed out squid and fiddled with the trolling gear.

"I fish all of the artificial reefs off Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Topsail Beach, as well as livebottoms," Trujillo said. "It's not difficult to find out where the kings are biting if you ask around the tackle shops. If the kings are there, the Spanish mackerel are, too. You will also find out where the fish are swimming that you want to avoid: amberjack, barracuda and sharks. They can break off or cut off your rigs and lures.

"An amberjack will eat a hooked Spanish mackerel, and a barracuda will cut off a Spanish mackerel in its entirety or cut off a king mackerel behind the gills. A shark will tear up a squid rig. A Yo-Zuri deep diver costs \$16 to \$22, so I don't want to lose many, but losing one or two a day seems inevitable."

At their first destination, Luhm took the helm while Trujillo put out the lines. Most live-bait anglers fish at least four lines, including a downrigger line or two, but he only fishes three.

"I set one deep-diving lure in the propeller wash; the turbulence attracts kings," he said. "I set another one at 40 to 60 feet. If it isn't swimming true or at a depth the fish like, I adjust the line by counting the wake waves. When you are only running two deep divers, all you have to do is spread them apart to keep them from tangling, even in tight turns. You don't need a downrigger because the lures run so deep."



GREAT SELECTION IN STOCK NOW!

WAR EAGLE BOATS SEAARK BOATS LOWE BOATS

Precision Marine Inc.

FIND US OFF HWY 70 BYPASS AT EXIT #369
FROM RALEIGH/EXIT #370 FROM KINSTON!
919-751-1199



**961
BLACKHAWKS
ALSO IN STOCK!**

AS LOW AS
\$265/mo*

2170 Blackhawk w/115 4stroke & alum. tandem axle trailer



**2018 MODEL
BLOWOUT ON 220BX AND
BXT! CALL FOR INCREDIBLE
PRICING!**

STARTING AT
\$275/mo*

Bay Extreme Tunnel BXT220 w/DF175, Hyd Steering & tandem alum trlr.



**1860SC
ALSO IN
STOCK!**

STARTING AT
\$215/mo*

Lowe Roughneck 2070 SC, 90hp & galvanized trailer.

* with approved credit

**New Store Hours: 8-5:00 Monday - Friday
After hours by appointment**



CALL US FOR RE-POWERS!

WE SELL & INSTALL

MINN-KOTA

POWER-POLE
SHALLOW WATER ANCHOR

Powered by

SUZUKI
MARINE

WWW.PRECISIONMARINEINC.COM



The third line, set farther back, held the squid bait, which slipped along just beneath the surface. “The squid runs shallow and has no additional weight,” Luhm said. “If I am running downwind, it may skim the surface because the speed picks up. In a turn or running into the wind, it sinks a bit, but never enough to interfere with the deep divers because it falls so slowly. A lot of strikes come as the squid falls. If we are going to get a 30-plus pounder, it’s usually on the squid.”

The lures struck pay dirt in the form of Spanish gold before the first turn. Luhm was watching the depthfinder and looking forward to keep an eye on other boats when the warning clicker sounded off. Trujillo grabbed the rod.

“I could see baitfish stacked up on the structure just before the strike,” Luhm said. “Sometimes, they stay oriented to the same area of the structure, but most of the time, they move around. The hardest thing, if there is any amount of wind, is keeping the boat on top of the fish.”



Speed-rig a **SQUID**

Any angler who can twist-together a wire live-bait rig for fishing with menhaden can make a rig for trolling squid.

The rig consists of 24 to 36 inches of No. 5, single-strand wire ahead of a 6-inch length of No. 5 single-strand wire with two No. 4x strong treble hooks. The luminous, green bead provides additional attraction, but it also serves the vital function of reducing water pressure on the tail tip of the squid to help it stay on the hook at the relatively high trolling speeds needed when running at the same spread with some hard-plastic, deep-diving lures. ■



Mike Marsh

Squid can be trolled on a rig similar to a live-bait king rig to take mackerel.

KING MAC IS WHAT WE DO!



King Mackerel Tackle

Best Source For King Mackerel Tackle

Largest Selection of
Custom Bait Rigs
& Same Day Shipping on Most Items!

Over 40 years of saltwater experience:
We outfit everyone from novice to pro!

Buy online or Download Our Catalog at:
www.KingMacTak.com • 919-900-8998











**Call Now to Schedule
Your Trailer Maintenance... Don't Wait!**

Capp's TRAILERS.com
Parts • Sales • Service

Boat • Dump • Enclosed
Equipment • Utility

Hwy. 70E, Dover (5 miles east of Kinston), NC • 252-523-1038

NOW OFFERING

24 Hour Emergency Roadside Service
Specializing in Boat, Camper,
Dump, Enclosed, Equipment, Gooseneck,
and Utility Trailers

Services available:
Bearings and Hub Repair, DOT Compliance (lighting, brake-away kit)
Brake Repair, Flat Tires, Fuel Delivery, Towing of trailer



**Your Eastern NC
Trailer Headquarters!**

IT ALL ADDS UP TO MORE FISH IN THE BOAT.



COURTESY OF FLW / PHOTO BY CHARLES WALDORF

Bryan Thrift
2018 FLW Tour Lake Cumberland Champion.



P-LINE TACTICAL FLUOROCARBON

Show up prepared for the battle: smoother, more sensitive, improved knot strength, stronger, and unmatched abrasion resistance.

P-LINE X-BRAID

Delivers superior abrasion resistance, longer casts, vibration reduction and a near zero stretch factor for unparalleled power.

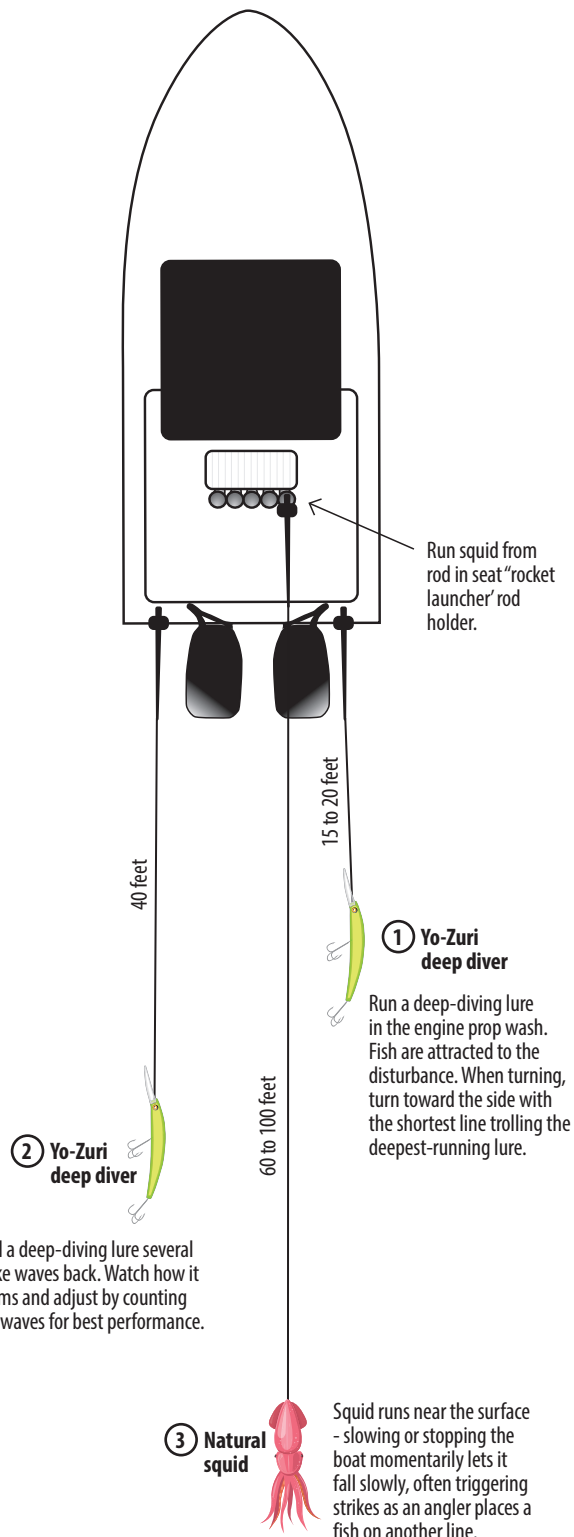


www.P-Line.com





Bruce Trujillo's trolling setup for **MACKEREL**



"Fishing with live baits compounds the problem, because you are trolling them so slow it is hard to keep the lines tight when you are heading into the wind. The lines get slack in them and tangle. Then, when you turn around and run downwind, you are going so fast you are dragging them so they can't swim naturally. All I have to do when we troll lures and squid is watch the depthfinder and GPS. I don't have to worry about lines crossing because I am running at higher speeds, which makes controlling the boat much easier."

Luhm and Trujillo trolled for 45 minutes and boated a king mackerel to go along with several big Spanish mackerel before declaring the bite lackluster, reeling in lines and heading to another spot.

"It's like playing a connect-the-dots puzzle," Trujillo said. "I always plan the day so I have at least three spots to fish that line up efficiently. I might fish a nearshore reef, like the Liberty Ship (Meares Harris Reef, AR 370) or the 5-mile Boxcars (AR 372) then slip on out to the 10-mile Boxcars (AR 376) and end the day at Dallas Rock off Topsail or at the Schoolhouse (Lennon/Hyde Reef, AR 386). I can do the same thing by hitting the Carolina Beach Reef (Phillip Wolfe Reef, AR 378), the Dredge Wreck (AR 382) then the Frying Pan Tower ledges. I plan to fish three spots at different distances off the beach, confident that one is going to hold the mother lode." ■



A heavy casting spoon like a Stingsilver will draw strikes from mackerel, especially Spanish, as long as you can retrieve it at a fast speed.

Heave heavy metal for **HARDER HITS**

If angler Russ Luhm spots Spanish mackerel schooling at the surface or sees them on his depth finder as he works a school with deep-diving lures, he'll fling a Stingsilver or other heavy metal spoon at them.

The tactic works even while he is running at trolling speed. However, if a few casts reveal that he is in the thick of the fish, he may stop the boat, bring in the trolling lures and start casting and jigging for Spanish mackerel to fill his ice chest. Sometimes, the heavy casting and jigging spoon attracts a big king mackerel. ■

DESTINATION INFORMATION

HOW TO GET THERE — An N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission ramp in Wrightsville Beach offers the best access to Masonboro Inlet. From Wilmington, take US 74 toward Wrightsville Beach. When you cross the ICW, take three right turns to the ramp. From the inlet, a handful of inshore and nearshore artificial reefs are within easy range: AR 370, AR 372, AR 376, AR 378, AR 382, AR 386, Dallas Rock. Frying Pan Tower is a long run to the south.

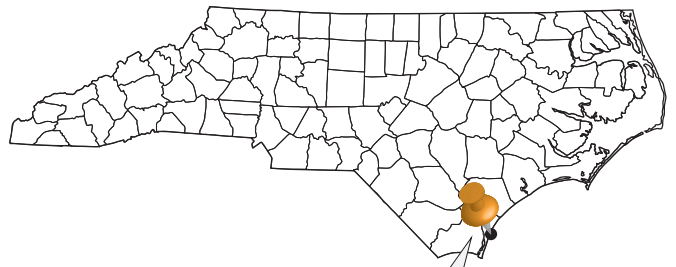
WHEN TO GO — August through November are peak times to catch mackerel. Look for water temperatures between 65 and 72 degrees.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Troll for king and Spanish mackerel with Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow deep-divers or natural squid on a two-hook live-bait rig. Jig or cast Stingsilver spoons. Use 7-foot, medium-action Shimano or Penn rods with a Daiwa BC20 spinning reel spooled with 10- or 12-pound Berkley Big Game mono.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES
— Bruce Trujillo, Tight Loop Charters, 910-675-0252; Tex's Tackle, Wilmington, 910-791-1763; Island Tackle & Hardware, Carolina Beach, 910-458-3049. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS
— Sleep Inn, Wilmington, 910-313-6665; Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce, www.pleasureislandchambernc.org.

MAPS — Sealake Fishing Guides, 800-411-0185, www.thegoodspots.com; Grease Chart, 800-326-3567, www.greasechart.com; Maps Unique, 910-458-9923, www.mapsunique.com.



Masonboro Inlet

DON'T MISS THE BOAT THIS FALL!

26

POWER MARINE

outfitters

215 XTS

NauticStar
BOATS

LOOKOUT SKIFF MITZI SKIFFS

Sneads Ferry, NC • 910-327-3953
www.powermarineoutfitters.com

YAMAHA

Call Us Today For The
Lowest Re-Power Prices In NC!



Mike Marsh is a freelance outdoor writer in Wilmington, N.C. His latest book, *Fishing North Carolina*, and other titles, are available at www.mikemarshoutdoors.com.

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR SPECIALS OFFERED BY



ANGLER'S MARINE
842 OCEAN HWY WEST
SUPPLY, NC 28462
910-775-7900
anglersmarinenc.com

BAY RACER MARINE
213 US HIGHWAY 70 WEST
HAVELOCK, NC 28532
252-447-2277
bayracermarine.com

BERKELEY OUTDOORS
2955 S. LIVE OAK DR
MONCK'S CORNER, SC 29461
843-761-2628
803-333-9992
803-505-8727
berkeleyoutdoors.com

BRAZDA MARINE
2645 Highway 24
Newport, NC 28570
252-240-1600
brazdamarine.net

BROAD CREEK MARINA
18 SIMMONS ROAD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC. 29926
843-681-3625
broadcreekmarinahh.com

BROWN'S MARINE INC
1825 ANTHONY RD
BURLINGTON, NC 27215
336-229-5784
brownsmarine.net

**CAROLINA BOATWORKS
OF COLUMBIA, LLC**
181 PONTIAC BUSINESS CENTER DR
ELGIN, SC 29045
803-736-0035
cbwofcolumbia.com

CAROLINA COACH & MARINE
I-40, EXIT 135
CLAREMONT, NC 28610
800-305-9045
www.carolinacoach.com

CHATLEE BOAT & MARINE
2615 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY.
SANFORD, NC 27330
919-775-7259
chatleeboats.com

COASTLINE RV & MARINE
2340 S. HIGHWAY 17
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
843-458-3999
coastlinervrentals.com

COLLINS INC.
4620 US 70 Bus Hwy East
Smithfield, NC 27577
(919) 934-3143
Collinsboating.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
1821 LAKE MURRAY BLVD.
COLUMBIA, SC 29212
803-814-1514
cove2coastmarine.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
2476 SAVANNAH HWY.
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
843-212-3915
cove2coastmarine.com

DOSS MARINE
1720 CHAPIN ROAD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-345-1001
dossmarine.com

DOWN EAST MARINE
455 HIGHWAY 70 OTWAY
BEAUFORT, NC 28516
252-728-5817
downeastmarine.com

FORT MACON MARINA INC
417 E FT MACON RD POB 370
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC 28512
252-726-2055
fortmaconmarina.com

FOUR SONS MARINE
855 CAUSEY RD
FAIR BLUFF, NC 28439
910-649-5755
foursonsmarine.com

GRAHAM MARINE
318 W HARDEN ST
GRAHAM, NC 27253
336-227-8711
grahammarinesales.net

GREG'S OUTBOARD CTR INC
1105 E OCEAN RD
HOLLY RIDGE, NC 28445
910-329-0040
gregsoutboard.com

HUNTLEY MARINE
307 N POLK ST
PINEVILLE, NC 28134
704-889-2111
huntleymarine.com

J & J MARINE
2530 BADIN ROAD
ALBEMARLE NC 28001
704-983-867
jandjmarinesales.com

JERRY'S MARINE SERVICES
3801-B MEETING STREET ROAD
CHARLESTON, SC 29405
843-554-3732 • Fax 843-554-9435
jerrysmarine.com

**JET JOE'S MARINE
SALES AND SERVICE**
565 SATTERWHITE POINT RD.
HENDERSON, NC 27537
Phone: 252-430-6209
jetjoesmarine.com

JIMMY'S MARINE
6685 BEACH DRIVE SW
OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC 28469
910-575-3600
jimmysmarine.com

JOHNSON'S MARINE
814 HOUSER ST
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115-6325
803-531-1655 • Fax 803-531-1626
johnsonsmarinesc.com

LONG'S FISHING & MARINE
5401 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29625-6020
864-287-9064 • FAX 864-287-2965

LONG ISLAND MARINA
8400 LONG ISLAND ROAD
CATAWBA, NC 28609
828-241-4877
longislandmarina.com

MARINE 360
1925 JOHNSON MARINA RD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-749-2360
marine360sc.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE
6921 MARKET ST
WILMINGTON, NC 28411
910-799-1277
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE CENTER
3881 SAVANNAH HIGHWAY
JOHNS ISLAND, SC 29455
843-974-5353
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARTIN'S PERFORMANCE BOATING
9345 MACEDONIA CHURCH RD
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
803-364-2162
martinsmarine.com

MARINE SERVICE PRO, INC.
8210 RIVER ROAD SE
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461
910-363-4725
marineservicepro8210@gmail.com

MERRITT MARINE
1804 NC-86
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278
919-732-7377
merrittmarine.com

MIRAMAR BOATS LLC
209 ARENDELL ST
MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557
252-726-7678
www.portsidemarina.com

MUDDY BAY MARINE
13803 C. R. KOON HWY.
NEWBERRY, SC 29108
803-321-1900
muddybay.com

NORTH POINT WATERSPORTS
112 DOOLIE RD.
MOORESVILLE, NC
704-799-1994
northpointwatersports.com
info@npwatersports.com

PERFORMANCE EAST
604 CORPORATE DRIVE
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530
888-503-8900
ncpowersports.com

PRECISION MARINE INC
5201 US HWY 70 E
GOLDSBORO, NC 27534
919-751-1199
precisionmarineinc.com

RADCLIFFE MARINE INC.
865 US 264 BYPASS
BELHAVEN, NC 27810
252-943-3923
www.radcliffefmarine.com

**ROGUE MOTION BOAT
SALES & STORAGE**
65 SYCAMORE AVE UNIT 1
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
TOLL-FREE 888-341-9460
roguemotion.com

SALTWATER MARINE
6130 CAROLINA BEACH ROAD
WILMINGTON NC 28412
910-392-7488
saltwatermarine.net

SOUNDSIDE MARINE
114 MARINE DRIVE
EDENTON, NC 27932
252-482-4363
soundsidemarine.com

SOUTHPORT MARINE MART
4711 LONG BEACH RD
SOUTHPORT, NC
910-457-6350
marinemartnc.com

SOUTHPORT WATERSPORTS
4888 Coastal Drive
Southport, NC 28461
910-477-6681
southportwatersports.com

STRICKLAND MARINE CENTER
4520 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29626
864-225-0145
stricklandmarine.com

STROUD AND SON MARINE SALES
1897 OCEAN HWY
EDENTON, NC 27932
252-482-8938
www.stroudandson.com

SUTTON MARINE
914 PARK AVENUE SOUTHEAST
AIKEN, SC 29801
803-648-6141
suttonmarine.com

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
112 A NORTH CHERRY ST.
CHERRYVILLE, NC 28021
704-445-8848
teagreatoutdoors.com

TRI-COUNTY MARINE
1203 PREMIER ROAD
GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630
828-728-4845
tricityboats.com

TWIN LAKES MARINE, INC
265 SATTERWHITE POINT RD
HENDERSON, N.C. 27537
252-431-0416
twinlakesmarinenc.com

WACCA WACHE MARINA
1950 WACHESAW ROAD
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
(843) 651-2994
www.waccawachemarina.com

WEBSTERS MARINE INC
5974 N OKATIE HWY
RIDGELAND, SC 29936-8248
843-987-6663 • Fax 843-379-2628
webstersmarine.com

YOPP BROTHERS INC
883 HWY 210 W POB 849
SNEADS FERRY, NC 28460
910-327-2831
yoppbrothersmarine.com

UNIVERSAL MARINE
144-A Wayne Drive
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-723-1577
www.universalmarinenc.com



Not all North Carolina and South Carolina American Suzuki Motor of America Inc. marine dealers are represented in this advertisement.

SUZUKI SUMMER SAVINGS



Six Years of Protection
at no extra charge on all new
outboards 25 to 350 HP.



Instant Savings of up to \$800
on select models.
See your dealer for details.



Rates as low as 5.99%
on new Suzuki outboards
on approved credit.*

For a limited time, get Suzuki Extended Protection, Instant Savings and attractive financing on select Suzuki outboards from 25 to 350 horsepower. See your participating Suzuki Marine dealer for details or visit www.suzukimarine.com.



Gimme Six Extended Protection promo is applicable to new Suzuki Outboard Motors from 25 to 350 HP in inventory which are sold and delivered to buyer between 07/01/18 and 09/30/18 in accordance with the promotion by a Participating Authorized Suzuki Marine dealer in the continental US and Alaska to a purchasing customer who resides in the continental US or Alaska. Customer should expect to receive an acknowledgement letter and full copy of contract including terms, conditions and wallet card from Suzuki Extended Protection within 90 days of purchase. If an acknowledgement letter is not received in time period stated, contact Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. – Marine Marketing via email: marinepromo@suz.com. The Gimme Six Promotion is available for pleasure use only, and is not redeemable for cash. Instant Savings apply to qualifying purchases of select Suzuki Outboard Motors made between 07/01/18 and 09/30/18. For list of designated models, see participating Dealer or visit www.suzukimarine.com. Instant Savings must be applied against the agreed-upon selling price of the outboard motor and reflected in the bill of sale. (Suzuki will, in turn, credit Dealer's parts account.) There are no model substitutions, benefit substitutions, rain checks, or extensions. Suzuki reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without notice or obligation. * Financing offers available through Synchrony Retail Finance. As low as 5.99% APR financing for 60 months on new and unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors. Subject to credit approval. Not all buyers will qualify. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. \$19.99/month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months is based on 5.99% APR. Hypothetical figures used in calculation; your actual monthly payment may differ based on financing terms, credit tier qualification, accessories or other factors such as down payment and fees. Offer effective on new, unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors purchased from a participating authorized Suzuki dealer between 07/01/18 and 09/30/18. "Gimme Six", the Suzuki "S" and model names are Suzuki trademarks or ®. Don't drink and drive. Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and read your owner's manual. © 2018 Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.

Did you say Paddle Sports?

WE GOT YOU COVERED!



We also rent kayaks!



POGIE'S

SWANSBORO NC

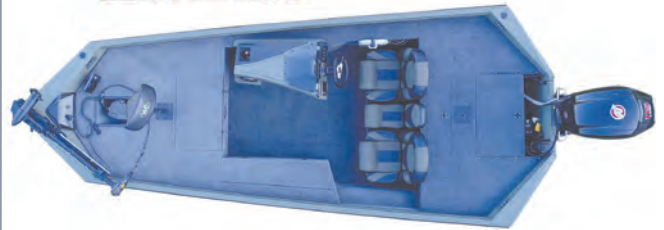
910-325-7876

www.pogiesfishing.com

WE HAVE LIVE MUD MINNOWS!



2019 **HAVOC BOATS** 1756 SC In-Stock!!



Mahindra
Rise.

SOUTHSIDE OUTDOORS
843-292-1195

2304 Claussen Road Florence, SC



See Our Inventory Showroom at
SOUTHSIDEOUTDOORS.com



THE HEAT IS ON

Waters around Sneads Ferry, N.C., can still produce plenty of gator trout despite sizzling summer temperatures — if you know the hows, wheres and whens.

By Craig Holt

It's an axiom that the anvil-hammering sun of North Carolina beach summers pretty much ends productive inshore saltwater fishing, particularly for spotted seatrout.

Many anglers believe when the heat becomes so intense you can fry an egg on the deck of a boat, every species from baitfish to crabs to gamefish retreats to cooler, deeper water — except perhaps during the narrow window around sun-up.

If it's heavenly to find and catch specks and red drum during April and May, then July and August can be hellishly uncomfortable for fish and unproductive for anglers.

For everyone, that is, except for fishermen who do their thing in the creeks, bays and inlets along North Carolina's central coast, including guide Allen Jernigan of Breadman Ventures Guide Service in Sneads Ferry.



Craig Holt

Jernigan, 39, worked as a commercial fisherman, then drove a bread delivery truck, hence, the name of his guide service.

“I think learning to commercial fish helped me (as a guide),” he said. “You learn a lot about where fish are at when your living depends on it.”

Like many former commercial fishermen who converted, Jernigan doesn't use live or cut bait but prefers the greater challenge of artificial lures, even for his clients. And fishing an area known for spotted seatrout of all ages and sizes, he only targets trophy fish — even in the peak of summer.

“I don't catch spikes,” he said, describing 10- to 12-inch specks. “During July and August, I'm typically looking for 5-, 6- and 8-pound fish. We'll catch some 3-pounders, but we might land a 9-pounder.”

To target huge trout, Jernigan uses big lures. “When I know a place has big fish, I'll only throw Mister Big (lures),” Jernigan said. “For August, my favorite will be a 5-inch, MirrOlure ShePup (a topwater walk-the-dog bait). I don't have a favorite color because I don't think it matters that much. A trout looks for movement, so I think those lures look like a big, hurt (menhaden) or shrimp to a trout.”

The topwater bite can turn on at any time of day, too, he said; it isn't reserved for the early morning. Another puzzling aspect of Jernigan's summer trout tactics is where he finds specks — not in deep holes or on drop-offs, but on flats covered by only a foot or two of water.

The reason? The New River, where he does a lot of his summer fishing, is crammed with shrimp, especially in summer, and shrimp school over mud flats. And for trout, the chance to eat shrimp trumps hot, shallow water every time.

“You can have a flat that's only 15 to 18 inches deep and a pothole that's 4 or 5 feet deep,” Jernigan said. “Trout like to get in the holes, especially on low tide. Sometimes they won't bite at a pothole, but you come back (later), and they'll be fired up.”

“Most of the river doesn't have a lot of current or tides like other places. A pothole a couple of feet deeper than the surrounding areas is all it takes to hold trout in summer.”

However, the small difference of a higher tide is preferable.

The trout bite, he said, “is actually is all tide driven. If we have a high tide an hour or two before dark, it'll be game on.”

Besides the river flats, Jernigan spends plenty of time fishing along the Intracoastal Waterway, which runs almost east-west where it intersects the New. It roughly resembles an inverted check mark north of New River Inlet, with the tip top of the check mark where it intersects with Cedar Bush Cut.

continues >

DESTINATION INFORMATION

HOW TO GET THERE —

Sneads Ferry is on NC 172 in Onslow County, which is best accessed from the north via US 17 and NC 210, and from the west via I-40, NC 24, NC 210 and NC 172. The most-popular public boating access is on Fulcher Landing Road of NC 172 east of Sneads Ferry.

WHEN TO GO — July through October.

BEST TECHNIQUES —

Seek out flats with 12 to 24 inches of water and holes 4 to 5 feet deep. Cast topwater lures such as She-Pups, Top Dogs, MR 17s, MR52s or Zara Spooks. Soft-plastics include 5-inch swimbait or Fluke-style lures rigged weightless. Another tactic is to find current — a falling tide is best — at a channel ledge, cast a pink Storm Shrimp behind the boat into the current and simply hold the rod as the lure vibrates.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES —

Allen Jernigan, Breadman Ventures, 910-467-1482; Ricky Kellum, The Speckled Specialist, 910-33-2745; Pogies Fishing Center, Swansboro, 910-325-7876; Dudley's Marina, Cedar Point, 252-393-2204. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS —

Hampton Inn, Sneads Ferry, N.C., 855-605-0317.

MAPS —

Capt. Segull's Nautical Charts, 888-473-4855, www.captainsegullcharts.com; Grease Chart, 800-326-3567, www.greasechart.com; GMCO's Chartbook of North Carolina, 888-42-06277, www.gmcomaps.com; Sealake Fishing Guides, 800-411-0185, www.thegoodspots.com.



Craig Holt



Channels between marshy sand bars will be filled with hungry trout during fall tides near the mouth of the New River. **INSET:** Fat summer trout will hang out in shallow water near marsh edges.

Craig Holt

LIVEBOTTOM
PERFORMANCE FISHING



DEALER INQUIRIES: INFO@FISHLIVEBOTTOM.COM

Available At These Fine Retailers



**Sportsman's
WHOLESALE**
"Shop Where The Locals Shop"



**STRANDS
OUTFITTERS**
Oak Island, NC



SNEADS FERRY

“There are a lot of grass beds at the ICW and (the intersection) with New River at the cut,” Jernigan said. “They’re good places to fish for trout. I’ll often use a soft-plastic (jig) around grass beds.”

His top soft-plastic lure is a gray, 4- or 5-inch Saltwater Assassin Shrimp Cocktail. He also favors the bait in Poppa Smurph/pearl with a blue surface sheen.

“You basically rig them weedless on an unweighted 5/0 swim-bait hook,” Jernigan said. “You cast them in the current where they’ll sit perfectly level. You normally want it to stay level and wiggle. That will attract trout.”



MirrOlures are one of the favorite topwater lures to use for trout (and red drum attack them as well).

THE REEL OUTDOORS
EMERALD ISLE, NC / 252 354-6692

• BAIT & TACKLE • MARINE SUPPLIES • ROD & REEL REPAIRS

PENN REELS **Bimini Bay** **ALL STAR Graphite Rods** **ST. CROIX**
Columbia Sportswear Company **SHIMANO** **YETI COOLERS**
GoPro **TCA FISHING TACKLE**
AVAT REELS **BLUE WATER AFCO** **Star Rods**
Costa Del Mar **HOOKUP LURES** **FIN-NOR** **Daiichi**
 Greg Dennis **www.thereeloutdoors.com**

But if he’s fishing drop-offs along ICW, Jernigan will use a ¼-ounce jighead with a screw lock with a Fluke-style lure. “Some ICW points have a dramatic shelf with a 3- to 4-foot drop where trout lay,” Jernigan said. “Crimp a split-shot 2 to 2½ feet above the lure and work it over the edge, or you can let it fall weightless.”

Jernigan also likes a Mann’s 1-Minus, a 3¼-inch, shallow-diving crankbait in grey ghost color, or a MirrOlure MR52, which sinks about a foot per second in current.

“My favorite in-current hard bait is a clear or pink Storm Shrimp,” Jernigan said. “If you go to a place like the NC 152 bridge and the tide’s moving, all you have to do is throw it in the current, stand and hold it and basically wait for the rod to double over.”

Another tactic is to put a soft-plastic imitation shrimp under a Cajun Thunder popping cork and pop it across an ICW ledge.

Jernigan likes to fish a 7-foot or 7-foot-6 spinning rod and 2500 or 3000 Series Shimano reel spooled with 12-pound test Windtamer braid and a 20-pound fluorocarbon leader.

“I like the toughness of original All-Star rods, but they’re pretty hard to find,” he said. ■

SEA PRO
THE NEXT WAVE

17' to 25' Models in Stock!

Many colors to choose from!

PERFORMANCE EAST, INC.
888-503-8900
604 Corporate Dr. Goldsboro, NC
Check out all our inventory at **www.PerformanceEast.com**

SUZUKI MARINE

THANK YOU TO JOEL AND EMILY WADDELL ON THEIR PURCHASE OF A 248 PICTURED ABOVE.



Craig Holt of Snow Camp has been an outdoor writer for almost 40 years, working for several newspapers, then serving as managing editor for North Carolina Sportsman and South Carolina Sportsman before becoming a full-time free-lancer in 2009.

CRANKING UP CR@PPIE

WHEN SLABS REACH THEIR SUMMER HAUNTS IN DEEPER WATER, IT OFTEN TAKES A VIBRATING, RATTLING CRANKBAIT TO DRAW A STRIKE. HERE'S HOW TO GET ONE.

By Dusty Wilson

There's a good reason why more anglers aren't catching crappie on crankbaits: they haven't tried yet.

Although crappie are often viewed as a fish that needs to be finessed with tiny jigs or minnows, they'll eat anything they can fit in their mouths, and the sweltering summer temperatures that can make them lose their appetites leaves them wide open to the reaction strike that a crappie-sized crankbait triggers. >



Dusty Wilson

Eddie Moody of Roxboro, N.C., who runs Slabs Guide Service on Kerr Lake, aka Buggs Island, knows this first-hand. Moody, who prefers long-line trolling to tight-lining

or pitching individual baits, believes the vibration and rattle of crankbaits are superior for drawing a reaction strike compared to typical jigs and minnows.

“It’s like having a dog that you’ve raised from a puppy,” said Moody (984-363-5256), “and you sneak up and startle him. His first reaction is to snap, no matter how long he’s known you; it’s Mother Nature’s way.

“Crankbaits are better in the summer for reaction strikes, because you can get the bait down where you want (it) at a higher speed. With a jig, you have to slow down to make it drop. You get above a mile an hour pulling cranks, and they don’t have time to stop and think — they react.”

Not only does trolling crankbaits draw more strikes, higher speeds give an angler an opportunity to cover more ground.

“You can put in an 8-hour trip in 4 hours,” Moody said. “I usually troll between 1 mile per hour and 1.5. If it clouds up, I’ll back off the speed for 15 minutes or so and let the baits rise. But I never go under 0.8 with cranks because they won’t have any action. The sun changes trajectory so fast this time of year that it’s hard to get a stable bite at the same depth for more than an hour.”

Moody regards a cloudy day as a troller’s paradise because the fish will suspend higher in the water column and will be more active. Also, they will be scattered throughout an area instead of hugging tight to brush. But this changes quickly with fluctuating light and water temperatures, and Moody will speed up and slow on a bright, sunny day, according to the fish he marks on his sonar. He would rather have his lures 2 feet above the fish than 6 inches below.

To combat the changes in target

depths, Moody covers the water column with crankbaits that dive at different depths, and he sprinkles in a couple of Roadrunners for good measure, using a No. 12 snap swivel on the crankbaits for a quick switch-out if a depth becomes hot.

“My crankbaits run from 4 to 12 feet deep,” said Moody, “maybe 16 if it’s hot and extra bright. That’s running 2-inch, 3-inch, 3½- and 4-inch baits on the deeper end. I’m usually doing this with a 10-rod spread: six straight crankbaits, two three-way rigs with a jig running in conjunction, and two ¼-ounce Roadrunners.”

To cover a wide swath of water, Moody runs a 12-foot rod straight out from both gunwales on either side of the transom, like outriggers. A rod holder mounted on the transom holds 4 more rods: two 6½-foot rods that angle out slightly and two 10-foot rods that angle up on either side of the motor. Two rods will run off either side, typically an 8-footer in front

continues >

MAKE CRAPPIE DO A DOUBLE-TAKE

According to guide Eddie Moody, a difference in depth of a few inches can have a big impact in crappie fishing, and giving the fish something they’re not used to seeing can be the difference in getting bit or not.

Those are two reasons why Moody experimented with putting out a few extra baits in his crankbait trolling spread — but not on separate rods. He introduced a No. 6, three-way swivel to his rigs and enhanced his crankbait bite.

It all goes back to Moody’s dog analogy. Startle a resting dog, and he’s liable to bite, but if two people sneak up on him, he might get really excited. To a three-way swivel, Moody ties a leader about 24 inches long that goes to a crankbait, and he adds another 18-inch section of leader tied to a jig or Roadrunner-type lure.

The crankbait pulls the rig down to its running depth, and the jig flutters below it. Not only does the added bait offer more presence, but it allows for changing the running depth and covering a tiny differences in depth between the other baits.

“You can use the jig to fine-tune a crankbait,” said Moody. “The more or less weight you use, the deeper or shallower it will run. I can also tie a longer leader on one of the jigs, and it’ll run

that much deeper. That can make a big difference sometimes. Plus, it’ll tame-down some of the cheaper crankbaits that I use. It takes out the erratic wobble and make it run true.

“Sometimes, I’ll use a straight jig and a curlytail grub and sometimes a Roadrunner, trying to hit all the variations I can, but usually sticking with a ¼- or ⅜-ounce head. If the fish want to change up depths or baits, I want to have something for them.” ■



TOP: Summer crappie are less likely to go on feeding sprees, so the reaction bite that a crankbait draws is easier to predict. **BOTTOM:** A three-way swivel allows crappie fishermen to troll a crankbait at a certain depth and drag along a second lure in slightly deeper water.

Dusty Wilson

2018 Clearance Sale!



17 TX 60 HP Mercury \$17,995

18 TX 115 Mercury \$22,595

17 CTX Crappie 60 HP Mercury \$18,395

18 CTX Crappie 115 HP Mercury \$22,995

Camo packages available-Ask for Special Pricing

**Special Financing, All Boats Water Tested with customers,
extended motor warranties available**



**#1 Triton
BOATS
ALUMINUM DEALER
IN THE USA!**



Sanford, NC

919-775-7259 
www.chatleeboats.com



continues >

and a 5-footer behind. The deepest baits will run off the bow to act as curb feelers, signaling the bottom bouncing that encourages Moody to slow down. Baits running off the stern should be 60 to 80 feet behind the boat, giving fish a chance to settle down after the trolling motor buzzes over their heads. Moody prefers to place shallow-running baits next to deeper-running baits to prevent tangling.

"I don't use any particular colors," Moody said, "but I like something with a little flash, usually the ones I find in the bargain bin at Walmart. Fire tiger, a crawfish pattern or blue are all good choices. I put out a variety and let the fish tell me what they want. It's strange to see the same bait being hit by color, but you will see them favor a bait by the depth it's running."



Dusty Wilson

Crankbaits of various sizes enable anglers to cover different water depths. Baits of different color fished in the same spread will uncover slabs' daily preferences.

Crappie are most likely main-lake residents in August, but Moody still finds success trolling inside the mouths of some of the deeper creeks in addition to main-lake points and pockets. Red-clay banks on the shoreline are a good sign.

Generally, he targets water from 16 to 25 feet deep, but crappie will be suspended from 4 to 6 feet under the surface down to the thermocline, starting out on the shallow end of the spectrum in the morning and progressing deeper throughout the day.

Moody makes certain to pass over any of the 2,500 brush piles he has marked that come near his trolling routes. Crappie often hover over the top of the brush, and the brighter the day, the closer they will be to the brush. As he passes over, he takes careful note of the height of the cover and the running depth of his crankbaits. If necessary, he eases off the trolling speed to guide the plugs safely over. ■



Dusty Wilson of Raleigh, N.C., is a lifelong outdoorsman. He is the manager of Tarheel Nursery in Angier and can be followed on his blog at InsideNCFishing.com.

Bring In This Ad For Special Offer!

EAST COAST SPORTS
Your Island Outfitter since 1952
for all of your fishing needs **910-328-1887**

\$20.00 OFF!
WHEN YOU SPEND \$100*
EXPIRATION DATE: 8/20/18

Visit www.eastcoastsports.com for LIVE webcam
Topsail fishing reports, special online deals & NEW forum section

409 Roland Ave., Surf City, NC
Just over the drawbridge in Surf City in the fishing village mall across from the Mainsail Restaurant.
*not combined with any other promotion.

Bring In This Ad For Special Offer!

ATTENTION INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
Customized training plans, hearing conservation and safety programs

- HAZMAT Training
- Hearing Conservation Services
- Respiratory Protection
- FIT Testing

FIRST AID CPR OSHA U.S. Department of Labor MSHA Mine Safety & Health Administration

PALMETTO STATE TRAINING
843-569-6872
When You Need it...Where You Need it.
www.PalmettoStateTraining.com

GO FISH!



**2nd Annual
STAR Tournament**

**May 26 thru
September 3, 2018**

2 Grand Prizes

2018 Sea Hunt BX 22 BR Bay Boats

Packages include F-150 Yamaha & Wesco Dual-Axle Trailer*

Sponsored by



*Does not include t-top.

**GO TO CCASOUTHCAROLINA.COM FOR ENTRY
OR CALL (803) 865-4164**




SOUTH CAROLINA

Bass in coastal rivers aren't slowed down nearly as much by summer's heat as their cousins in reservoirs.



Jeff Burleson

A person wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a white fishing glove is holding a largemouth bass. The fish is dark green with a lighter belly and is being held in front of a body of water. In the background, there is a line of green trees under a blue sky with white clouds.

Topwaters are the in-baits for summer bass on two of South Carolina's finest blackwater rivers, the Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee.

Ol' Man RIVER

As the dog days of August arrive, the hot, summer sun will continue to bake the Carolinas and take a toll on anglers.

But if they're still pumped up about catching a limit of largemouth bass, they can be assured that August is a great time to target bass in the blackwater rivers in the coastal plains of the two states. Ground zero for the action are the Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee rivers, where topwater lures are the weapons of choice.

By Jeff Burleson

The flatlands are bisected by blackwater swamps and river systems with ancient cypress and tupelo trees on their banks. The typical blackwater river is the central run of a much-larger swamp system with hundreds of acres of shallow wetlands that can be home to a rich community of organisms at the bottom end of the food pyramid.

These systems are loaded with every type of slimy creature that slithers or hop, and bass make a living off them, which plays right into fishermen's wheel-houses. Plus, the trees dangling on the river's banks provide shade that helps keep the river water manageable and ideal for feeding bass.

And when summer's heat and the lack of rainfall coincide, the water recedes and every living creature gets confined to the main channels, where they become easy pickings for bass and other fish at the top of the food chain.

Tory McCallum of Dillon, S.C., spends the spring fishing bass tournaments on bigger reservoirs, but when June arrives, he trades his big, fiberglass bass boat for a creek boat and fishes the Little Pee Dee River just outside his back door.

"The river fishing starts getting good in June and will peak during August," he said. "The fish get concentrated in the

main channel of the river around stumps and logs in the deep water. But you can catch them anywhere in the channel this time of year when the water is low."

Near Dillon, S.C., where the Little Pee Dee's headwaters are located, the actual channel may only be 40 feet wide, with some tight spots constricted even further, with blowdowns narrowing the path even more. As the river moves south, it widens significantly and picks up water from other parts of its watershed. During the summer, McCallum will fish both the narrow sections in his small boat and then the wider sections further down the watershed in Marion County.

"The fish are eating real well this time of year in the river. They are eating crawfish and small fish, but they are eating a lot of frogs and even a few snakes. We have cleaned many fish with frogs in their belly," he said.

While these bass can be caught on a variety of lures, McCallum prefers to fish topwaters.

"I only bring three types of lures this time of year...a Whopper Plopper, a buzz bait, and a Zoom frog," he said.

Fish in these river systems and adjoining swamps expect their food to be skimming across the surface, and topwater lures are ideal to drag a bass from under a submerged log or treetop, especially in the narrow sections.

continues on page 46 >

Small, maneuverable vessels are perfect for fishing the banks of blackwater rivers in summer.



DESTINATION INFORMATION

HOW TO GET THERE — The Waccamaw River is accessible between Conway and Georgetown, S.C., with nearly a dozen public landings along its length. The Little Pee Dee is served by several landings and road crossings from I-95 to the Horry County line near Nichols. See www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/boatramp/boatrampsearch. Try the Waccamaw from Conway to Wacca Wache Marina in Murrells Inlet, and the Little Pee Dee from its confluence with the Pee Dee to the Georgetown County line.

WHEN TO GO — The summer topwater bite heats up in June and lasts until the water cools in the fall, with July, August and September being peak times.

BEST TECHNIQUES — The most-productive topwater baits are Whopper Ploppers, buzzbaits, prop baits and surface frogs. Fish with a steady or stop-and-go retrieve. Best topwater action is early and late. When the sun gets up, throw topwaters into shady areas, then turn to large, soft-plastic baits. Fish 7 to 10 feet deep with dark-colored worms, fish Texas-rigged or on drop-shot rigs. Go with medium-heavy action baitcasting rods and reels spooled with 30- to 35-pound braid.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES — Todd Vick, Fishin' Freshwater Charters, 843-333-8200. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS — iHampton Inn, Murrells Inlet, 843-651-6687; Best Western, Conway, 843-234-1678; Quality Inn, Dillon, 843-774-0222; Myrtle Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, www.visitmyrtlebeach.com.

MAPS — DeLorme's S.C. Atlas & Gazetteer, 207-846-7000, www.delorme.com; Atlantic Mapping, www.fishingGPSmaps.com.



GO BIG with soft plastics

Topwater fishing can be one of the most fun and easiest ways to catch bass over the summer, but the surface bite will surely short-stop an angler's time on the water. To keep fish coming into the boat, you need to trade in topwater techniques for a slower strategy: shooting soft plastics into deeper water.

Todd Vick of Fishin' Freshwater Charters switches to soft plastics as soon the topwater bite falters on his favorite rivers.

"The key to August fishing in South Carolina is finding deeper water that these fish are going to be comfortable in," Vicks said. "When it is hot, we want shade, and fish are same way. We shoot the shadows."

Vick pulls out of the shallows and looks for water in the shade of shoreline trees, with depths of at least 10 feet.

"Lizards, snakes and all kinds of stuff fall into the river from big, overhanging tree branches," he said. "I switch to a Texas-rigged worm and slow down my presentation. Just like my grandfather said, 'If you think you are going slow, you are still going too fast'. And he is right, the slower the presentation, the better success during this time of the day."

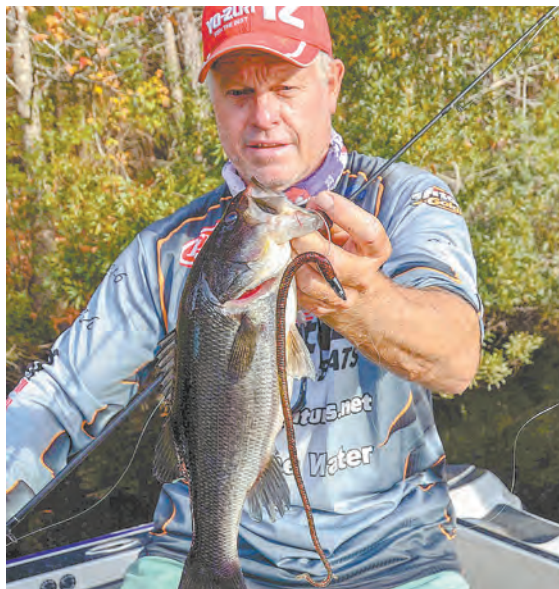
Vick uses 10-inch or even larger, mega-sized worms like the D.O.A. Sna-Koil. The larger, snake-type plastics can trigger a bite from fish nestled in deep water, especially when snakes are routinely part of their diet in these blackwater systems.

Beyond large plastics, Vick will break out a drop-shot rig and pitch into the bottom of the holes. His drop-shot rig consists of a terminal sinker with a No. 1 wacky hook 18 inches up the line. His soft

Long, snake-like plastic worms can be deadly on blackwater rivers, where snakes are a regular part of a bass's diet.

plastic of choice is a wacky rigged Fluke or a Senko-style bait, but they key to his drop-shot technique is in the movement.

"Don't raise the line up much. Just make contact with the bottom and barely move the rod just enough to make it dance. If the fish are there, they can't stand it," he said. ■



Jeff Burleson

Call Us Before You Buy... We Will Save You \$\$\$!

Over 50 to
choose from



Sanford, NC

919-775-7259 
www.chatleeboats.com



On the other hand, guide Todd Vick of Fishin' Freshwater Charters in

Socastee, S.C., prefers fishing the lower end of the Waccamaw River, just minutes from the bustling white sands of Myrtle Beach.

"I know the river well from Conway to Georgetown, and we catch a ton of fish this time of year, but there is a key to making the summertime work for you," Vick said. "With it being so hot, you have to get their early, right when the sun begins to crack. Fish will eat the best early in the morning this time of year."

In the lower part of the rivers, fish have a much larger field of play, with a much wider and deeper channel. There's more water to negotiate, but just like McCallum, Vick targets bass on topwater offerings near the bank.

"I really beat the bushes hard in shallow water looking for big fish early in the morning," Vick said. "I use a stick-propeller lure, a buzzbait or some type of topwater frog imitation. Fish are looking to eat early, and topwater is usually what they want."

continues on page 48 >



Jeff Burleson

The Sportsman's Choice

For Lodging in Wilmington!



BY CHOICE HOTELS

MainStay Suites:
5229 Market St,
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-392-1741
www.mainstaywilmingtonnc.com



BY CHOICE HOTELS

Sleep Inn:
5225 Market St,
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-313-6665
www.sleepinnwilmingtonnc.com

Our 2 award winning properties are located in the heart of Wilmington just off the I-40 overpass and minutes from Wrightsville beach, Carolina beach and Kure beach.

Call For Rates

www.dudleysmarinanc.com

NEW FISHING TACKLE & MERCHANDISE HAS ARRIVED

Great Deals on Rod & Reel Combos. \$AVE

We Also Offer:

- Complete Boat Service
- Wide Assortment of Tackle
- Charter Boats In-Out Dry Storage
- Marine Railways
- Dockside Fueling

We Have Ethanol-Free Gas

- We'll Even Give You a Few Words of Fishing Advice and Just a Little Gossip!
- Complete Boat Paint Protection, your Interlux Paint Dealer

Interlux
yachtpaint.com

Hwy. 24 East • Swansboro, NC
(252) 393-2204

SHADOW *hunting*

The summer heat affects fishing immensely, and not only the fisherman. Fish suffer during periods of temperature extremes, and since they are cold-blooded, they must seek out places with cooler water to thrive.

In most aquatic systems, fish will typically move to deep water, where water temperatures are several degrees cooler than at the surface, but those fish living in river systems with abundant tree cover along the bank have another option.

Bass are like people. When it's hot, they will gravitate towards a shade tree to get out of the blazing sun. Trees towering along river banks can be excellent places to target bass over the summer months.

Todd Vick of Fishin' Freshwater Charters of Socastee, S.C. said shaded banks are his second stop on an early morning trip when the sun starts peaking above the horizon.

"When the sun starts to blare, I will switch banks and find a shadowed bank to fish. The fish will usually bite on topwater for longer in the shade over on the sunny banks," said Vick, who likes to fish the Waccamaw River between Georgetown and Conway, S.C., a section full of slithering meanders with ancient trees lining the banks, making a shady bank almost always available.

In addition to the Waccamaw, the Little Pee Dee River provides a similar trek, with shady banks available for most of the day.

While finding shadowed areas will extend Vick's topwater bite, eventually, the water heats up enough to shut it down and send the fish plunging into deeper water for the rest of the day. ■



Huge trees that line the banks of black-water rivers provide a lot of shade and cooler water where bass are more likely to be active and feeding.

Jeff Burleson

Trying to convince the boss wasn't hard after all it's a  Wellcraft, crafted for Fisherman and their families!



PERFORMANCE EAST INC.
604 CORPORATE DR. • GOLDSBORO, NC
888-503-8900

Wellcraft
MERCURY
#1 On The Water

CHECK OUT ALL OUR INVENTORY AT www.PerformanceEast.com
THANK YOU TO KYLE AND KELLI CORBETT FOR THEIR PURCHASE OF A 302

Vick will target shallow banks up and down the Waccamaw, banks with a variety of habitat types. One of his favorite places to throw a topwater lure is around the mouth of a creek or old rice-field ditch lined with vegetation.

“When it gets hot, the fish will pull out of the small creeks and be concentrated at the mouth or at the mouth of larger creeks along a current rip,” he said. “The food source can be coming out of the creeks, and fish aren’t going to waste energy in the heavy current. They will sit in the current eddy and ambush bait as it comes by.”

The Waccamaw is unlike many blackwater rivers. From the mouth near Georgetown all the way through Georgetown and

Horry counties, it is considered tidal upstream of the US 501 bridge in Conway. While fishermen won’t have to deal with a typical 4-foot tide that saltwater anglers do, a 1- to 3-foot move can make a major impact on his fishing day.

“One of the perfect conditions for me is to fish a topwater lures at daylight at the mouth of a creek when the tide is falling. You will have vegetation on the left and right side. Fish will set up on that race trying to catch fish coming out of those creeks,” he said.

Bass are accustomed to water moving throughout the day, and while the falling tide is obviously preferred, bass can still fall for the sweet action of topwater lures on rising tides. Basically, baitfish are moving to places away from the wrath of bigger creatures that want to convert them into a meal. When the tide is rising and forcing water back into the swamps or into one of the creek or ditches, they can also be good ambush spots for bass. For best results, moving water is key and finding ambush spots sets the stage for a good topwater bite.

Even though the water temperatures can reach their peaks from late July through early September, it can be the best time of the year to bust a heavy stringer of bass on topwater lures in one of the gorgeous blackwater rivers. ■



Jeff Burleson

Visible cover along the banks of coastal rivers will hold and produce plenty of nice largemouth bass.



Jeff Burleson is a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences and is a certified biologist and professional forester for Southern Palmetto Environmental Consulting.



AGRI SUPPLY

FARM • SHOP • HOME

Get Ready For Open Season

				
ATV Spreader #57792 - \$226.99	ATV Disc Harrow #68120 - \$477.99	5ft ATV Landscape Rake #103789 - \$409.99	Fimco 25 Gal. Spot Sprayer #32996 - \$159.99	48" Rotary Tiller #77709 - \$1199.99

Garner, NC • Lumberton, NC • Greenville, NC • Florence, SC • Petersburg, VA
Statesboro, GA • Tifton, GA • Valdosta, GA

Visit Us Online at www.AgriSupply.com     Or Call 800-345-0169

ALL JACKED UP

By Phillip Gentry

Charleston Harbor is a great spot to do battle with a summer visitor: the tackle-busting jack crevalle. Don't miss an opportunity.

From a biological standpoint, not a whole lot is known about one of the most-abundant, subtropical saltwater species as it relates to South Carolina.

Head to almost any inlet or nearshore shoal in south Florida, and the jack crevalle, also known as a common jack or yellow cavalla, is so common it's often considered a nuisance fish.



ALL JACKED UP

Jack crevalle spawn in the subtropical waters of the Florida Strait and the Caribbean Sea. Larvae are carried to South Carolina waters by the Gulf Stream each spring and summer, and the fish move to South Carolina only during the summer when water temperatures are at their peak. Based on these circumstances, it would stand to reason that jacks in the 1- to 2-pound range would be the norm, but for reasons local guides have a hard time explaining, an 3-pound jack is a small one, and most of the specimens caught around Charleston Harbor are in the 20-pound range.

“People catch them along the beaches and off the piers during the summer, but my experience has been seeing them schooling and catching them inside Charleston Harbor,” said guide Justin Carter of Redfin Charters. “You see them mostly early and late in the day when the water is calmer, and they’ll be busting on the surface.”

Like most anglers, Carter couldn’t explain why the average jack in the harbor is so big, but he’s not complaining. Unless requested by one of his clients, Carter rarely sets out just to catch jacks; they are usually an opportunity fish when he sees them schooling while crossing the harbor.

That’s why he tries to keep a large surface chugger or Super Spook tied on at least one rod and at the ready. When he spots surface activity, he’ll come off the throttle before he gets too close, cast the noisy surface bait past the commotion and start working it back to the boat. Bites are frequently explosive on the surface.

“It’s pretty simple really. The fish seem to like fast, moving water around a point where they can ambush baitfish being swept along by the current,” he said. “You hardly ever see one by itself, so if you see one bust, it’s pretty common there’s 10 or 15 in there with him.”

Carter said his No. 2 time to encounters jacks is when he’s free-lining live menhaden, either on flat lines or under a cork, targeting tarpon or some other surface-feeding fish.

“We catch them from time to time when we’re anchored up or on spot lock, and I have baits out the back of the boat in the current,” he said.

continued >

Not to be confused with its cousin, the amberjack, which prefer offshore waters, jack crevalle prefer more nearshore and inshore locations.



FOR THE RECORD

- In 1999, Ron Silverman of Charleston caught a 39-pound, 5-ounce jack crevalle in Charleston Harbor. It is the IGFA world record for fly rods.
- In 1993, J.J. Benich of Mount Pleasant, a business professor at the College of Charleston, caught a 40-pound, 1-ounce jack crevalle that is South Carolina's state record.
- In 2010, Carlos Alberto Leal Simoes caught a 66-pound, 2-ounce jack crevalle near Angola, Africa, that is the all-tackle world record. The fish, caught on a Williamson Jet Popper, broke the previous record by 8 pounds.

The current world record jack crevalle is a 66-pounder caught near Angola, Africa.



DESTINATION INFORMATION

WHEN TO GO — Jack Crevalle make their annual appearance in Charleston Harbor from late July through early September — when water temperatures are at their highest.

HOW TO GET THERE — A handful of public boat ramps service the Charleston Harbor area: Remley's Point and Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant and Wappoo Cut in West Ashley.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Few anglers target jack crevalle, but many will stop and fish for them when and where they find them. Jacks congregate in the back of Charleston Harbor on incoming tides and further out, around Castle Pinckney, on outgoing tides. Look for surface activity early and late. Topwater chugging baits in the 4- to 5-inch range are a good choice. Make sure the baits make plenty of noise to get the fish's attention. Jacks can also be targeted with live bait on free lines or under corks if it's known the school is in the area but not on the surface.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES — Justin Carter, Redfin Charters, 843-725-8784, www.inshore-fishingcharters.com; John Irwin, Fly Right Charters, 843-860-4231, www.flyrightcharters.com See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS — Best Western Patriot's Point, Mount Pleasant, 843-971-7070; Town and Country Inn & Conference Center, Charleston, 800-334-6660; La Quinta Inn & Suites, Charleston, 843-556-5200.

MAPS — Maps Unique, 910-458-9923, www.mapsunique.com; Sealake Fishing Guides, 800-411-0185, www.the-goodspots.com.

ALL JACKED UP

continued >

For live-bait fishing, Carter prefers to hook the menhaden under the anal fin so it's swimming away from him. He uses 50-pound braid for his main line, attached to a 15-foot leader of 60-pound mono and a 5/0 hook.

"If I see them working and decide to use live bait, I'll nose-hook the menhaden, just because I can cast them further that way," he said. "Otherwise, I find they swim better in the current if they're hooked near the tail."

Although jacks may not be a desirable fish for the dinner table, their aggressive nature makes them highly desired by fly fishermen. Guide John Irwin of Charleston's Fly Right Charters said a 10-weight rod, floating line and a 5- to 6-foot section of straight, 60-pound leader is appropriate for tackling big jacks.

"The fish are aggressive but can be spooky if you run the boat right up into them," Irwin said. "It's best to ease in or get ahead



A concave head topwater bait, like this Orca popper, makes enough splash to garner the attention of a school of moving jacks.

of them and let the school come to you."

Depending on his client's preference for tackle, he'll tie on an Ocracoke 90 popper for 30-pound spinning tackle or a Rainey's mini-teaser for fly tackle. The Rainey's popper is an epoxy covered, foam bait with a concave head on a 3/0 to 4/0 hook. Irwin

said whether you go with fly or spinning tackle, you need to make some noise with the bait.

"I throw across them, sort of lead them, but you want to make some splash; that's why I like the popper head, move some water. A walk-the-dog style bait doesn't make enough splash," he said.

One of the hazards of targeting a schooling species is that when hooked, the fish dives back into the school, and the angler's line is highly susceptible to being cut off by the razor sharp tail and anal fins of its school mates.

Like Carter, Irwin can't explain the discrepancy in the size of jacks in Charleston area waters.

"We do catch little ones — 2- or 3-pounders — usually on live bait, but I think they all just migrate up during the summer," he said. "The big ones we catch, the 20- and 30-pounders, are bruisers. They've been around the block. Most of them look old and beat up." ■

LARGEST TACKLE SELECTION IN SNEADS FERRY!

PENN **Berkley Gulp!** **Fenwick**
FEEL THE ACTION™

Billy Bay Aggravators™ **ZMAN**
THE SCIENCE OF FISHING

SHIMANO **DAIWA**

YOPP BROTHERS TACKLE & MARINE
HWY 210W AT FOUR CORNERS • SNEADS FERRY, NC
910-327-2831 • TOLL FREE: 866-529-2622
www.yoppbrothersmarine.com

CAROLINA SKIFF **YAMAHA**
TOHATSU outboards **SUZUKI MARINE**



Phillip Gentry of Simpsonville, S.C., is host of "Upstate Outdoors," a weekly radio show that can be heard on Saturdays at noon on WORD 106.3 FM.

South Carolina's Lake Wateree has been a put-and-take striped fishery since the 1980s, and for most of that time, it has been a prime striped bass destination. Fishing success moderated for several years, but over the past several years, the lake has turned back into a strong fishery.

Justin Whiteside, a striper and catfish guide, said the period from summer into the fall can provide exceptional striper fishing at Wateree. He credits the revitalization of the fishery to a larger number of stripers being consistently stocked and a healthy forage base.

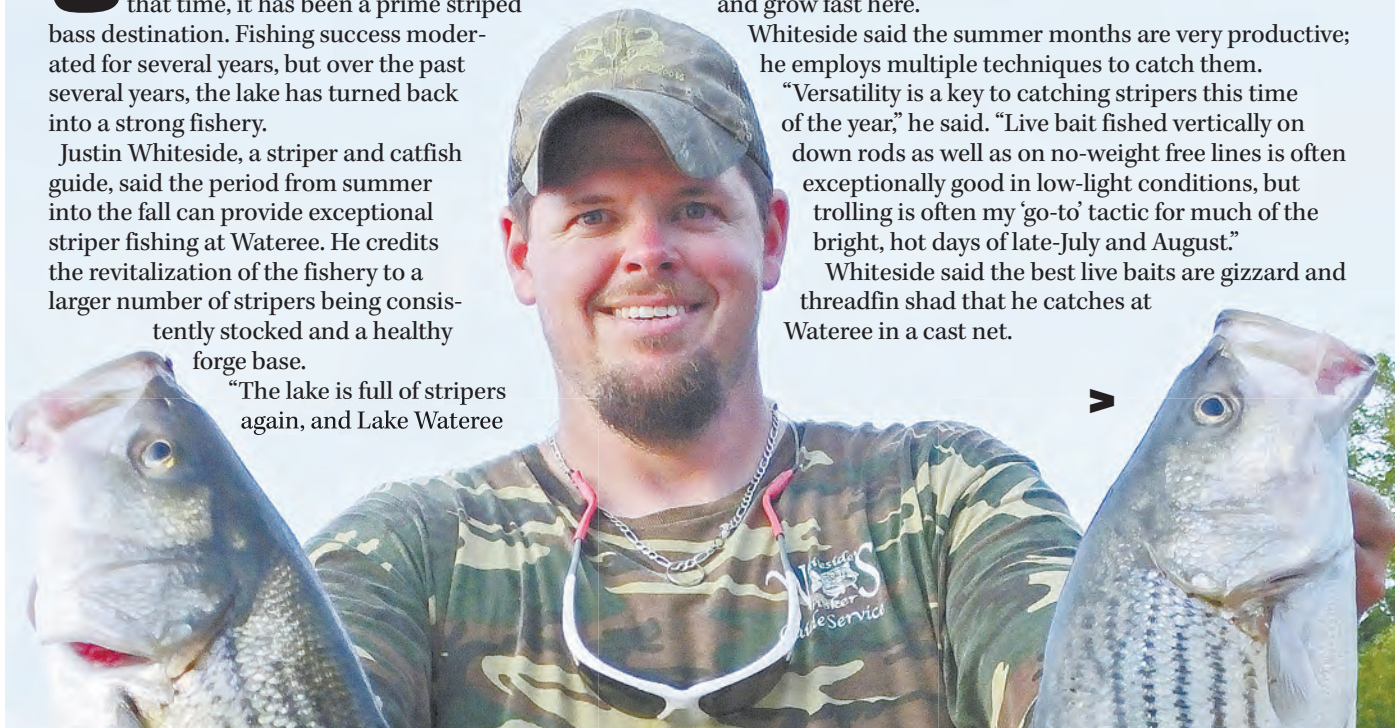
"The lake is full of stripers again, and Lake Wateree

has an excellent forage base of both threadfin and gizzard shad to support these fish," he said. "The fish are healthy and grow fast here."

Whiteside said the summer months are very productive; he employs multiple techniques to catch them.

"Versatility is a key to catching stripers this time of the year," he said. "Live bait fished vertically on down rods as well as on no-weight free lines is often exceptionally good in low-light conditions, but trolling is often my 'go-to' tactic for much of the bright, hot days of late-July and August."

Whiteside said the best live baits are gizzard and threadfin shad that he catches at Wateree in a cast net.



HOT WATERREE STRIPERS

By Terry Madewell

Fishery at South Carolina lake has rebounded, and it's time for anglers to take advantage of the great fishing — even during the summer. Here's how....

Terry Madewell

Terry Madewell

“The plentiful forage makes the ideal live bait when fishing for stripers,” he said. “I get out before dawn and throw a 5/8-inch mesh cast net around grass banks, and any place I spot pods of baitfish. The size of the bait is crucial, and at this time of the year, I prefer shad in the 4- to 5-inch range; that’s why I use a larger mesh on my cast net. By contrast, during the winter I prefer small live baits, usually in the 3-inch class, so I use a smaller mesh net.”

With bait stowed in his aerated bait tank, Whiteside’s first effort is to find forage with stripers marked on the graph. He said the entire lake can be productive, but he often begins at mid-lake and works up or down the lake based on baitfish and fish activity. He keeps one eye peeled for schooling action or bird activity to clue him to where stripers are located.

“Stripers are easily identified on the graph, so I search for schools of shad with big fish marked around and under them,” he said. “I’ll work the creek mouths, points, humps and channel ledges early. Early in the morning, forage and stripers may only be about 10 feet deep, but they both get progressively deeper as the sun gets higher.”

Whiteside uses 7½-foot striper rods and heavy baitcasting reels spooled with 17-pound line. He uses 2-ounce sinkers on his down rods to get his baits to specific depths under the boat, and he’ll also deploy at least four live baits on free lines. Two will be directly behind the boat and two will work off planer boards to get them away from the boat. He’ll use small circle or J-hooks.

The depth of his down lines is determined by the depth fish are marked on the graph. He will lower the bait to or slightly above the depth where most of the fish are marked.

“The best bite will vary daily,” he said. “Some days, both down lines and free lines produce about equally, but one tactic sometimes rules the day. I believe it’s crucial to use both and let the stripers decide. The water is typically calm during early mornings, so I use my electric motor to pull the baits. That way, when I get on active fish, I can keep the boat on the fish.”

Whiteside will pull his baits at 0.7 to 1.2 miles per hour, the exact speed determined by experimentation and success.

When he finds a school of stripers, multiple hookups are common using live bait. When the action slows, he works the same general area for a while before moving, because stripers are often still in the area.

Once the sun begins to beat down, the baitfish and stripers retreat to deeper water — but not really deep.

“By July, we’ve got a thermocline set up in most of Lake Wateree, and that’s usually in the 20-foot or slightly deeper range,” he said. “This keeps the stripers at very fishable depths, but they often begin to scatter along the ledges and channels so I’ve developed my own trolling technique to find and catch them during mid-day.”

Whiteside trolls with umbrella rigs because he likes the idea of multiple baits in close proximity to trigger reaction strikes.

“Stripers have a ‘wolf pack’ mentality, and umbrella rigs work great at Wateree,” he said. “I’ll vary the type of rigs, but any standard umbrella rig will work. I typically like a ¾-ounce main umbrella rig and use ¼-ounce jigheads with plastic trailers, with Little Fishies being one of my favorites.

“The ‘match the hatch’ is important on the trailers, and if the fish are eating 4- or 5-inch bait, I’ll match that size on the plastic trailers. I’ll primarily use chartreuse and white trailers, but I do mix it up, and blue can be effective, as is the pink and chartreuse combination. I’ll experiment and refine the color based on fish preferences for the day.”

Keep a topwater plug or bucktail ready when stripers school at the surface.



WATCH FOR SCHOOLING FISH

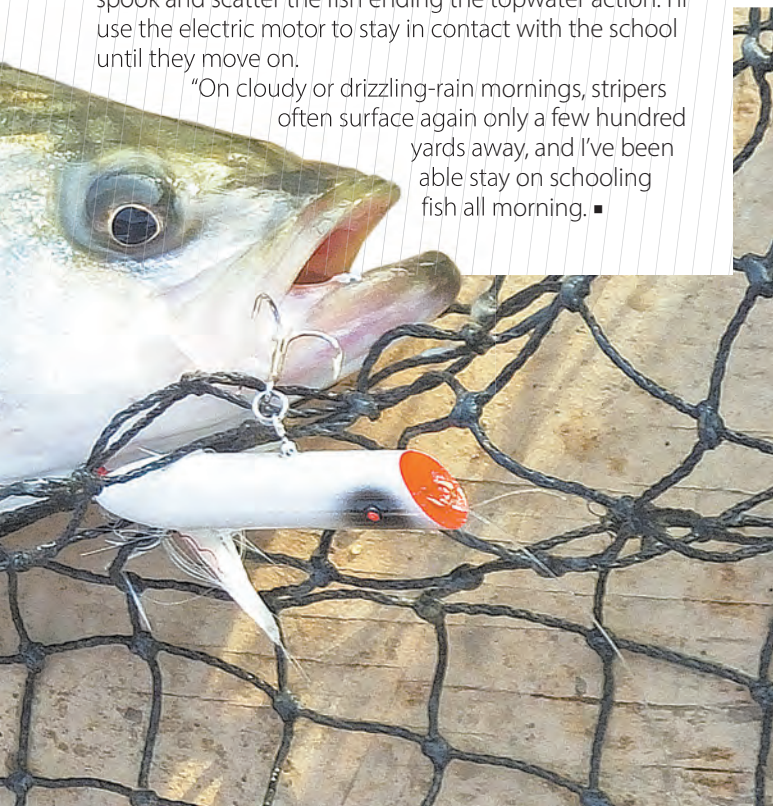
Chuck Porter of Sumter, S.C., has been fishing Lake Wateree for 30 years and has seen the striper action ebb and flow.

"We're definitely on an upswing right now, and despite the high heat and humidity of August, summer can be a very good time of the year for schooling action," Porter said. "It doesn't happen every day, but enough that's it pays to be prepared. I've found early and late in the day are peak times to potentially have stripers herding shad to the surface and feeding on them. My favorite time is an overcast morning with a light rain falling. Even though stripers are surface feeding, the action doesn't necessarily take place in shallow water."

Porter said stripers will herd shad to the surface and may be surface feeding over 30 feet or more of water. But shallow-water lures are still the key to catching actively schooling fish, and a topwater lure or bucktail worked just under the surface are excellent choices. He'll also use a ¼- to ½-ounce jigging spoon and let it fall a bit deeper in hopes of hooking larger fish. The spoon is also very effective when stripers stop feeding at the surface but are still marked on the graph under the boat.

"They will herd shad onto a point or a shallow hump surrounded by deeper water," he said. "When I see stripers breaking on the surface, I approach them quickly, but I can usually determine a direction of movement and will position the boat just ahead of them. I never motor full speed right on top of the schooling fish. That will spook and scatter the fish ending the topwater action. I'll use the electric motor to stay in contact with the school until they move on."

"On cloudy or drizzling-rain mornings, stripers often surface again only a few hundred yards away, and I've been able stay on schooling fish all morning. ■



Terry Madewell

Precision Marine Inc.

Hwy. 70E, Goldsboro • 919-751-1199

FIND US OFF HWY. 70 BYPASS AT EXIT # 369
FROM RALEIGH/EXIT #370 FROM KINSTON!

**WHERE GREAT SERVICE
GOES ALONG WITH THE SALE!**

FINANCING @ GREAT RATES AVAILABLE!

SUNDANCE

**B20CCR - w/115hp
& alum trailer**



**DX20HP - w/115hp
4-stroke and alum trlr.**

Lots of
Hull Colors
In Stock!



As Low As
\$205/mo*

**DX22HP - w/115hp
& alum trailer**



Starting at
\$226/mo*

CUSTOM ELECTRONICS & TROLLING MOTOR INSTALLATION!

*with approved credit

We Sell & Install



Powered By



**NEW STORE HOURS: 8:00-5:00 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
AFTER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT**

www.precisionmarineinc.com





An umbrella rig is a great tactic for striped trolling, especially when fish are ganged up around schools of bait and are competitive.

Whiteside trolls with lead-core line to get his baits to depths where stripers will hang out during the middle of the day. “It’s a daily pattern to determine the depth and speed stripers want the lures, so I’ll typically troll multiple rods at different depths,” he said. “I’ll also vary the speed, and when I catch the first striper, I’ll tighten up my depth and speed controls. Usually, within a short time, I’ll have a speed and depth combination that’s consistently productive that day. If the shad stay in the area, I’ll work the same area repeatedly.”

Whiteside also uses downriggers to fine-tune his depth control. With lead-core, deploying a specific length of line with speed variables, he’s able to get determine productive patterns by trial and error, but downriggers take pinpoint accuracy to the next level.

“Using downriggers I get precise depth control and can focus on the speed factor,” he said. “The 8-pound ball I use on the downrigger is picked up by my graph, so I can control the exact depth and eliminate guesswork. I still troll at different depths until I find the typically small window where stripers are holding and can target that exact depth.”

Whiteside trolls along well-defined drops and ledges along the main-river channel and some of the larger creeks, as well as over humps and points. He works the 12- to 22-foot range but said the most-productive depths vary based on time of day and cloud cover.

He said speed control is another major factor for summertime striper success.

“Speed is a key to triggering a bite; I’ll vary the speed on my trolling from 1.5 miles up to 2.5 miles per hour,” he said. “Some days when fish are active, the very best bite will be on the fast end of that scale. And with the schooling tendency of stripers and their ‘wolf pack’ mentality to gang-attack forage, multiple hookups are common when trolling — and often, two stripers are hooked on the same umbrella rig. Some days I’ll find stripers in a small, well-defined area, and others, I’ll troll long distances along the channel ledges and pick up occasional fish.”



Terry Madewell

Whiteside said that have a good lure retriever is very important, because hang-ups with umbrella rigs can occur. “It’s a big investment to troll with multiple umbrella rigs, but a good lure retriever will save most of them,” he said.

Not every day is a “home run” type of day, but Whiteside often has days when dozens of stripers are swung into the boat.

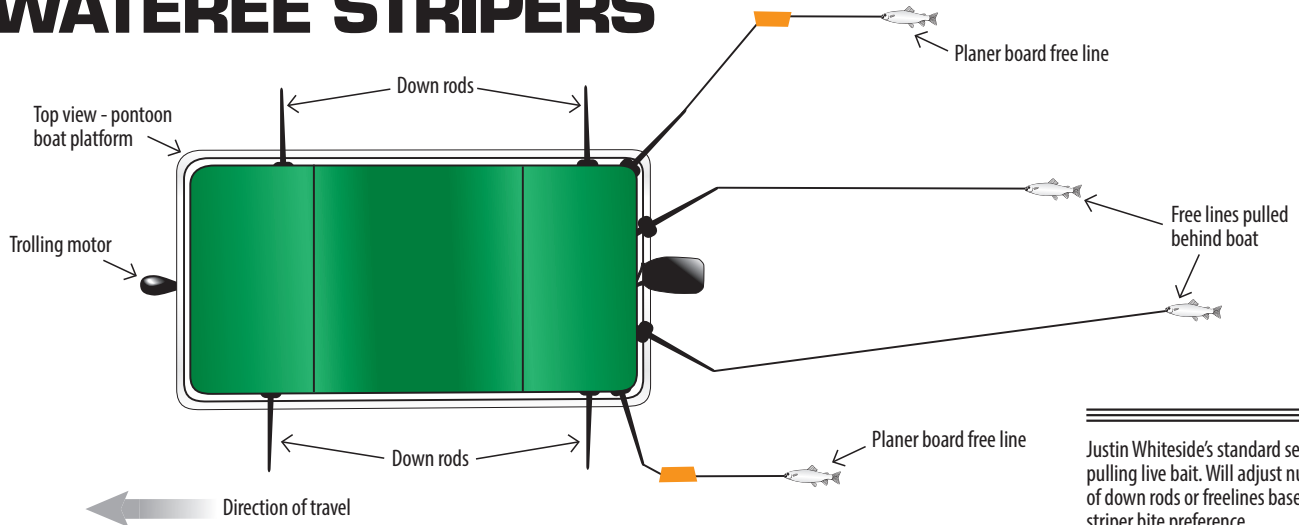
“We’ll have some exceptional days, of course, when we boat 30 to 40 or more stripers, but its not uncommon to catch 10 to 25 stripers during the day,” he said.

The creel limit is very generous on this put-and-take-fishery with a 10-fish daily limit and no minimum or maximum size limit. ■

STRIPER STOCKING AT LAKE WATEREE

UP NEXT

LIVE-BAIT SETUP FOR WATEREE STRIPERS



Justin Whiteside’s standard setup for pulling live bait. Will adjust number of down rods or freelines based on striper bite preference.

2018 CLEARANCE SALE!

Pontoons

- 18 Ft. Sweetwater -
60 HP Suzuki, Trailer . \$20,495
- 20 ft. Sweetwater -
70 HP Suzuki, Trailer . \$21,495
- 22 ft. Sweetwater -
115 HP, trailer \$25,995
- South Bay Pontoons -
As Low As \$23,995



Hurricane

- 188 Hurricane -
115 Suzuki, trailer \$27,495

**Special Financing, All Boats
Water Tested with customers,
extended motor warranties available**



**Call us BEFORE
you buy!
WE WILL
SAVE YOU \$\$\$**



Sanford, NC

Powered by



919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com

Follow Us





STRIPER STOCKING AT LAKE WATEREE

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources has stocked stripers in Lake Wateree since the 1980s, and fisheries biologist Robert Stroud has worked the lake since striper stockings began. Stroud said the goal of the striper program was to create a solid, renewable striper fishery.

"At Lake Wateree, we're not trying to create a situation for trophy stripers, just a good put-and-take fishery for anglers we could maintain with annual stockings," he said. "We've settled in on what seems to keep the fishery thriving."

Stroud said the stocking rates since 2014 has been a key to the current upsurge in striper fishing at the lake.

Stroud said that from 2011 through 2013, considerably fewer stripers were stocked in Wateree: 165,127 in 2011, 153,558 in 2012 and 192,442 in 2013. Before 2011, annual stockings were consistently between 240,000 and 250,000. In 2014, the stocking rates increased dramatically.

"In 2014, we had a great year at the hatchery, and we stocked 500,492 fingerlings into the lake," Stroud said. "That's a rate of 36.1 stripers per acre, and that's an awesome stocking rate. That's what jump-started the excellent fishing striper anglers are now experiencing. In 2015, we stocked nearly 295,000, a rate of 21.3 stripers per surface acre, and in 2016 we stocked a little over 297,000, a 21.4 per acre rate.

The resurgence of striper fishing at Lake Wateree, credited largely to higher stocking rates, has turned the lake back into a prime striper destination.



Terry Madewell

"Our plans for 2017 were for 300,000 of what we call advanced fingerlings; stripers in the 3- to 5-inch size class that we hope will have better survival than the much smaller fry stocked in the past. The actual stocking was even better with 320,910 stripers for a 23.15 per acre rate."

Stroud said the final numbers were not available for the 2018 stocking although the fish had been placed in the lake in the spring, but stocking data had not been completely processed. But the request was again for 300,000 stripers.

"We've refined our thinking from the past when we were requesting about 260,000 stripers per year, and (we) believe this increased stocking rate will maintain a quality fishery without depleting the forage in the lake," he said. "This allows us to achieve the goal of providing a quality striper fishery without negative impacts to other species utilizing the same forage base." ■

LARGEST *Excel* BOATS INVENTORY In The Carolinas!



Bay Pro 230



Storm Cat 230

PERFORMANCE EAST INC.

888-503-8900
604 Corporate Dr. Goldsboro, NC

Check out all our inventory at www.PerformanceEast.com

YAMAHA

DESTINATION INFORMATION

HOW TO GET THERE — Lake Wateree is in Kershaw, Fairfield and Lancaster counties east of I-77. Access from the south is via SC 97 to the east side of the lake. From I-77, take SSR 41 at Exit 41 to SSR 101 (River Road). From Camden, take US 521 to SSR 97. For a list public boat ramps, visit www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/BoatRamp/BoatRampSelected/1238232

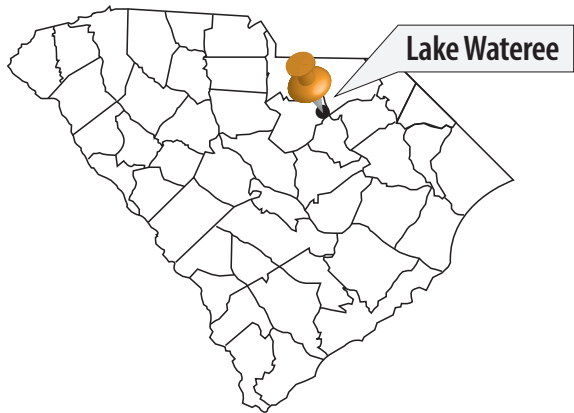
WHEN TO GO — Striper fishing is good most of the year, and late July and August can produce limit catches using live bait, trolling or following schooling fish. Low-light situations are typically best for shallow water or schooling action, but with the right gear stripers can be taken in deeper water all day.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Success varies daily, but using live shad fished on down lines or free lines is an excellent choice for low-light periods, when most schooling action takes place. Deep-water trolling using downriggers can be extremely effective during the mid-day hours.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES — Justin Whiteside, 803-417-0070; Jamie K's Outdoors, Fort Lawn, 803-872-7020. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS — Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce, Camden, 800-968-4037; Quality Inn, Lugoff, 803-438-941, Travel Inn, Lugoff, 803-438-4961; Lake Wateree State Park (camping), 803-482-6401.

MAPS — Kingfisher Maps, 800-326-0257, www.kfmaps.com; DeLorme's S.C. Atlas & Gazetteer, 800-561-5105, www.delorme.com; Duke Energy, www.duke-energy.com.



NEW MODELS FOR 2018 FROM SEA HUNT!

Sea Hunt Ultra 255

CHATLEE BOAT & MARINE
SANFORD, NC

#1 **DEALER IN THE USA!**

Sea Hunt BX 25 FS

919-775-7259 **Follow Us**
www.chatleeboats.com

YAMAHA



Terry Madewell of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.

Circle hooks, without an offset will typically hook a gamefish in the corner of its mouth, no matter how far down it takes a bait.



OFFSET, OFF CENTER

WHEN YOU'RE PLANNING TO RELEASE FISH, GO WITH A STRAIGHT CIRCLE HOOK, NOT AN OFFSET

Brian Cope

Circle hooks have long been known, thanks to their design, to hook most fish in the corner of the mouth, and I've been using them for about 10 years while chasing inshore fish. But this year, for the first time, I gut-hooked a pretty good number of redfish and speckled trout while using circle hooks.

On one trip, I caught about a dozen redfish, and had I cut the line twice because the hook was too deep to remove without harming the fish. My friend caught as many fish as I did, and all his fish were hooked in the corner of the mouth, just as circle hooks are supposed to do. I couldn't recall him ever gut-hooking a fish, so I asked him about it.

"I use a Mustad Demon Perfect Circle in 3/0," he said. "That's what I've found that works best for me. All circle hooks aren't created equal."

Before our next trip, I pickled up a bag of his preferred hooks. On the incoming tide in our favorite Lowcountry creek,

the waves from the open ocean breach one bank, pushing baitfish into the spartina grass on the opposite bank. Redfish stack up here, and we drift down the grass line in kayaks with our rods in rod holders. It's the perfect scenario for circle hooks, which allow fish to hook themselves, giving us time to focus on paddling until we have no choice but to pick up the rod.

It's about a 30-yard drift, and the action is fast and hot for about 45 minutes. By then, the tide is high, the creek is leveled out, and the fish break up and scatter, so time is critical.

So I was glad I had an extra rod after catching my third fish, which was surprisingly gut-hooked. Still, my friend had time to cut in front of me and land a bonus fish before I was back drifting down the line.

Several fish later, I gut hooked an over-the-slot fish, cut the line, and released the fish. As I re-tied, I wondered why I was still gut-hooking fish.



JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT:

Offset circle hooks have a slight "twist" to their shafts that aligns the point just slightly off-center, a condition that makes for a better hookset percentage, but the potential for more deep-hooking of gamefish.

Once the bite shut down, my friend and I compared notes. He pointed out a small detail that made a huge difference. I'd purchased 3/0 Mustad Demon Perfect Circle Offset hooks. His were 3/0 Mustad Demon Perfect Circle hooks. No offset. "Noooo, not the offset ones," he said, comparing our hooks, showing that although the point on mine was curved back toward the hook shaft, it wasn't pointing at the shaft in a straight line.

The extended path of my hook's point ran to the side of the shaft, showing they would never touch. But the same imaginary extended path on his hit the shaft of his hook.

Then, he held my line a foot above the hook and pulled the hook against the palm of his other hand. When the hook

point contacted his skin, it would catch slightly. Doing the same trick with his hook, the hook point never had a chance to catch.

“That’s what happens when that offset hook is pulling out of the fish’s throat. The true circle hook glides all the way out until it gets hooked in the corner of the mouth. The offset circle sometimes snags deeper down,” he said.

WHY OFFSET CIRCLE HOOKS?

So why do manufacturers even make offset circle hooks? Further research showed me it’s for a few reasons. One, it’s easier to hook large live or cut baits onto offset hooks. Two, the hookup ratio is slightly higher than with true circle hooks. And three, they allow anglers more options to follow the regulations set by some states and tournaments that require circle hooks for certain species. However, many of those requirements are now specifying that offset circle hooks are banned.

So if you’re fishing for dinner and occasionally gut-hooking a fish that’s going in the cooler isn’t a big deal, offset circle hooks are a good option. They still get the corner of the mouth more often than J-hooks and have a higher hookup ration than true circle hooks. But for catch-and-release fishing, and when fishing for species with slot limits and low creel limits, stick with true circle hooks to make your life — and the fishes’ lives — easier. ■



Brian Cope of Edisto Island, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He has been writing about the outdoors since 2006. He’s spent half his life hunting and fishing. The rest, he said, has been wasted.

BQ GRILLS

Custom Built Quality
Outdoor BBQ Products Since 1989

Pig Cookers, Patio Grills, Smokers Customized BBQ Trailers



For More Info **1-252-236-4464**
www.BQGRILLS.com
6043 Hwy 301N, Elm City, NC



Ride The Wave This Summer

in your new

Pure Bay Hybrid

from

BLUE WAVE.



PERFORMANCE EAST INC.

604 Corporate Dr. Goldsboro, NC

888-503-8900

Check out all our inventory at
www.PerformanceEast.com



LUNKER LINES

David Fritts

Moving water allows bass to live in more shallow water and feed more actively in the dead of summer, so leaving the main body of a lake and heading upriver is a great idea.

AUGUST DOESN'T MEAN NO ACTION

LEAVE THE DEEP WATER BEHIND AND HEAD UPRIVER OR INTO THE BACKS OF CREEKS FOR BASS

I'm not going to kid you; August is a tough month to fish, just about the toughest of the year if you're a bass fisherman, but you've got to fish tough.

It will be tough to fish on a lot of our bigger reservoirs in the Carolinas. Bass will be either extremely deep or extremely shallow, depending on water conditions. If we've had a lot of rain, they'll be deep, because there will be plenty of oxygen down there. If we haven't had much rain, they'll move up looking for the water that has oxygen — but it will still be hard to get them to bite.

I have caught them as shallow as 10 or 12 feet and as deep as 30 or 40 feet, depending on where I'm fishing and the water conditions. On a lake like Tuckertown, where the water is moving all the time, you might catch fish 10 or 12 or 14 feet deep, out on structure. At Kerr or Gaston, where they don't run the water much, they might be 30 feet deep.

Probably, your best choice is going to be going up in the river section of a lake, or back in the bigger creeks, looking to try and catch fish that live there all the time.

You can fish more reasonable depths and baits and have a better chance to catch active fish. I remember fishing on Lake Anna in Virginia one time in August, catching nothing, then I went all the way to the back of this one creek and almost won the tournament, because I found some current and some active fish.

So if you want to make fishing easier, go up in the creeks or up in the river.

Here's what you're looking for: current. Water flow makes all the difference, because where the water is moving, fish are just more active. Usually, you won't be able to find a whole lot of current, but look for it. You want to figure out, where is the current hitting? Is there more current in a place that a creek or the river turns?

SPILLWAY GOODIES

One place that's always good to take a look at is the spillway below a dam at the headwaters of a river that feeds a lake. Spillways are great choices in August, because you've usually got a lot of current up there, from the water being released through the dam into the river. The fish will be more active, but the key

will be finding the one rock that holds all the fish. I don't know why, but they will really get on places that aren't much bigger than your tow vehicle. When you find 'em, you can really catch 'em.

In a spillway, you want to be looking for those current breaks. It might be one big boulder in the middle of the river, a hundred yards below the dam; it can be anything that breaks the current that a bass can hide behind, because they can't live out in that current for any length of time; it's so strong. You are looking for places where a bass can move 2 feet and be out in the current to feed, then move back 2 feet and be out of it.

Now, how to catch them. You need to fish a bait you can cover a lot of water with, because you're searching so much, and because up in the river or in the back of a creek, bass really like moving baits. I will have a handful of crankbaits tied on, Berkley Dredgers and Diggers, baits with a wider action. I'm going to be looking for fish between 5 and 12 feet deep. If you're up in a river where you have 20 feet of water, you might catch them in 14, but you're not fishing the great depths

you will down in the lake. You can catch a lot of fish in the spillway below a dam on a crankbait.

I'll probably have a Dredger 14.5 tied on, because that bait is very effective between 8 and 12 feet deep. I'll also tie on a Digger 8.5 or 10.5. I like those baits better fishing in the back of a creek. Sometimes, the fish want a bait with a little more of a tight wobble — which is the opposite of what you'd think — and the Digger fits that description. As far as colors, darker colors do much better in August. Your browns, chartreuses and gold, those are great colors in August.

I'm going to fish them on a Lew's David Fritts Perfect Crankbait rod, either 7-foot or 7-foot-6. If I'm throwing to targets on the bank, I'll probably be fishing the 7-footer. I'll be using a Lew's BB-1 reel with a 5-to-1 retrieve ratio; you get 21 inches back with each turn of the reel. Like I do when I'm fishing deep in a lake, I'm still going to be fishing 10-pound line, Berkley Sensation. Your baits are just so much more active on 10-pound line than heavier line.

So, if you're going to be on the water in August, already fighting the heat, you



RELAXATION ROCK:

In the fast water below a spillway or dam, finding current breaks are a key to catching bass, because fish can't live in the current for more than a few minutes at a time. If you can find a rock pile or boulder that deflects the current, you might load your boat in a hurry.

don't have to fight the extremely depths to catch fish. Go up in the river or in the creeks and find some moving water and catch some fish. And remember, fall is just over the horizon. ■



David Fritts is a 61-year-old pro bass fisherman from Lexington, N.C. He won the 1993 Bassmasters Classic championship and the 1997 FLW Tour Championship, and he was the 1994 BASS Angler of the Year. He is sponsored by Ranger boats, Evinrude outboards, Lew's, Minnkota, and Berkley.



Nobody Sells For Less!!



Sanford, NC

LARGEST



selection in the Carolina's!



919-775-7259

www.chatleeboats.com

Powered by



Do food-plot prep: lime and fertilize. Then get your seeds in the ground and pray for rain. You could hit the jackpot.



KEEP IT SIMPLE FOOD-PLOT STRATEGY

NORTH CAROLINA HUNTER/LANDOWNER HAS GREAT PLAN

Donna Brookshire

Food-plot productivity and success is mostly a factor of pure science. Growing a hearty food plot is a product of complex chemical reactions through a laundry list of catalysts required to make the engine roar. While growers can plan everything out down to the number of seeds and the pounds of fertilizer, Mother Nature is still in the driver's seat.

But it sure doesn't mean that growers can't learn from years of trials to produce the best possible outcomes on their land. One grower with many years of successful food plots is Rich Roberts of Stokes County, N.C.

For more than 25 years, Roberts has turned a plow on his hunting properties to produce high-quality forage for his deer. While he isn't trying to grow enough food to feed a village, he is surely providing beneficial nutrition for his deer herd — and also give him a decent spot to sit when archery season arrives.

"In the early 90s, I began thinking about plots and how they might help my chances of harvesting a good deer. But

my direction has changed somewhat over the years to provide good to the herd in general," Roberts said. "It's a satisfying feeling to be able to watch a particular deer grow old in an area, knowing your efforts made that possible."

Through years of trials and loads of sweat and diesel fuel, Roberts has learned a lot that can save others time and money.

"You don't have to own hundreds of acres to plant plots," he said. "Even though you may not hold deer all year long, you can make a difference with a half-acre plot to increase your sightings and possibly your harvest opportunities."

For more than two decades, Roberts has experimented with dozens of methods and food-plot strategies to feed his deer. After treading through his share of plot failures and successes, he has honed in on a preferred process that routinely produces good results on his properties.

"Bottom line, don't get too fancy; we aren't trying to raise a crop to feed the kids," he said. "Alfalfa and soybeans are supreme deer foods, but there are rea-

sons not to go with either. Alfalfa is too much trouble, and soybeans will not last long enough to feed the deer for a long duration."

Roberts keeps it simple; he generally prefers pure stands of Plot Spike forage-style oats or he will plant Forage Feast, a mixture of forage-style oats, clovers and broadleaf greens. He begins cutting in 100 pounds of lime per acre in June, followed by a quick mow in July with a generous treatment of glyphosate afterwards to begin with a relatively weed-free plot. Fortunately, most of the problematic grasses and weeds invade in spring, but a summer herbicide treatment before planting can always reduce competition and prevent crop failures.

Planting season for Roberts is generally around early August when adequate rainfall is in the forecast. He will till the plot and sow seed selections at 50 pounds per acre of forage oats or Forage Feast. And a shallow planting depth is at the top of his list of critical aspects to control.

"With the exception of my clover plantings, I sew all my seeds no more than

½-inch deep and pack in the entire plot for a firm seedbed. I don't cover clover seed. I just pack it in and fertilize it," he said.

At planting, Roberts spreads 200 pounds per acre of 10-10-10 fertilizer and prays for rain to kick-start his food plot program into gear. This is where many food-plot growers end fertilization. Roberts will take it one step further, two weeks after planting when the plants are several inches high. He will sweeten the pot with an additional nutrient boost of 17-17-17 fertilizer at a rate of 40 pounds per acre.

"I have used this system for many years, and as long as I get good rainfall, it will produce a strong plot by opening day. It's put a few early season Pope & Young deer on the ground," he said. ■



Jeff Burleson is a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He graduated from N.C. State University and is a certified biologist and professional forester for Southern Palmetto Environmental Consulting.

continues on page 66

IN-SEASON MOWING? YES!

Deer are suckers for lush food plots, especially oats and clovers, but these choice forages don't grow well without a little tender loving care on into the season. Few food-plot varieties can be labeled as plant-it-and-forget-it seeds. Stands of oats and clover can be strategically mowed to reduce competition and encourage vigorous growth.

North Carolina hunter/landowner Rich Roberts closely monitor growth throughout the season and mows his clover and oat plots when they need it.

"With clover and oats, you need to attack the weeds to keep them as pure as possible. I like to mow the plots to keep them going," he said.

Additionally, oats are the most preferred by deer when they are young and tender. Mowing will encourage new sprouts.

"With clover, I mow it down to just above leaf height to allow the clover to take over and shade out the weedy growth. And with oats, I will mow the stalks down to 10 inches when they are 18 inches or more in height. It forces the oats to grow new tender shoots that deer love," he said.

Mowing food plots during hunting season will do a lot to encourage further growth of the forage, as well as providing tender shoots for deer to eat.



Jeff Burleson

Palmetto Brush Control



- Real Estate Developments
- Residential Lot Clearing
- Shooting and Fire Lanes
- Trail Building
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration
- Forestry Site Prep
- Utility Right-of-Way Clearing
- Pond Construction

FOR ALL YOUR BRUSH SHREDDING NEEDS
CALL US TODAY!

Bulldozer • Mulching • Trackhoe Work

843-230-8222

Brannon Turbeville - Owner

NOW OFFERING
RESIDENTIAL
TREE SERVICE

BAG-A-BUCK CONTEST

Take a photo of yourself with a deer you kill during the 2018-19 season, upload the photo to the Bag-a-Buck contest forum on www.CarolinaSportsman.com, and write a short account of your hunt, including the date of the hunt, county of the kill, your name and hometown.

The grand prize winner, announced in March, will receive a prize-package including a two-day deer/hog combination hunt for two people at Cherokee Run Hunting Lodge in Chesterfield County, S.C., a \$50 gift certificate to the online Sportsman's Store and a free, three-year subscription to Carolina Sportsman.

For more information and to register, visit us online:
www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com/bagabuck



**WIN
A 2-DAY
HUNT
FOR 2**

GREENER PASTURES

continued



Jeff Burleson


WHITETAIL 'ICE CREAM'

Every living thing likes ice cream, even deer! Growing "ice cream" for wildlife may sound a little far-fetched and impossible, but it's not impossible, because Dwarf Essix rape is just like ice cream to deer.

North Carolina landowner Rich Roberts always devotes a small section of many of his food plots to Dwarf Essix rape.

"Rape is sought-after from the time it pops out of the ground to the time the sugar comes to it when it turns purple," Roberts said. "The deer love it!"

Dwarf Essix rape may sound familiar, because it is the same rape people routinely eat with their cornbread and country ham. The seed is very small, and a little goes a long way.

PINEY ISLAND CLUB 

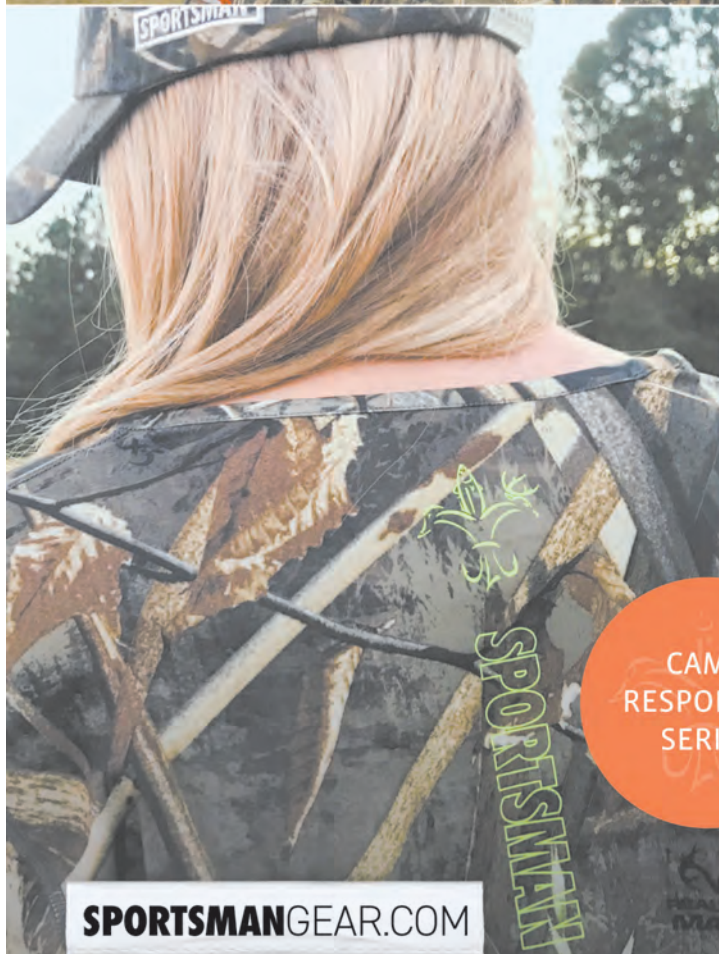
- Membership Available -



Currituck County, NC

Duck Hunting at #pineyislandduckclub
www.pineyislandclub.com

CAMO THAT STANDS OUT. SHOP NOW AT SPORTSMANGEAR.COM



CAMO
RESPONDER
SERIES

SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

Phillip Gentry

The author snapped this cell-phone photo of a 7½-foot blacktip shark he caught — his personal best from a kayak.

NEED A BIGGER BOAT? NAH, NOT THIS TIME

KAYAK-BOUND ANGLERS CAN WRESTLE PLENTY OF BIG, SUMMER FISH

Phillip Gentry

Once upon a time, burly men in large, powerful boats set out to see to do battle with large sea creatures: marlin, swordfish, sharks and the occasional Kraken. Nowadays, much of the macho bravado has passed, but anglers still appreciate the challenges of facing larger-than-normal fish from a smaller-than-normal boat.

During August, nothing fits the bill better than the challenge of fishing for coastal sharks, tarpon, cobia or even large rays from a kayak. While targeting sharks and tarpon from a plastic boat frequently garners media attention because of the hype, like any other type of fishing, once you know the ropes and have a system in place, kayak fishing for larger coastal species is just as easy or easier than fishing from a power boat.

Admittedly, one of the drawbacks when kayak fishing is that the angler may have

to provide more planning in the area of entry and egress when it comes to accessing the best spots. Where conditions permit, launching your kayak from shore or from the beach beats trying to put in with everyone else at the public boat ramp and paddle all the way to the fishing grounds.

Once on the water, fishing for big pelagic species from a plastic boat is no different than fishing from any other type of boat except for the limited amount of storage available for gear and tackle. A beginner may opt for 40-pound class tackle and increase tackle and fish size as experience and budget dictate.

Most kayak fishing for sharks, tarpon, rays and large red or black drum will involve site-specific locations rather than sight-fishing while traversing open water. Plan accordingly. If you're going to anchor out and soak live or dead baits, you need to make room to store suffi-

cient anchor line, anchors and a marking ball, as well as some way to keep and store bait, in addition to a readily available supply of fishing tackle.

Speaking of bait, throwing a cast net after you've launched is not out of the question, certainly better than taking it with you. Fortunately, the ocean can provide all the bait you need simply by taking along a couple of 10-pound class "bait rods" and some frozen shrimp or squid.

Spend a couple of hours before the intended big-fish trip catching spot, croaker, rays, ladyfish, blues or any other fish that can be recycled into cut bait. Depending on where you'll be anchoring,



Phillip Gentry of Simpsonville, S.C., is host of "Upstate Outdoors," a weekly radio show that can be heard on Saturdays at noon on WORD 106.3 FM.

many times you can while away the time waiting on a big-fish bite by catching bait directly under the boat.

Tackle for most large, coastal fish fits in the 50- to 80-pound line-class range. Both spinning and baitcasting gear are viable options, though higher capacity is better when the fish make an initial long run before you can cut loose and give chase. For fish with teeth, a 6- to 8-foot length of at least 80-pound wire is recommended, while tarpon, rays and drum will allow you to use 50- to 80-pound monofilament leader. Finally, don't forget wide-gap, 8/0 to 12/0, extra-strong circle hooks. ■

AUGUST'S BEST BETS

NORTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Tarpon

WHERE — Pamlico River, from Blount's Bay to the mouth of the river, and the mouths of tributaries out to the Pamlico Sound. Look for pinch points around sandbars and shoals out of boat traffic.

HOW — Anchor up and soak live, blue crabs.

LAUNCH — Haven's Garden, Blount's Creek, Aurora, Wright's Creek and Swanquarter.

INSIDERTIP — The saltwater/freshwater line is not a hard edge. In fact, sometimes the salt will run under the fresh for several miles. Blue crabs will congregate around the line, and where there is an abundance of blue crabs in August, there will be tarpon.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Sharks, tarpon.

WHERE — Port Royal Sound and its tributaries.

HOW — Anchored out, fishing live and cut bait.

LAUNCH — www.bcgov.net/departments/Engineering-and-Infrastructure/public-works/BoatLandings.php

INSIDERTIP — Sharks and tarpon have been in this area since late May/early June and have spread out into a myriad of tributaries that feed into Port Royal Sound. Don't think these fish will be found only in open-water areas. Plenty of fish are caught in waters less than 10 feet deep and out of heavy boat-traffic areas.

continues on page 70

A PERSONAL BEST

Fishing for sharks from a kayak gets a lot of attention when it comes up in casual conversation. In reality, sharks up to 8 feet long are a blast to catch in a Tupperware boat, and it's much safer than folks would have you believe. In fact, I find it easier to let a big shark pull the boat around 'til it tires out, because then it's right there at arm's length to unhook or dehook rather than leaning out over the side of a power boat.

While shooting some video for a segment that was posted to www.carolinasportsman.com, my buddy, Brad Knight, and I set out to provide some tips for anglers wanting to give kayak shark-fishing a try. During the three days of filming, I happened to catch my personal-best shark from my Hobie Pro Angler 14. The unfortunate part is that I was doing most of the filming for the video segment, and after an hour or so of being towed around by this 7½-foot blacktip — I suspect she was pregnant at the time — no one was around to film the catch except me.

Size and weight are a judgement call when kayak-fishing because I physically could not pull a tape on the fish by myself. I probably still have the marks where I hastily made a cut mark with my bait knife on the gunwale where her head and tail met the side of the boat and pulled the tape later.

I did manage to record some shaky cell-phone video of the fish coming to the boat when the fight was winding down, as well as snap a few shots with my Nikon. If you'd like to see the video, which includes my personal best kayak shark and a tail-hooked spinner shark that took me forever to land, you can check it out at www.carolinasportsman.com/details.php?id=5210.

PADDECART.COM

The Ultimate Kayak & Canoe Cart!

Manufactured in SC!

Makes A Great Gift For All Paddlers!

Tagalong Bike Trailer

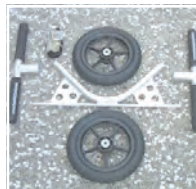


Durable Stainless Steel Axle

Dually Model for Soft Sand



— Simple In Design, Yet Elegant In Functionality —



- EASY TO LOAD
- EASY TO STOW



Clover Enterprises, Inc



290 Thorpe Rd, Summerville, SC 843.851.0045

Island Tackle & Hardware

True Value

"Your Fishing Tackle & Bait Headquarters"

Open 7 Days

801 N. Lake Park Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

SHIMANO

COSTA DEL MAR

PENN

SPERRY TOP-SIDER

Big Game Foods

Columbia

Just Tackle

FATHOM OFFSHORE

Ocean Tackle INTERNATIONAL

Daiwa

- Fishing Charters
- Official Weigh Station
- Live Bait
- Propane
- Custom Made Tackle
- Clothing and Accessories
- General Hardware

(910) 458-3049 • www.islandtacklehardware.com

THE CHUM BUDDY

Kayakers often overlook the possibility of using a chum slick to draw large pelagic fish like sharks, tarpon and cobia to their baits. Frequently, chum bags are tied off to the boat, but the real concern exists of tying a chum bag directly to the kayak, as large sharks are known to come straight to the chum's source.

Chumming is a successful method of attracting fish from distances, helping to increase your fishing success. Plenty of fishermen use more than one Chum Buddy to boost the scope of their chum slick, magnetizing nearby fish.

With the Chum Buddy, kayakers can enhance their fishing experience while getting efficient use out of their chumming bait. The Chum Buddy will produce an effective slick. It allows for the perfect amount of chum to be released into the current.

The Chum Buddy allows you to put fresh, frozen or live bait inside the self-contained tube. As you chop your bait, the Chum Buddy keeps the mess of blood and guts outside your boat. The Chum Buddy system creates an instant slick that will attract a variety of fish.

Clean-up is also easy with The Chum Buddy. Simply empty any remaining chum from the tube, drain it and store it in your bait



tank until you reach your next spot. The Chum Buddy's internal unique blade system can help reduce the risk of an injury by keeping everyone on board safe, including the captain, crew and your family.

MSRP is \$59.99 at Bass Pro and Academy. More info at thechumbuddy.com

POLYFORM POLY BALL



When anchoring a kayak in strong current, such as around inlets, sandbars or in strong tides, it's best to have a floating intermediary device between your plastic boat and anchor. This allows the tension to pull horizontally against the boat rather than vertically, a serious situation in heavy current that could lead to the boat capsizing. Tethering to this intermediary device also allows you to quickly slip your anchor without losing your spot.

The A Series Poly Ball from Polyform is an all-purpose buoy great for use as a dock bumper, anchor-release float, harpoon rigging and others. These commercial-style,

super durable and strong poly balls with the signature "blue rope-hold" have proven themselves in the most-adverse conditions.

Poly Balls feature even wall thickness for maximum strength and durability. Polyform's unique vinyl-valve system is simple to fill. This product is made in the USA by Polyform US LTD.

The ball comes in only one color — high-visibility red — which makes it easier to find when returning to your anchor spot as well as making it easier for passing boaters to see in open waters.

The A Series Poly Ball is available in two sizes: A1 & A2. See the chart for specifications.

	A-1	A-2
Size	11x15"	14.5x19.5"
Circumference	34.6"	45.6"
Volume	3.5 gallon	8.2 gallon
Eye Diameter	1"	1.125"

MSRP is \$39.99. More info at fishermansheadquarters.com

Summertime is Fishing Time

Subscribe today
for the best:

- **FISHING REPORTS**
- **TIDE TABLES**
- **HOTSPOTS**
- **HOW-TOS**
- **NEW GEAR**

\$19.99
12 issues



Toll-free

1-855-224-1667

or for faster service visit

CarolinaSportsman.com/subscribe

*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue



Carolina
SPORTSMAN

COOKING ON THE WILD SIDE

Jerry Dilsaver

The author cuts up grouper cheeks, pieces of prime meat that can make a meal.

CHEEKY GROUPEK KABOBS

August may be hot, but there is plenty happening for sportsmen in the Carolinas. Saltwater fishing has been good all summer, and some freshwater species are beginning to become active again. Deer hunters in parts of South Carolina get a head start in mid-August, and a lot of migratory bird seasons open Sept. 1.

August is also the first month that shows a break in the hot weather. At some point, a couple of days will show up with cool mornings and evenings. They will be easily noticed, and it's the first sign that summer will soon begin to wear down.

This is an excellent time to enjoy your evening meal on the deck or patio with family and friends, and there are lots of options of what to serve. You could get rid of the last of last season's venison to make room for this year's, and you can cook fish to produce freezer space for the upcoming fall catch. But it is also a time when several favorite offshore fish move closer to shore, so the fish will be fresh.

Grouper are one such fish. They're feeding heavily to gain weight and store reserves for the winter, and fishermen sometimes find gag grouper in only 50 to 60 feet of water. It's time to put some tasty fillets in the freezer before interests turn to hunting, and no one will refuse a quick meal or two of fresh grouper.

An often-overlooked part of a grouper is its cheeks, oval pieces of meat that, while not quite as flaky as a flank fillet, are special in its own right. In larger grouper, this is a surprisingly large piece of meat, and it only takes a few to have a pound of boneless, prime meat.

Grouper cheeks are often described as being the texture of and tasting like scallops. That's not what I think when I eat them, but I haven't found a better description. They're excellent baked, broiled, fried, grilled and any other way they can be prepared.

So when a couple of big grouper come across your cutting board, don't just take out the flaky fillets. Do yourself a favor and take time to use a sharp fillet knife and scoop out the cheeks. They're tasty prepared in any way, and this recipe is easy and fun. ■



Jerry Dilsaver

CHEEKY GROUPEK KABOBS

Just about everyone who likes fish, likes grouper. Their mild-flavored fillets can be prepared a number of ways, and all are excellent. This recipe uses grouper cheeks, which are pieces of meat that are in cavities in the skull below the eyes and above the mouth.

Most fish have cheeks, but not all are worth the effort to remove. Grouper cheeks are larger and always worth the effort to remove. Many folks, myself included, consider them a delicacy. The cheeks from a half-dozen grouper are a meal in themselves, and this is a tasty way to prepare them and an attractive presentation to serve them.

This recipe has stayed much the same for the years I have been preparing it. One change that makes it easier is that Kikkoman now has a Teriyaki Baste and Glaze that includes pineapple juice and honey. For years, I mixed this and never had exact proportions but did it to taste. You can still do this and use fresh pineapple juice for a little more tart edge to its flavor or sweetened pineapple juice for a sweeter flavor. Pineapple is the same. Pineapple chunks from a can labeled sweetened are sweeter, and sweet or slightly tart are a personal preference.

I have a Tupperware basting tray that is old enough to be an antique but is just right for marinating grouper cheeks. It has raised sections on the bottom and in the lid so the meat doesn't sit flat on the bottom. Every 20 to 30 minutes, I flip it over and let the marinade work its way back over and around the meat.

I use black pepper and Cavender's All Purpose Greek Seasoning on the vegetables, and I use them to taste. They aren't marinated so they

PREPARATION:

Cut grouper cheeks into approximately 2-inch pieces. Lay in marinating tray and add Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste and Glaze. Marinate at least an hour while slicing vegetables and doing other preparations. Turn several times. Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 30 minutes.

Cut onion into eighths and separate pieces. Remove seeds from the bell peppers and slice them into approximately 1-inch widths. Combine onion, peppers, tomatoes and mushrooms in a large pan or bowl and season to taste with black pepper and Cavender's seasoning.

Put grouper cheeks, vegetables and pineapple chunks on skewers. If you like your fish well done, be sure to put a pineapple chunk on each side of each cheek piece. Spray a grill tray with non-stick cooking spray. Preheat grill to medium. Place the grill tray on the grill and arrange the skewers on it. Cook for 4 to 6 minutes, depending on grill heat. Turn the skewers over and

will stay a little crisp. Cavender's is more of a salt mixture, and I believe a little goes a long way. If you're not used to it, use it sparingly. You can add more at the table.

I use a regular green bell pepper because I can't find it in miniature. Baby bells are more tender and milder in flavor and come red, orange and yellow, which add color and festivity to the meal. You can use only the baby bells if you like.

Add the ingredients to the skewers in any order you like. One suggestion: if you like your fish cooked well-done, be sure and put a pineapple chunk on each side of the fish. This will help prevent it from drying out.

Remember that cooking time varies from grill to grill. I set my grill on medium for this recipe. Watch the edges of the cheeks and the vegetables, and don't allow them to burn. The occasional crusting is fine, but heat that is too high will burn the edges.

The skewers will get hot and be difficult to hold when you turn them. Gloves don't help much, so I keep a bowl of water nearby and dip my fingers to keep them cool. It is well worth the effort, and I'm sure you will enjoy this unique part of the fish. Do yourself a favor and give grouper cheek kabobs a try. Enjoy! ■

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound grouper cheeks
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 package of baby bell peppers, assorted colors
- 1 medium sweet onion
- 1 medium can or produce pack of pineapple chunks
- 1 package cherry tomatoes
- 1 package whole mushrooms
- 1 bottle Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste & Glaze
- Black pepper
- Cavender's All Purpose Greek Seasoning

Chunks of pineapple, cherry tomatoes, bell peppers and mushrooms join skewered grouper cheeks on the grill.



Jerry Dilsaver

cook approximately 4 minutes, depending on grill heat and how well you want them done. Serve immediately.

This is a light summer meal, tailor-made for enjoying with family and friends while enjoying the sunset on a deck or patio. It includes grilled vegetables and works well accompanied by a cool fresh garden salad or lettuce wedge. Those who would like dessert will find flan or chilled rice pudding top it off very well. ■



Jerry Dilsaver of Oak Island, N.C., is a freelance writer, as well as a former national king mackerel champion fisherman. Readers are encouraged to send their favorite recipes and a photo of the completed dish to possibly be used in a future issue of the magazine. E-mail the recipes and photos to Jerry Dilsaver at captainjerry@captainjerry.com.

STICKS AND STRINGS

Sammy Romano

Paper-shooting your bow is a big part of the process of getting your equipment ready for the season.

BOW PREPARATION IS TIME WELL SPENT

A TRUE-SHOOTING SETUP IS THE RESULT OF ANNUAL TUNING YOUR EQUIPMENT

Sammy Romano

As we enter August, early archery seasons are around the corner in many areas. With that in mind, my thoughts always shift from fishing to bowhunting. It's time to prepare for the season, and what you do now will likely determine the outcome.

The first and perhaps most-important step is checking over your equipment and performing any preventative maintenance needed, as well as tuning it for maximum performance and accuracy. Here are a few tips to help ensure you get the most from your bow this season:

RUN THAT CHECKLIST

Although a lot of archers shoot year-round, for many people, this is the first time your bow has been out of its case since last hunting season. Before beginning the tuning process, check over your bow's limbs, string, cables and cams. Check the limbs, looking for any cracks or fractures; although rare, these could lead to a catastrophic limb failure. Check your string and cables, looking for ant nicks, frays, severe discoloration, or extreme serving wear. Make sure you don't have any chips or dings in the cams that could cut a string or cable. If you find any things, have these parts replaced immediately. If you're unsure, consult your local pro shop. If your string set looks good and is less than 2 years old, apply a quality string wax to the

unserved areas of both string and cables and rub it in gently. Wipe off any excess to prevent attracting dirt.

DO THE TWIST

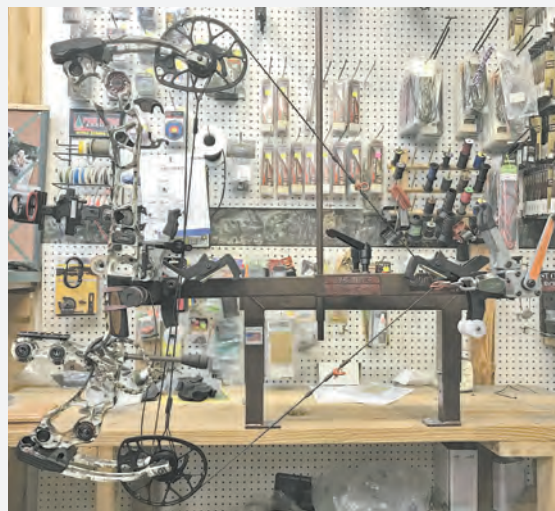
The next step is to add twists to the string/cables to compensate for elongation, and return the bow to factory specifications for axle length and brace height. Modern compound bows are designed to exacting specs and will perform best when they are correct. This requires the use of a bow press, and in most cases is best performed by a pro-shop technician. Doing this will help to eliminate any excess noise and vibration

caused by string over travel, making the bow more efficient. It will also allow the bow to reach full poundage.

Once the string and cables are twisted to the proper length and several arrows have been fired through the bow, put the bow on a draw board to check for proper cam timing and straightness. Once your bow is properly set to specs, timed and the cams are straight, double check for proper peep rotation and arrow rest timing — if using a fall away rest. Next, check both nocking point and center shot. If everything looks correct, it's time to paper-shoot your setup and check for proper arrow flight.

BACK TO THE DRAW BOARD

A draw board is a device that uses a winch to slowly draw back a bow, allowing you to stop the draw at any time and examine timing and cam length. Being able to look at those factors without having to hold the bow, you are able to be more precise, yielding better results. Adjustments can then be made to correct any issues, making your bow more accurate and efficient. I use a draw board from Last Chance Archery; it fits onto my Last Chance Bow Press and allows for micro-adjustments by adjusting the worm bear on the press itself.



Sammy Romano

ALWAYS PAPER TUNE A BOW

By shooting a field-tipped arrow through a tight sheet of thin paper from 6 to 9 feet away, you will be able to evaluate your arrows' flight and make adjustments to correct any problems.

For a hunting setup, I always try to achieve a "bullet hole" of perfectly symmetrical rip with all three fletches visible — perfectly straight arrow flight. Once you achieve this, double-check by firing a broadhead-tipped arrow at a target, followed by a field-tipped arrow. If they fly to different points of impact, you may need to repeat the previous steps. Once these arrows impact the same spot on the target, you are ready to sight your bow in.

After dialing in your bow's sight, all that remains is to practice, practice, practice some more. Make sure to practice proper form, as this builds good muscle memory, critical in clutch situations in the field. Remember, it's not the total number of arrows shot, it is the quality of the shots taken. With some time spent at the range, you will be ready when opportunity presents itself. A little time spent now, leads to a full freezer and trophy wall later. ■



Sammy Romano is a lifelong hunter who has worked in the archery industry for more than 24 years. His expertise includes compounds and crossbows. He can be reached at samboka31@aol.com.

**53+/- Acres,
Wilkes County**

**Frontage on
US Hwy 421,
borders Lewis
Fork Creek,
elevations
to 1,600',
great hunting
opportunities,**

\$199,900

**Call Michael
Oak Island Realty, Inc.
910-616-5211**

HUNTER'S SPECIAL!!!

0% FINANCING -OR- **A FREE LOADER ATTACHMENT AND STANDARD 6 YEAR WARRANTY**

Branson TRACTORS
3520 MODEL

BRANSON OFFERS A FULL LINE OF TRACTORS FROM 19 TO 78HP

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS

RAY'S TRACTORS, LLC
3478 Alex Harvin Hwy., Manning, SC
803-249-1077 • raystractors.com

WWW.BRANSONTRACTOR.COM



Pro Shop & Indoor Range
4410 Old Pineville Rd., Charlotte, NC
704-527-1110

HOURS:
Tues. & Thurs. 10am-8pm
Wed. & Fri. 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

**WE SHIP UPS
ANY WHERE IN THE STATE**



**HUNTERS LET US CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT NOW TO GET AHEAD OF THE LAST MINUTE RUSH!
WHILE YOU'RE HERE SIGN UP FOR OUR HUNTING CONTEST!**

At an introductory level, Parker has created the best value performance crossbow in the industry with the MP315



MP315 INCLUDES: RED HOT Optic • Four Arrow Quick Detach Quiver
Four Arrows with Field Points • Full Lifetime Warranty

WWW.BAREFOOTARCHERY.COM

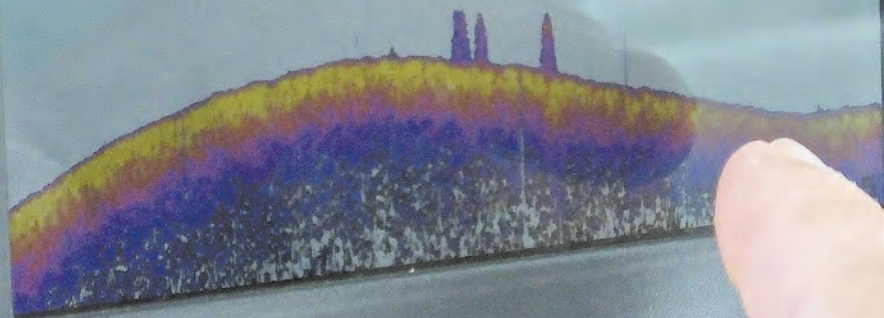
SANTEE STRINGER

Terry Madewell

Guide Bobby Winters likes to start his drifts in deep water and drift up and across the shallow areas of bottom contours.

LOWRANCE
HOOK
5xHDI

12.2
84.3
7.3mph



SUMMER, SHALLOWS ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE

DON'T GIVE UP ON CATFISH WHEN AUGUST ARRIVES

Terry Madewell

Bobby Winters is a 23-year-old catfish and striper guide on the Santee Cooper lakes who has a youthful passion for catching fish. We were fishing on a hot, summer day, and he'd targeted an area with undulating bottom contours for drift-fishing. We had been drifting only a short while when one of his nine rods bowed over.

Winters grabbed the 8-foot Eagle Claw rod, and immediately, the adjacent rod buried in a deep arch. In true gunslinger mode, Winters snatched it from the rod holder with his left hand, only to see four more rods bow over in succession.

He gave me and his dad, long-time guide Bob Winters, the "Okay, I need help" look, and we gladly obliged. Of the six catfish hooked, we boated five; the sixth broke the line before we could get to it.

This wild action took place near mid-day in the heat of summer in shallow water on Lake Moultrie. Bobby Winters

said that scenario was not a fluke occurrence; it's a solid catfishing pattern.

Many anglers get into a deep water mindset during the summer, and that can be a very productive choice. But often, the relatively shallow water consistently produces excellent daytime fishing on both Moultrie and Lake Marion.

"A lot of fishermen are surprised that catfish — big catfish and plenty of fish in the 10-pound-plus class — are available in water from 8 to 15 feet deep," he said. "As in any fishing, it can vary with weather and forage movements, but it's very consistent throughout the summer, including August."

Winters (843-700-0626) said the fishing is often an extension of areas where he fishes even shallower during the spring and fall, but the area needs to have ample forage to hold catfish.

"The areas where I have the most success have a series of underwater hills and valleys," he said. "This up-and-down

change in bottom topography is important, because it gives catfish different depths to relate to during the day. I look for areas that may be 15 feet or more at the deepest point that rise to less than 10 feet, then drop back deep.

START DEEPER, DRIFT SHALLOW

"If I'm drifting toward the shoreline from the open water, the up-down undulations will eventually get shallower, but the fish are often surprisingly shallow. I'll work into shallow water until I get a pattern for the day, then focus on it until the pattern changes."

On our trip, catfish were clustered in specific areas, but the precise location changed from one drift to the next. Even in the mid-day sun, we hooked three catfish at one time on one drift, with other doubles in addition to the initial six-pack. The fish were clustered in groups,

and multiple hookups were common, but it's not always like that.

Winters said on other days, the action is consistent, but without the multiple hookups. It changes daily, but the end result is usually plenty

On that trip, we didn't land any monster-sized catfish, but the odds of hooking fish in the 20- to 30-pound class are reasonable. The Winters have boated numerous fish weighing more than 40 pounds, and on occasional trips, they've landed multiple big fish. This is an excellent tactic for big fish as well as numbers.

"Patience is a key, and understanding that something on the lake bottom will attract and hold them in a specific area for a while," he said. "It may be forage or other bottom features, but they'll congregate in specific places.

"I've learned that drifting in the deeper water and up a slope to the top of the hump seems to produce more bites than working down the hill," he said. "But we fish it all, and when I begin to get a daily pattern, I'll focus on those specific type areas until that action slows."

Winters said he uses the typical Santee drift rig, and he prefers to drift at a rate of 0.5 to 0.7 miles per hour. Bait choice is important, and gizzard shad, herring and natural forage, including white perch and bream, are all very effective.

"The occasional windy days during the summer seem to be best for the larger fish, and an overcast, windy day is ideal for big catfish and numbers of fish," he said. "But big-fish bites can happen anytime, even midday during hot weather."

Winter said like every type of fishing, conditions can change, and a deep-water bite may be best for short periods of time. If the shallow bite is slow,

Winters will readily go deep, but shallow-water drift-fishing is his go-to tactic through the summer, and it typically produces plenty of catfish action. ■



Terry Madewell, of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.



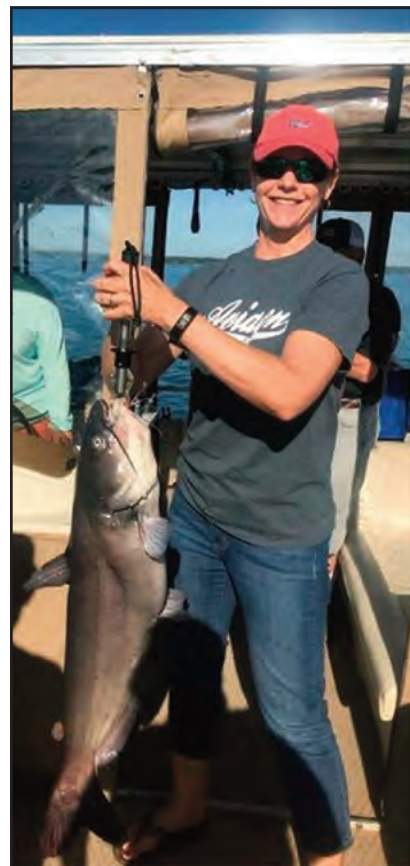
DON'T FORGET SKINNY WATER:

Guide Bobby Winters doesn't automatically head for deep water when looking for summer catfish; if there's plenty of food in water that's much shallower, predator fish will be there.

Bob's Guide Service Encore
Fishing the Santee Cooper Lakes,
specializing in Catfish & Striped Bass

Cell 843-709-0626 • Office 843-753-3343
www.bobsguideserviceencore.com

Like us on



Catch a memory in South Carolina's "Great Lakes" Marion & Moultrie offering world-class fishing year-round for bass, bream, crappie, catfish, and stripers (striper season closed from June 16-Sept. 30). Our lakes hold eight state and one world record, just waiting to be broken!

For our 2018 Visitors Guide call us at (803) 854-2131, email: tourscc@oburg.net or visit our website. The guide contains all the information you will need to catch your next fishing memory.

Photo: Cajun Guide Service

www.santeecoopercountry.org



HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAINS

Robert Satterwhite

A fly fisher works a pool in Hazel Creek, a blue-ribbon trout stream in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

HAZEL CREEK: A TROUT TREASURE

ONE OF THE MOST-FAMOUS STREAMS IN THE EAST, HAZEL CREEK IS WORTH THE EFFORT IT TAKES TO GET THERE

Wesley Satterwhite

No roads lead to one of the most-celebrated trout streams in the East. Isolated, remote, accessible only by boat or foot, Hazel Creek lives up to its reputation as a trout-fishing Mecca. It's all that everyone says it is, and more.

From its confluence with Fontana Lake in the southwestern corner of North Carolina to its headwaters on the southwestern slope of Silers Bald, deep in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the stream is about 15 miles long, with a gravel road following the bank on much of the lower section and a well-maintained and heavily traveled trail running along the creek the rest of the way.

Named for the hazelnut shrubs that once grew along its banks, Hazel is a large creek, bigger than some area rivers, and it contains good populations of wild rainbow and brown trout and a smaller population of brook trout in the higher waters around 4,000 feet above sea level. You can consistently catch rainbow trout in the 8- to 12-inch range. In the big pools, places such as the Brown Hole,

anglers have caught brown trout up to 10 pounds.

A friend and I spent three days on the creek, expecting the best, yet prepared for disappointment. The fishing was far better than we anticipated.

Taking the ferry from Fontana Marina, we arrived at Hazel Creek about mid-afternoon on a Monday, set up our base camp at Campsite No. 86 at Proctor, approximately one-half mile above the boat drop-off, and began fishing. We had been told at the marina that the trout were hitting hoppers, yellow Stimulators and Royal Wulffs. That's what we used the entire trip.

Tuesday morning, we loaded up for a day trip to Bone Valley, about five miles above Proctor, a former town. This, we were told, is where the real fishing begins. We split up at Sugar Fork, the first tributary above Proctor, agreeing to meet around lunch time at the back-country campsite at Bone Valley. My friend went upstream on Hazel Creek, and I went upstream on Sugar Fork.

Sugar Fork was loaded with rainbows.

After catching 20 or so trout, I stopped counting and just enjoyed the fishing. The trout were a bit smaller than the ones in Hazel Creek, averaging 6 to 8 inches, but they made up for their size in feistiness. Every pool, cascade, and run held a trout or two. After a couple of hours, my Royal Wulff was so ragged, I finally was forced to tie on a new fly.

My friend's morning had been even more productive. He had caught, by his best guess, at least 60 fish, the largest one a 13-inch rainbow. After lunch, I fished Bone Valley Creek, another Hazel Creek tributary. Bone Valley was even better fishing than Sugar Fork, offering a nice mix of medium-sized browns and rainbows. The biggest fish I caught in Bone Valley Creek was about 10 inches. Many of them were 8 to 9 inches, and slew of them were in the 4- to 6-inch range.

About 5:30 p.m., we headed back to Proctor, both of us bone-tired by the time we arrived. We had agreed we would have trout for dinner at least one night, so when we reached camp and rested a bit, we caught our dinner. It was the only

time we killed trout on the trip.

On Wednesday, we fished upstream on the lower section of Hazel Creek. Fishing in the lower section is at best fair; it's fished more often by day-trippers.

We had been warned to expect crowds, but we didn't encounter many people. We had the campsite to ourselves two out of three nights. On the third day, two couples spent the night. At Bone Valley, we saw only three other fishers the entire day.

Once home only to the Cherokee, Hazel Creek was discovered by settlers around 1830. Around the turn of the century, copper was discovered, and Proctor enjoyed a short-lived boom. When the mines closed, loggers moved in, and Proctor mushroomed to a town of more than 1,000 people.

After the lumber company moved out, so did many of the people. In 1942, the Tennessee Valley Authority began building Fontana Dam, the highest dam east of the Mississippi River. With the impoundment of Fontana Lake, the remaining residents of Hazel Creek were forced to leave. A few years later, Hazel Creek became part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which ensures its protection for perpetuity.

That's the way it should be. Hazel Creek is a treasure, isolated, remote, open to anyone willing to make an effort to get there. As for the fishing, nothing I've found equals it. ■



Bob Satterwhite has been writing about the outdoors, particularly trout fishing, for more than 25 years. A native of Morganton, N.C., he lives in Cullowhee, N.C., close to the Tuckasegee River, Caney Fork, Moses Creek, and several other prime trout streams.



Brookings Angler

ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA:

By foot, Hazel Creek can be reached by the Lakeshore Trail starting from Fontana Village or from Welch Ridge Trail where it joins the Appalachian Trail at Silers Bald near Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Either way is a long, strenuous hike. The easiest access is by boat, either from Fontana Marina or Cable Cove Campground. Fontana Marina has a daily ferry service to Hazel Creek. The boat ramp at Cable Cove offers free boat access. A back-country camping permit is required for overnight stays at designated campsites. Permits are available at the Oconaluftee Visitors Center at the entrance of the park near Cherokee, N.C. Either a North Carolina or Tennessee state fishing license is acceptable for trout fishing in the park. Fishing is limited to artificial lures or flies with a single hook. The daily creel limit is five fish, 7 inches or longer

GREG'S OUTBOARD CENTER, INC

1105 East Ocean Road Holly Ridge, NC 28445

910-329-0040

GREGSOUTBOARD.COM



Call Today For The Best Prices In The Carolina's!



CULPRIT WATER DRAGON

By Dan Kibler

Soft-plastic lizards were all the rage 20 years ago when the Carolina rig ruled the bass-fishing world, but over the past decade, you haven't heard much about them. The creature bait has been the hot lure.

"A lot of people have forgotten about lizards with so many creature lures out there," said bass pro Dustin Wilks of Rocky Mount, N.C., a six-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier "There haven't been any very exciting changes in lizards in a long time."

So Wilks got together with one of his sponsors, Culprit, and after six months of design, a new bait was born, the Culprit Water Dragon.

A 7-inch bait available in 12 colors, the Water Dragon debuted at the recent ICAST trade show.

"We wanted to see what we could do to a lizard to catch bigger fish," said Wilks, who designed a bait with bigger, thicker rear legs and gills that come off the rear of the bait's head.

"You'd think the gills would make the most difference, but the thing I like best is the bigger, thicker back legs," he said. "That helps it float when you're Texas-rigging it. The gills have a bigger effect on it when you Carolina rig; it helps keep it planing a little better."

But Wilks likes two other, less noticeable features.

"The Water Dragon has a noticeable lateral line, which is perfect for guys who like to dye a bait's tail with chartreuse," he said. "And the back of the bait isn't smooth; it's got bumps. That makes it much easier to skin hook. If the bait was smooth, the tip of the hook would pop out more easily." Culprit Water Dragons come eight to a pack, with an MSRP of \$5.29.

More Info: www.culprit.com

Follow Us — On the water and on Facebook

www.facebook.com/laspportsman

OTTERBOX COOLERS

High performance coolers have been around for several years now, and it seems like more and more companies are making them. And while many are content with making clones of other brands, OtterBox has taken things a step further, making their own Venture Series coolers with unique features that allow you to mount many of their other products directly to the coolers.

One knock against all high performance coolers is their weight. But that's what it takes to keep ice for days. OtterBox thought of that though, and makes the easiest set of wheels to add (and subtract) whenever you want some help. An easy-to-mount pull handle helps, and can be used in multiple positions.

With two-inch, refrigeration grade insulation, these coolers can keep ice up to 14 days, and allow for the mounting of numerous accessories in multiple locations on the coolers. Mount bottle openers, cup holders, a fishing rod holder, phone mounts, side trays, and OtterBox's signature series dry boxes to keep everything conveniently located.

Tie-down kits, ice packs, locks, trays, and cutting boards specifically designed and shaped for onboard storage and use with these coolers are also options offered by OtterBox. The Venture coolers are offered in three sizes — 25, 45, and 65 quarts, and the sizes are based on the true interior capacities.

Otterbox also offers soft-sided coolers which are available in 20 and 30 quart sizes, and keep ice up to three days.

More Info: www.otterbox.com



New product submissions can be emailed to **Mark Hilzim** at markh@lasmag.com.

ASTRO TABLES

Astro Tables is far more effective than "moon tables," because it takes into account critical solar energies as well as lunar.

The "Best Days" column is based on the ever-changing positions of the sun and the moon, rating each day on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more solar/lunar influence that day is experiencing (see "Value" column or corresponding black bars).

The two Primary periods (Moon Overhead and Moon Underfoot) vary in length from one hour to three-and-one-half hours, depending on a number of important lunar cycles, such as how close the moon is to the earth that day and how high its orbit is. The solar symbols alert you to when a Primary period overlaps a major solar period (eg: Dawn, High-Noon, and Dusk). The secondary periods of Moonrise and Moonset last about one hour each... 30 minutes before and after the listed time. (See key at bottom of each month for more detail.)

Astro Tables is a quick-reference version of its parent publication, the **PrimeTimes Wall Calendar**, which is recommended for those wishing more complete data on the best days and times to go fishing and hunting for the entire year (see "Available Products" below).

PrimeTimes' forecasts are based on solar/lunar research at a leading college of astrophysics and our own research pond/wildlife area. Annual data is supplied by the U.S. Naval Observatory. All times are adjusted to the center of your time zone and for Daylight Saving Time.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:

The 2018 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$12.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2018 with this information-packed, full-color, 11-inch by 17-inch, graphic peaks

-and-valleys forecaster. Includes rise and set times for the sun and moon, space to log your catches, "Timely Tips," plus fish and game symbols showing you each month's don't-miss periods. Also includes exclusive summary charts revealing the best and worst days of 2018, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2019, and more. Comes with FREE 2018 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$7.95, plus \$3 s&h.

Book: "How to Know When to Go" by Rick Taylor. \$14.95 (plus \$4 s&h). 100 pages, 43 illustrations. A comprehensive look at the main factors influencing fish and game activity periods, plus how to devise an effective when-to-go game plan using any year's PrimeTimes calendars. Individual assessments of bass, panfish, deer, turkey, and more.

2018 Ultimate PrimeTimes software for PCs. \$29.95 (plus \$3 s&h, or no s&h if downloaded from web). The world's best forecaster allows you to fine-tune the peak times to your exact location, quarry, and even weather. Too many features to list here, including making your own App. For more details, please call us or visit our web site (see below).

SPECIAL PACKAGE OFFERS:

- #1: **Wall Calendar, Astro Tables and "How to Know..." book...** \$19.95 (plus \$5 s&h).
- #2: **Same as #1, plus Software...** \$46.95 (plus \$6 s&h).
- #3: **Same as #2, minus book...** \$37.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

Send to: PrimeTimes 2018 - Dept. LS • 2487 NW 75th Ave., Ste. 100 • Ankeny, IA 50023

For credit/debit card orders, call toll-free **866-809-5063**.

2018 AUG	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL.	
Wed 1					38
Thu 2					42
Fri 3					49
Sat 4					62
Sun 5					55
Mon 6					53
Tue 7					56
Wed 8					67
Thu 9					78
Fri 10					88
Sat 11					89

Sun 12					76
Mon 13					62
Tue 14					49
Wed 15					40
Thu 16					37
Fri 17					39
Sat 18					46

Sun 19					33
Mon 20					26
Tue 21					25
Wed 22					24
Thu 23					34
Fri 24					45
Sat 25					55

Sun 26					63
Mon 27					54
Tue 28					48
Wed 29					41
Thu 30					39
Fri 31					42

25 50 75
AVERAGE

For more, visit
primetimes2.com

LUNAR PERIODS						TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED	
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD		MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT		MOON PHASE	SOLAR PERIOD
	START	END		START	END		
11:12 pm	3:38 am	5:36 am	10:38 am	4:03 pm	6:01 pm	☾	☀
11:44 pm	4:12 am	6:28 am	11:35 am	4:37 pm	6:53 pm	☾	☀
	4:50 am	7:20 am	12:34 pm	5:15 pm	7:45 pm	☾	☀
12:17 am	5:29 am	8:15 am	1:35 pm	5:54 pm	8:40 pm	☾	☀ HALF
12:53 am	6:12 am	9:12 am	2:38 pm	6:37 pm	9:37 pm	☾	☀
1:34 am	7:01 am	10:11 am	3:43 pm	7:26 pm	10:36 pm	☾	☀
2:22 am	7:53 am	11:13 am	4:49 pm	8:18 pm	11:38 pm	☾	☀
3:16 am	8:53 am	12:15 pm	5:53 pm	9:18 pm	12:40 am	☾	☀
4:18 am	9:56 am	1:18 pm	6:53 pm	10:21 pm	1:43 am	☾	☀ HIGH
5:26 am	11:01 am	2:17 pm	7:47 pm	11:26 pm	Midnight	☾	☀ Penigee
6:37 am	12:08 pm	3:10 pm	8:35 pm	Midnight	2:42 am	☾	☀ NEW
7:48 am	1:12 pm	4:02 pm	9:17 pm	12:33 am	3:35 am	☾	☀
8:58 am	2:15 pm	4:47 pm	9:56 pm	1:37 am	4:27 am	☾	☀
10:05 am	3:14 pm	5:30 pm	10:32 pm	2:40 am	5:12 am	☾	☀
11:10 am	4:12 pm	6:10 pm	11:06 pm	3:39 am	5:55 am	☾	☀
12:12 pm	5:08 pm	6:50 pm	11:41 pm	4:37 am	6:35 am	☾	☀
1:12 pm	6:03 pm	7:31 pm		5:33 am	7:15 am	☾	☀
2:10 pm	6:56 pm	8:14 pm	12:17 am	6:28 am	7:56 am	☾	☀ HALF
3:07 pm	7:48 pm	8:56 pm	12:55 am	7:21 am	8:39 am	☾	☀
4:00 pm	8:38 pm	9:44 pm	1:36 am	8:13 am	9:21 am	☾	☀
4:51 pm	9:28 pm	10:30 pm	2:20 am	9:03 am	10:09 am	☾	☀ LOW
5:38 pm	10:14 pm	11:20 pm	3:07 am	9:53 am	10:55 am	☾	☀
6:22 pm	11:01 pm	12:09 am	3:58 am	10:39 am	11:45 am	☾	☀ Apogee
7:01 pm	11:42 pm	Midnight	4:50 am	11:26 am	12:34 pm	☾	☀
7:38 pm	Midnight	1:00 am	5:45 am	12:07 pm	1:25 pm	☾	☀
8:12 pm	12:23 am	1:51 am	6:40 am	12:48 pm	2:16 pm	☾	☀ FULL
8:44 pm	1:02 am	2:40 am	7:36 am	1:27 pm	3:05 pm	☾	☀
9:15 pm	1:37 am	3:33 am	8:33 am	2:02 pm	3:58 pm	☾	☀
9:46 pm	2:15 am	4:23 am	9:30 am	2:40 pm	4:48 pm	☾	☀
10:19 pm	2:51 am	5:17 am	10:29 am	3:16 pm	5:42 pm	☾	☀
10:53 pm	3:30 am	6:10 am	11:28 am	3:55 pm	6:35 pm	☾	☀

ANY LUNAR PERIOD IS ENHANCED WHEN IT OVERLAPS A KEY SOLAR PERIOD. THE BEST OF THESE OVERLAPS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SUN SYMBOLS.

☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK

WHILE THE LESSER MOONRISE AND -SET OVERLAPS (ABOUT 30 MIN. BEFORE AND AFTER THE LISTED TIME) ARE DESIGNATED BY BOLD BLACK TYPE.

For more information and samples of PrimeTimes products, visit our web site: www.primetimes2.com

HELP WANTED

We are looking for drivers to deliver the Carolina **SPORTSMAN** Magazine in both North and South Carolina.

If You Love to Fish, Hunt and Meet People You Qualify!

Circulation experience helpful but not necessary. Dependable vehicle with insurance & a valid NC and / or SC drivers license a must. If you have 2-3 days a month to help spread the word I would like to hear from you!

Please Contact: **Mitch Eby,**

Circulation Manager @ 919-602-3862 -or- mitchebync@gmail.com

Carolina
SPORTSMAN

VOYAGER Deep Sea Fishing & Sport Fishing Charters

The Largest & Finest Fleet in The Carolinas!



- 100' Super Voyager III
- 100' Continental Shelf
- Area's top producer for Gulf Stream Fishing
- 12-13 Hour Gulf Stream Special - \$95
- 22 Hour Trips - \$195
- Private Sport Fishing Charters up to 20 Passengers
- Large Group Charters up to 125 Passengers
- Fast, Clean Boats
- Excellent Crew #1 In Customer Service



1525 13th Ave N. North Myrtle Beach, SC
843-626-9500 • 910-575-5978
SuperVoyagerDeepSeaFishing.com



SALTWATER

STATE COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS (0 - 3 miles)

FISH SPECIES	Minimum Lengths	Creel Limit (per person)
Greater amberjack	28" FL	1/day
Blue marlin	99" LJFL	1/vessel/trip
White marlin	66" LJFL	1/vessel/trip
Sailfish	63" LJFL	1/day
Sharks	%	%
Cobia	36"	1/day&
Bluefish	5 longer than 24" TL	15/day
Red drum (channel bass, puppy drum)	18" min., 27" max.	1/day
Black drum	14" min., 25" max.	10/day
Flounder	15" TL	4/day
Dolphin (mahi-mahi)	none	10/day
Grouper (black and gag)	24" TL	1/day
Red, scamp, yellowfin, yellowmouth	20" TL	3/day
Speckled hind/Warsaw Grouper	closed	closed
Wahoo	none	2/day
Red porgy (aka silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/day
King mackerel	24" FL	3/day
Spanish mackerel	12" FL	15/day
Sea bass (north of Hatteras)	12.5" TL	15/day
Sea bass (south of Hatteras)	13" TL	7/day
Yellowfin/Bigeye tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin tuna	Contact NMFS (http://www.nmfspermits.com)	
Spotted sea trout (speckled)	14"	4/day&
Weakfish (gray trout)	12" TL	1/day
Snappers:	12" TL	10/day in federal waters
Gray (mangrove), yellowtail, queen, cubera, dog, mahogany, schoolmaster		
Sheepshead	10"	10/day
Red snapper	closed	closed
Mutton snapper	16" TL (federal waters)	10/day
Vermillion snapper	12" TL	5/day
Striped bass ^	28" TL or more (ocean waters)	1/day
Hickory shad	None	10/day
American shad	closed	closed

^ see NCWRC/NCDMF regs for inshore Management Area limits. % Contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species, 888-872-8862, visit hmspermits.noaa.gov. Cobia limit is 1 per person, 2 per day private boats, 1 per person, 4 per day charter boats until June 1, then 2 per day per charter boat. % Season opened June 15.

FRESHWATER

FISH Species (Inland waters)	Minimum Size Limit	Creel Limit (per day)
Crappie +	None +	None +
Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass +	14" (2-fish exception)	5
Channel catfish	No restrictions	None
Blue/Flathead catfish	No restrictions	None
Striped bass, hybrid (Bodie) %	20"	4 %
Sauger	15"	8
White bass	None	25
Walleye#	None	8
Muskellunge	42"	1
Kokanee salmon	None	7
Red drum	18" min., 27" max.	1
American and hickory shad	None	10 (1 American shad)
Spotted sea trout	Closed	Closed until June 15
Flounder	15"	4/day@

TL=Total Length; LJFL=Lower jaw to middle of fork in tail; FL=Fork Length (tip of snout to middle of fork in tail); CFL=Curved Fork Length (measure of a line tracing contour of body from tip of upper jaw to fork of the tail)

+ See specific lake exceptions in NCWRC regulations digest or www.ncwildlife.org

% Striped bass creel limits and size minimums vary by lake. See NCWRC regulations digest or www.ncwildlife.org.

Lake James, minimum size is 15 inches. Lake Gaston, minimum size is 18 inches, creel limit 5.

@ Hook-and-line and flounder giggers restricted to 4 fish per day per trip, 15-inch size minimum.

SALTWATER

STATE COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS (0 - 3 miles)

FISH SPECIES	Minimum Lengths	Creel Limit (per person)
Greater amberjack	28" FL	1/day
Blue marlin	99" LJFL	1/day
White marlin	66" LJFL	1/day
Sailfish	63" LJFL	1/day
Sharks	%	%
Cobia	36" FL	1/day&
Bluefish	None	15/day
Black drum	14" minimum 27" maximum TL	5/day
Redfish (red drum, channel bass)	15" minimum 23" maximum TL	2/day#
Flounder (state waters)	14" TL	10/day
Grouper (black and gag)	24" TL	1/day
Red, scamp, yellowfin, yellowmouth	20" TL	3/day
Speckled hind/Warsaw grouper	closed	closed
Red porgy (aka silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/day#
King mackerel	24" FL	3/day
Spanish mackerel	12" FL	15/day
Sheepshead	14"	10/day (30 per boat)
Spadefish	None	20/day (agg. grouper)
Black sea bass	13"	7/day
Dolphin	20" FL	10/day (60 per boat)
Yellowfin tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin/Bigeye tuna	Contact NMFS (http://www.nmfspermits.com)	
Tarpon	77" FL	1/day
Spotted sea trout (speckled)	14"	10/day
Weakfish (gray trout)	12"	1/day
Wahoo	None	2/day
Gray, yellowtail, queen, cubera, dog, mahogany, schoolmaster snapper	12" TL	10/day#
Red snapper	closed	closed
Mutton snapper	16" TL (federal waters)	10/day
Vermillion snapper	12" TL	5/day

% For shark seasons, bag and size limits, contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division, 888-872-8862 or hmspermits.noaa.gov. # For grouper/snapper, check with the SAFMC at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366. & Cobia, 1 per person per day up to 6 per boat. Closed May 1-31 south of Jeremy Inlet, 1 per person, up to 3 per boat, after June 1 south of Jeremy Inlet. # No more than 6 redfish per boat.

FRESHWATER

FISH Species (Inland waters)	Minimum Size Limit	Creel Limit (per day)
Crappie/Panfish +	None	30 bream (15 red breast), 20 crappie
Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, redeye, bass%	none largemouth 12" smallmouth	5 lg/sm/r, 15 spots
Channel catfish	No restrictions	None
Blue catfish	No restrictions=	None=
Flathead catfish	No restrictions	None
Striped bass or hybrid bass	Varies by location&%	Varies by location&%
Mountain Trout	+	5
White bass	None	10 (except Sav. River)
Walleye and sauger+	None	8

TL=Total Length; LJFL=Lower jaw to middle of fork in tail; FL=Fork Length (tip of snout to middle of fork in tail); CFL=Curved Fork Length (measure of a line tracing contour of body from tip of upper jaw to fork of the tail).

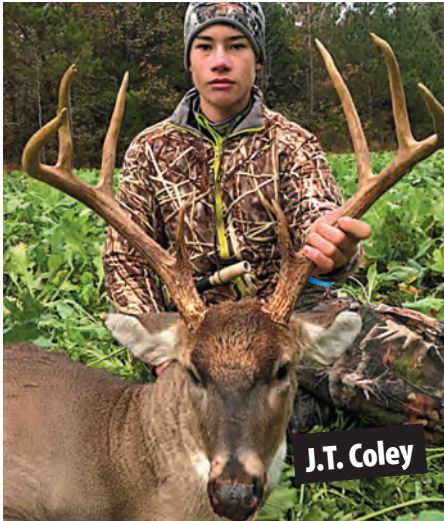
+ See specific lake and river exceptions in SCNDR's Regulations Digest

= In the Santee Cooper system, only two over 32 inches with daily possession limit of 25 fish. In Congaree/Wateree rivers, no possession limit.

% For lake-specific regulations, see the SCNDR's Regulations Digest or visit www.dnr.sc.gov. Keeper season in the Santee Cooper system is Oct. 1-June 15.

& In Lake Russell and its tributaries, the daily creel limit is two fish, only one of which may be more than 34 inches long.

Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



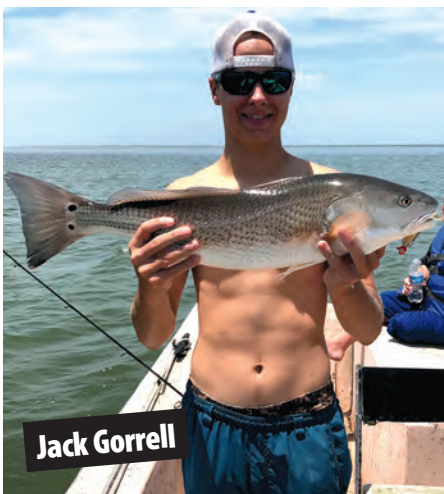
J.T. Coley

J.T. Coley of Holly Springs, N.C., killed this 185-pound, 12-point buck in the fall of 2016.



Lesley Gilreath

Leslie Gilreath caught this 3-pound crappie last spring at South Carolina's Clarks Hill Lake.



Jack Gorrell

Jack Gorrell of Raleigh, N.C., caught this puppy drum off Ocracoke, N.C., on July 4, 2017



Katie Crews

Katie Crews of Leasburg, N.C., caught this 11-pound bluefish in the Emerald Isle surf on April 28, 2017.



Dallas Brooks

Dallas Brooks of Siler City, N.C., caught this 27-inch red on a live shrimp in Carolina Beach Inlet on June 26, 2017.

GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to dank@carolinasportsman.com

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Kevin Rigs

Kevin Rigs of Efland, N.C., caught this 10.15-pound bass on June 14, 2017, at a private pond in Orange County.



Ron Hanks

Ron Hanks of Columbia, S.C., caught this beautiful redfish on cut mullet in the Cumberhee River on March 24, fishing on the Hook-um & Cook-um.



Cale Helms

Cale Helms of WIngate, N.C., caught this 11.03-pound bass from Tuckertown Lake on April 12, 2018.



Jeremy Spencer

Jeremy Spencer of Mooresville, N.C., caught this nice brook trout in the Davidson River on May 27, 2017.



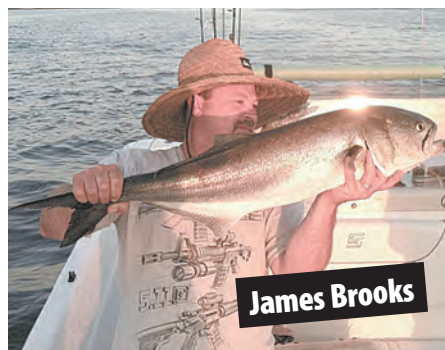
Scott Morgan

Scott Morgan caught this nice limit of bass from South Carolina's Lake Robinson.



Chris Carter

Chris Carter, from Leasburg, N.C., caught this 11½-pound bluefish in the surf at Emerald Isle on April 28, 2017.



James Brooks

James Brooks of Siler City, N.C., caught this 14-pound bluefish in the ICW near Wrightsville Beach on May 21, 2017.

GOT PHOTOS? WE WANT 'EM

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to dank@carolinaspportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



John Batts

John Batts caught this 7-pound triptail near Swanquarer, N.C., on June 29, 2017.



Winston Davidson

Winston Davidson caught this monster, 12-pound 24¼-inch sheephead off of Edisto Island on March 28, 2018.



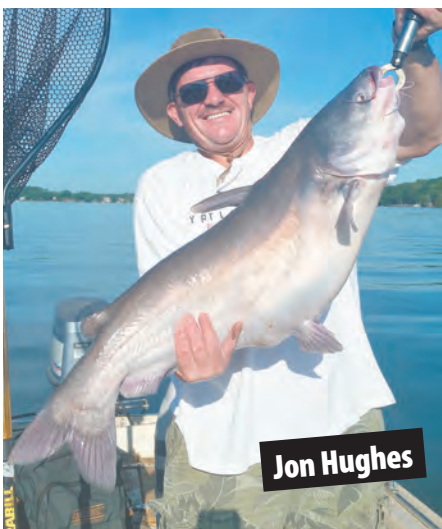
Heather Hiott

Heather Hiott of Johns Island, S.C., killed this 20-pound gobbler on April 12, 2018, near Jamestown S.C. The bird had 1-inch spurs and a 9-inch beard.



Rodney Powell

Rodney Powell and daughter Havyn Powell admire a nice largemouth Rodney caught in a Stokes County farm pond.



Jon Hughes

Jon Hughes of Gastonia, N.C., caught this great blue catfish on Lake Wylie in the spring of 2017.



Wesley Small

Wesley Small, 12, killed three squirrels with his .410 shotgun on his first hunt near North Carolina's High Rock Lake.



Harriett Mouton

Harriett Mouton caught this redfish near Charleston, S.C., on April 1, 2018, fishing with Capt. Steve Forbes.



T.R. Miller

T.R. Miller shot his first turkey on April 13, 2017, in Yadkin County, N.C. It carried a 6-inch beard.



Dawson Jordan

Dawson Jordan of Dillon, S.C., caught this 21-inch rainbow trout in North Carolina's Green River in March 2018.



Pete Hartingh

Pete Hartingh, 6, caught this 4-pound largemouth bass in a Kitty Hawk, N.C., canal on a frog bait.

Hunting/Fishing SCRAPBOOK



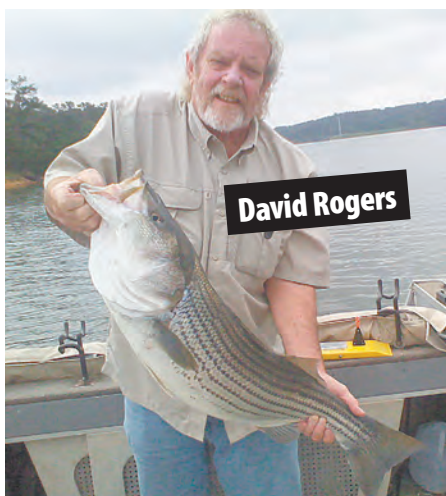
Mark Fain

Mark Fain of Cowpens, S.C., caught this 2½-pound small-mouth on Lake Jocassee in November 2017.



Melanie Eaton

Melanie Eaton killed this gobbler on the final day of the 2017 turkey season in Forsyth County, N.C. It had an 11-inch beard.



David Rogers

David Rogers shows off a Clarks Hill Lake striper that weighed more than 20 pounds.



Levi Thorne

Levi Thorn, 11, caught this 14.6-pound blue catfish on a blue crab on Knotts Island, NC.



Dick Ford, Ethan Stauffner

Dick Ford of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., and Ethan Stauffer of Garner, N.C., caught these big blues in the surf at Bogue Inlet.

GOT PHOTOS? WE WANT 'EM

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to dank@carolinasportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Ian Middleton

Ian Middleton, 7, killed his first deer, this buck, in Halifax County, N.C. during the 2015 season.



Steven Redmond

Steven Redmond killed his biggest buck ever, this 7-point, 200-pounder, on the first day of archery season in 2017 in Stokes County, with his father and son.



Gavin Hammonds

Gavin Hammonds, 10, killed this 10-point, 143-inch buck on Nov. 15, 2016, in Richmond County, N.C. It was his first buck taken with a rifle.



Doug Anderson

Doug Anderson from Goldsboro, N.C., caught this 11.4-pound bass from a local pond. It hit a Spook Jr.



Phillip Stahala

Phillip Stahala caught this nice bream on a fly rod on April 18, 2017, on North Carolina's Lake Norman.



Flor Wright

Flor Wright shows off a gar she caught fishing in the Cape Fear River in April 2017 while fishing with her grandson.



Louie Cohen

Louie Cohen caught this 31-pound blue catfish on Lake Wylie on Jan. 25, 2018. He also caught a 28-pounder.



Jessica Rudder

Jessica Rudder killed her first buck in the fall of 2017 in Caswell County, N.C.



Billy Bullard

Billy Bullman caught this big blue catfish at South Carolina's Lake Monticello.



Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson caught a limit of hybrid bass, all better than five pounds on Jan. 21, 2017, at Lake Norman.

How to use the **SPORTSMAN** Tide Guide

Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. The Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most active feeding periods each day in the TIDE GUIDE. To find the best time to fish your favorite honey hole, locate the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

Tide Corrections

Atlantic Beach, Ocean HIGH LOW

Cape Lookout Outer Coast	-0:02	0:10
Shell Point Harkers Island	2:07	2:45
Harkers Island Br. Outer Coast	2:23	2:42
Channel Mkr.Lt. #59 Outer Coast	1:40	1:38
Lenoxville Point Outer Coast	1:29	1:23
North River Bridge Outer Coast	1:24	3:19
Beaufort In. Ch. R. Outer Coast	0:22	0:22
Beaufort Duke Marine Lab.	0:57	0:50
Gallant Channel Outer Coast	1:04	0:55
Newport River Outer Coast	1:25	1:40
Core Creek Bridge Outer Coast	1:41	1:57
Fort Macon USCG Station	0:32	0:29
Morehead City Outer Coast	0:41	0:38
Atlantic Beach Outer Coast	0:00	0:00
Triple ESS Marina Bogue Sd	0:50	0:39
Atlantic Beach Outer Coast	1:03	1:13
NC State Fisheries Outer Coast	1:20	1:43
Coral Bay Atl. Beach Outer Coast	2:02	2:25
Spooner Creek Outer Coast	2:35	2:55
Bogue Inlet Outer Coast	0:28	0:26
New River Inlet Outer Coast	0:31	0:28
New Topsail Inlet Outer Coast	0:35	1:11

Oregon Inset, USCG Station HIGH LOW

Curriltuck Beach Lt. Outer Coast	-0:06	0:14
Nags Head Area All Ocean Front	-0:22	0:34
Kitty Hawk (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:10	0:18
Jennetts Pr. (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:14	0:19
Roanoke Sound Chan. Outer Coast	2:07	2:08
Oregon Inlet Marina Outer Coast	1:02	1:57
Oregon Inlet Outer Coast	0:27	0:24
Oregon Inlet Bridge Outer Coast	0:13	0:04
Oregon Inl. Channel Outer Coast	0:21	0:17
Old House Channel Outer Coast	1:04	1:19
Oregon Inlet (USCG Station)	0:00	0:00
Davis Slough Outer Coast	0:39	0:50
Cape Hatteras Outer Coast	-0:14	0:34
Hatteras (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:22	0:34
Hatteras Inlet Outer Coast	0:01	0:08
Ocracoke Inlet Outer Coast	0:02	0:10
Ocracoke Ocracoke Inlet	0:17	0:31
Cape Lookout Outer Coast	-0:24	0:42

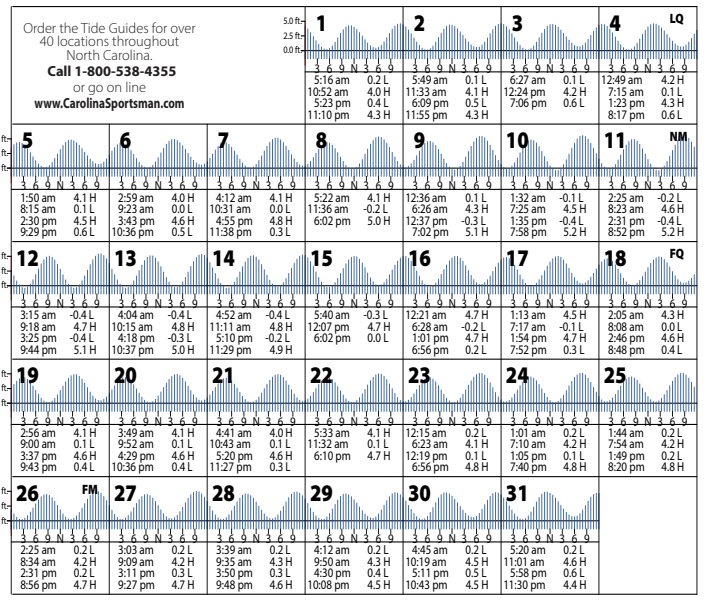
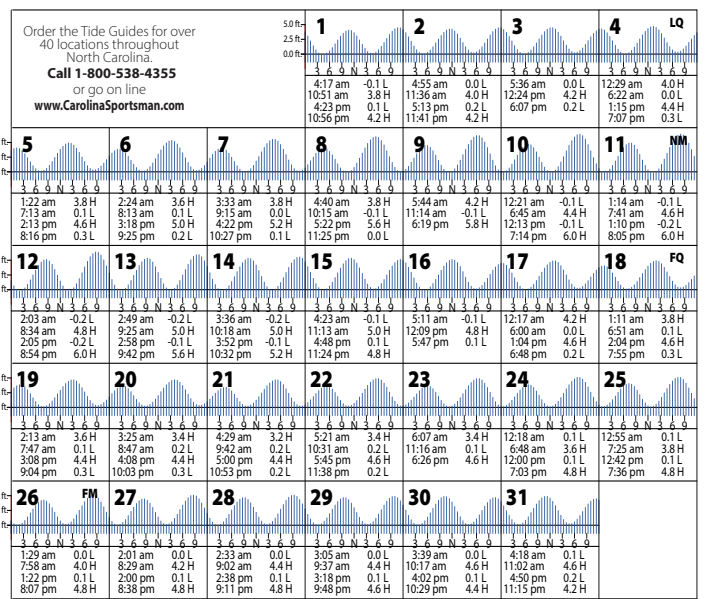
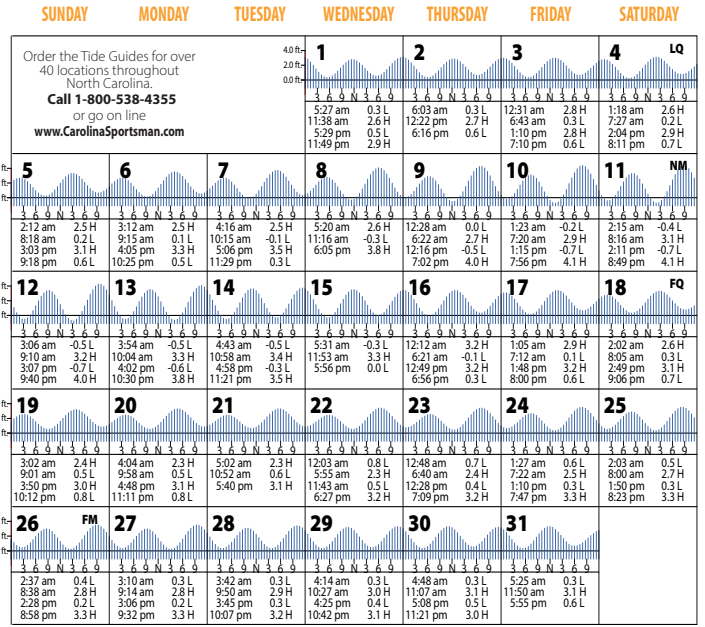
Southport, Cape Fear River HIGH LOW

Masonboro Inlet Outer Coast	-0:14	0:06
Wilmington Beach Outer Coast	-0:48	0:49
Cape Fear Outer Coast	-0:33	0:39
Bald Head Cape Fear	-0:17	0:22
Fort Caswell Cape Fear River	-0:12	0:16
Southport Cape Fear River	0:00	0:00
Reaves Point Cape Fear River	0:15	0:34
Yaupon Beach Outer Coast	-0:39	1:00
Lockwoods Folly Int Outer Coast	-0:29	0:23
Shallotte Inlet (Bowen Point)	0:10	0:17
Tubbs Inlet Outer Coast	-0:19	0:23

Atlantic Beach Ocean

Oregon Inlet USCG Station

Southport Cape Fear River

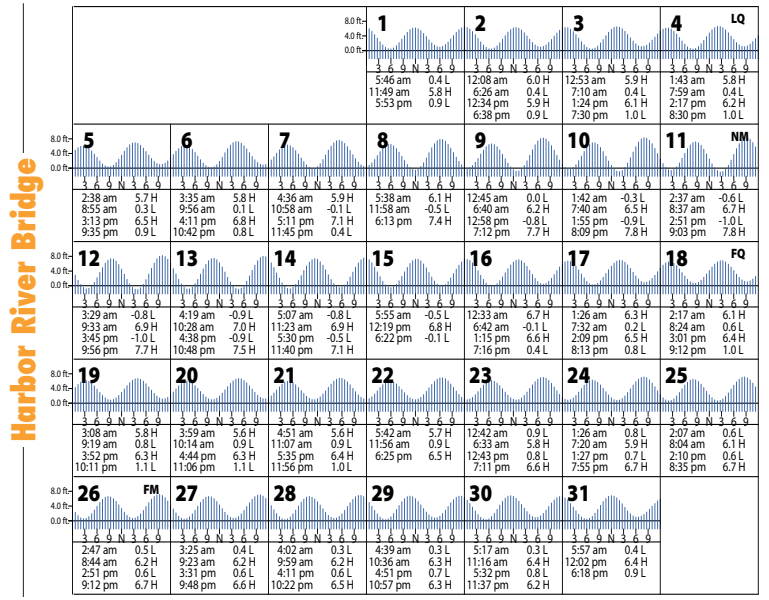
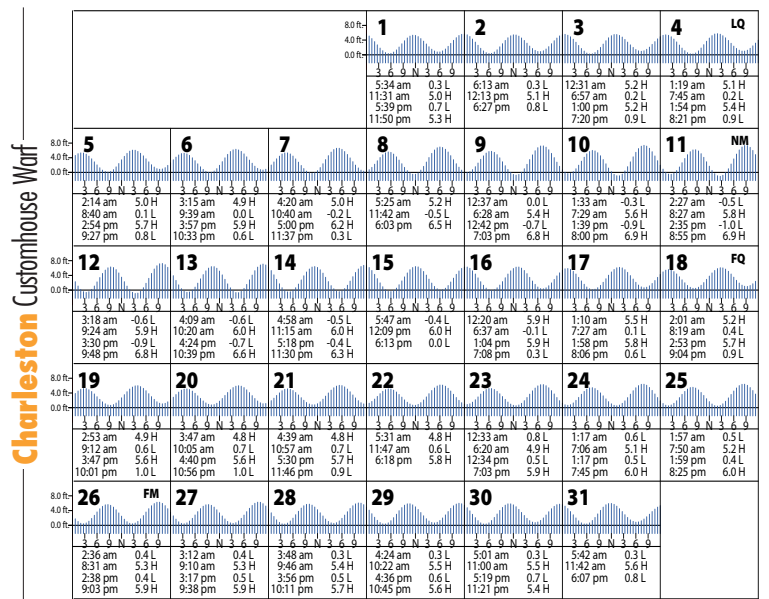
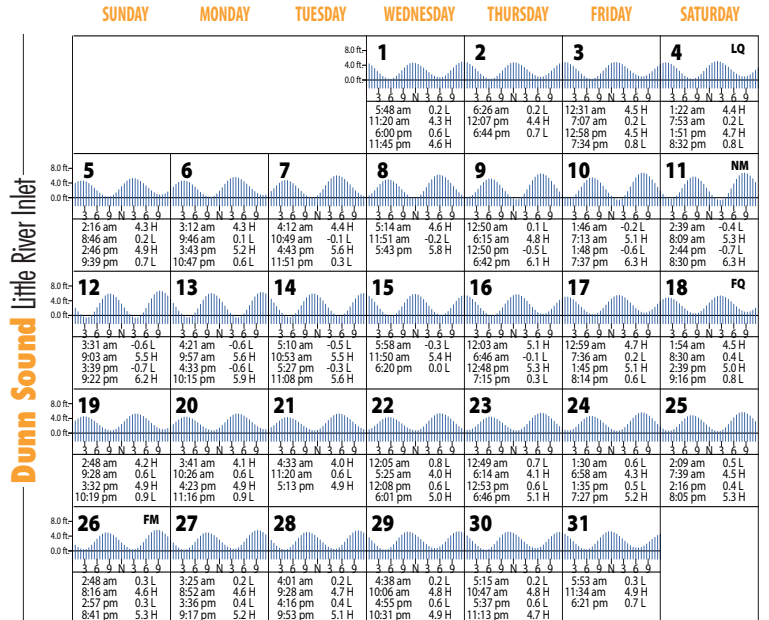


How to use the SPORTSMAN Tide Guide

Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. The Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most active feeding periods each day in the TIDE GUIDE. To find the best time to fish your favorite honey hole, locate the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

Tide Corrections

	HIGH	LOW
Cherry Grove(inside)	0:24	0:04
Springmaid Pier Outer Coast	-0:07	-0:30
Murrells Inlet Outer Coast	0:12	0:12
Pawley's Island Outer Coast	-0:10	-0:33
North Inlet Outer Coast	0:03	-0:08
Ent. (south jetty) Winyah Bay	-0:07	-0:36
S. Is. Ferry Winyah Bay	1:08	1:13
Georgetown Pee Dee River Br.	1:55	2:27
Black River (south of dunbar)	3:33	3:57
Sandy Island Thoroughfare Crk.	2:51	3:12
N. Santee Brg. Outer Coast	1:23	1:42
Brown Island S. Santee River	0:41	1:19
McClellanville Jeremy Creek.	0:36	0:40
Deweese Inlet Outer Coast	0:07	0:03
Breach Inlet Outer Coast	0:05	0:01
Fort Sumter Charleston Harbor	0:07	0:06
Gen. Dynamics Pier Cooper River	1:50	1:42
Horlbeck Creek Cooper River	0:52	0:43
Big Paradise Island Wando River	1:35	1:08
Wappoo Crk. Br. Ashley River	0:38	0:41
Folly Island Outer Coast	0:01	0:01
Folly River (below bridge)	0:29	0:10
Elliott Cut Stono River	1:04	1:08
Limehouse Bridge Outer Coast	1:52	1:49
Rockville Bohicket Creek.	0:28	0:22
Dawho Bridge North Edisto River	1:05	1:01
Edisto Marina Big Bay Creek	0:06	0:25
Willtown Bluff S. Edisto River	1:45	2:38
Eddings Point Crk. St. Helena Sound.	0:29	0:22
Fields Point Combahee River	0:42	0:59
Highway Bridge Combahee River	1:56	2:34
Summerhouse Point Bull River	0:59	0:43
Fripp Inlet Bridge St. Helena Sound	-0:09	-0:20
Broad Creek Port Royal Sound	0:36	0:25
Station Creek Port Royal Sound.	0:24	-0:13
Trenchards Inlet Port Royal Sound	0:15	-0:14
Parris Island Beaufort River	0:37	0:33
Beaufort Beaufort River	1:07	0:59
Victoria Bluff Colleton River	1:01	0:47
Hilton Head Island Braddock Point	0:05	0:05
Bluffton May River	0:52	0:31
Daufuskie Landing New River	0:21	0:34



Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS

WYLIE FLATHEADS PERK UP IN THE HEAT

AFTER-DARK ACTION IS BEST
AROUND DEEP HOLES, CURRENT
BREAKS IN RIVER



Guide Rodger Taylor hefts a nice Lake Wylie flathead catfish, caught on a summer night.

The flathead catfish bite at Lake Wylie heats up when summer hot arrives, according to guide Rodger Taylor of Rock Hill, S.C.

"While some catfish like blues tend to feed year-round, summer is the time for flatheads," Taylor said. "To avoid the heat, the most-comfortable time to chase flatheads is very early in the morning and at night. Flatheads, like all species of catfish, will bite during the day, but over the years, I have learned that early morning and at night is best to avoid recreational boaters as well as the heat."

Flatheads are well distributed across Lake Wylie, from the upper reaches near Mt. Holly, N.C., down to the India Hook Dam in South Carolina. Taylor targets fish in the river section, primarily on the North Carolina side of the lake.

"Most of the good river habitat is very

recognizable, where the deep bends, scour holes and water movement is perceptible," he said. "Rocks, submerged timber, bridge pilings, deep cut banks and sometimes boat docks provide cover for flatheads."

Flatheads love cover, but they will feed shallow in times of low light, he said.

"Another way to find flatheads, particularly during the day, is by drift-fishing," Taylor said. "Flatheads like to hold close to the channel drop. Multiple fish can be on the drop, so when a flathead is caught on a drift, it pays to repeat the drift, with a good chance of drifting up another one."

But Taylor (803-517-7828) said he likes to target flatheads by anchoring near prime habitat, like the shallow side of a deep hole or parallel to the deepest part of the scour hole, and casting baits out from deep to shallow. Taylor said flatheads are

predators and live prey.

"Some of the best offerings include bluegill, white perch, goldfish or small carp — and even small catfish. Using large live baits is often preferred by anglers who are seeking that special, trophy fish," he said.

But, he added, a flathead won't refuse fresh-cut shad or other cut fish baits.

Wylie flatheads are very common the 12- to 20-pound range, Taylor said, and while trophy fish over 40 pounds are rare, quite a few of that size are caught every year.

Taylor said that targeting flatheads in August has become a tradition for many hardcore catfish anglers.

"Pound for pound, flatheads are better fighters than blues or channels. They also present a greater challenge to catch and, unlike blues they are rarely caught in the winter when water is very cold," he said. ■

— Pat Robertson



GRAND STRAND SAILS

move nearshore as water heats up

Warmer water temperatures push sailfish north from the tropics and into nearshore waters off the Carolinas during the summer.

While many anglers hate August's heat, it brings periods of calm seas and good fishing along the beaches of South Carolina's Grand Strand. For anglers aspiring to wrestle with a billfish — but lacking an off-shore vessel — August is the time to target sailfish, often well within sight of land.

Unlike marlin and swordfish, sailfish are the only billfish that frequently travel into shallow water during the summer to feed and spawn. Anglers can expect to catch sailfish in places flooded with large schools of smaller baitfish like menhaden and cigar minnows.

Similar to their pelagic cousins, sailfish migrate from the tropical and subtropical waters to spend the summer season eating and spawning in ideal conditions along the Carolina coastlines. Tom Cushman of Captain Cush's Calmwater Charters out of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., catches his fair share every year.

"We start catching sails in the middle of the summer and will catch them into the early fall, just before the water temps begin to fall," said Cushman (843-997-5850). "We catch them routinely during

the summer within 10 miles of the Little River Inlet."

For most anglers, a nearshore tangle with a sailfish is strictly unintentional. Anglers will catch them slow-trolling live bait in nearshore waters, including areas along the beach, artificial reefs and livebottom areas that all hold baitfish during the summer. While Cushman has caught some incidentally while targeting king mackerel, he uses a slightly different technique to target sails with slow-trolled baits.

"You target sailfish by using big teasers with dozens of lures resembling ballyhoos or squids to attract them into the spread, and then you hook them with the trailing baits just outside of the teasers," he said.

Traditionally, sailfish caught nearshore are juveniles, yet over the last few years, the size range has drastically increased.

"We have caught several full-grown sailfish over the last few years within 10 miles of the beach. I caught a 7-footer last August on a king rig; he ate a live menhaden," he said.

The National Marine Fisheries Service requires all anglers, commercial and recreational, obtain a \$20 NMFS Federal Highly

Migratory Species Angling Permit to fish for sailfish and any other highly migratory species. All recreationally caught sailfish to be released may not be removed from the water and must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours of landing by calling 800-894-5528 or by visiting <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>. Recreationally caught billfish may not be sold. The minimum length in South Carolina is 63 inches from the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. ■

— Jeff Bureson

GOT PICS?

Send 'em in!

Email images to:

dank@carolinasportsman.com

All images will be considered, but those taken on the water or in the woods will have the best chance of being featured.

*Digital images must be sent in jpeg format. High-resolution images (taken on your camera's highest setting) will work the best. All images (physical and digital) become property of Carolina Sportsman and cannot be returned.

When targeting redfish, guide David Towler moves from creek channels on the low end of the tide to grass-covered marsh islands when the water is up.

HEAT WON'T SLOW SWANSBORO REDS

Ride the tides for exciting inshore action as August arrives in Bogue Inlet area

Craig Holt

Red drum don't react to August's steamy heat by swimming through inlets to reach the ocean's deeper, cooler waters.

Instead, back in marshes behind barrier island beaches, they seek creek channels during low ebbs of the tide, then swim back into mud flats covered by eel grass, cord grass, glass wort, sea lavender, bulrush and sawgrass during mid- to high tides.

Why? Food.

If your fishing needs an electric jolt, try fly-rod casting a crab fly in front of a "tailing" red in flooded grass, its nose on the bottom and rudder exposed as it grubs for tiny, black oyster crabs.

"The good thing about red drum fishing in August here is you focus on early and late high tides when it's cooler," said David Towler of Towler Time Charters, who fishes the area around North Carolina's Bogue Inlet, including Swansboro's waters.

Towler (910-554-4742) doesn't get many requests to show the ropes to fly anglers, but plenty like catching reds with artificial lures or live baits.

"Bait, especially finger mullets, push

up into the grass at rising tides and get pulled out when it falls," said Towler. "It's what reds look for. I look for (schools) at marsh edges that are good casting targets. The good news is, by August, baits have got pretty big, too, so I use 5- to 12-inch mullets."

Bigger reds and the occasional flounder or spotted seatrout will also blast his clients' baits.

"Early morning is when you get topwater bites from redfish," Towler said. "I use a Top Dog or She Dog, silver with white bottom, the (MR 18), or the 808 with orange bottom/gold sides.

"If the water's clear, I stick with natural colors. If we have stained water in the river, the She Dog's got a little higher-pitched rattle. In dirty water, I like a full-size, 5- to 5½-inch model. I try to match the sizes to the size of finger mullets and the conditions"

Towler will fish popping corks along marsh edges, but only with live mullet, never artificial lures.

"If I'm fishing a clear bottom, I like jig-heads and soft-plastic swimbaits or twitch baits," he said.

When water is at mid levels, he searches for skinny creeks in the marsh grass that also have oyster rocks.

"That's when I use a bass angler's weighted hook," Towler said. "I like the slow fall you get with a weighed worm hook (and a twitch bait)."

At low tide, he'll find any deep water with current and cast a soft-plastic lure with a ½- to ¾-ounce weight, hopping it across the bottom, always throwing up current and retrieving his lure with the flow.

Towler prefers 7-foot medium-action rods mated with, 2500 to 3000 Series spinning reels spooled with 15-pound braid and 2-foot leaders of 25-pound fluorocarbon.

"I don't use braid at oyster rocks," he said. "Braid tangles and will wrap up in coon oysters, and oyster shells will cut it. Heavier monofilament or fluorocarbon works better around oysters."

Towler said a typical 3- to 4-hour morning trip in August often yields six to 10 fish from 22 to 30 inches long. Anglers may keep one redfish per day from 18 to 27 inches long. ■

— Craig Holt

Fishing with David Register, Jamie Renn (right) caught this tarpon, estimated at 100 pounds, in the Cape Fear River.



TARPON INVADE CAPE FEAR FOR A MIDSUMMER RUN

North Carolina's Cape Fear is unique in several ways, among them, it's the only place in the Tarheel State where a large river, the Cape Fear, flows directly to the ocean. Second, it features several species that are incidental catches most other places, including tarpon, which arrive each summer and have a devoted local following.

Cape Fear tarpon typically begin arriving around the full moon in July, and their numbers peak around the full moon in August full moon. They stay until the water cools in late September.

Tarpon may be active in the nearshore ocean all day, and an inshore fishery usually develops from late afternoon, through the evening, with a surge in the early morning.

Many tarpon are caught incidental to fishing for king mackerel. They overmatch the small treble hooks used on live-bait rigs, and often, surprised fishermen only get a jump or two before the tarpon spits the hooks. However, some are caught, and not only by boat fishermen, but by pier fishermen, too.

Tarpon found on both sides

of Frying Pan Shoals, following schools of baitfish, are often found feeding beside sharks behind shrimp trawlers. They are focused in the sloughs crossing the shoals, where they can be targeted while anchored using chunks of cut bait fished on the bottom on rigs similar to drum rigs. Tarpon will also hit live baits free-lined in the current or suspended under floats.

Tarpon move into the lower Cape Fear River to feed as well. The bays between Bald Head Island and Southport, around Striking and Shellbed islands, are favorite places to find them, and they also occasionally follow baitfish into creeks behind Bald Head Island.

The prime time to find tarpon in the river is on a high tide around dusk or dawn. The lower light conditions apparently make them more comfortable in the shallower water and smaller channels. Tactics are similar to fishing the sloughs across the shoals. Concentrate on the deeper water and fish chunks of bait on the bottom and live baits suspended under floats. ■

— Jerry Dilsaver

HOT WEATHER MEANS red-hot catfish bite on Lake Norman

Guide Gus Gustafson of Lake Norman Ventures said August is made for catfish on North Carolina's Lake Norman.

"The hotter the weather, the better the catfish bite, especially in the early morning," he said. "While 90-degree temperatures give most other species lockjaw, catfish go on the prowl in warm water in search of forage."

Gustafson (www.fishing-withgus.com) breaks summer fishing for cats into two categories: family fun fishing and fishing for trophy cats.

"Channel cats up to 3 pounds are in every creek in Lake Norman," he said. "Whether you fish from a dock or a boat,

chum the area with bread, dog food or prepared chum concoctions and get ready for plenty of fun."

Effective baits are chicken livers, stinkbaits and chicken breasts fished on the bottom.

For trophy blues and flatheads, Gustafson has two strategies.

First, he anchors using two anchors to keep the boat steady and puts out baits at different depths on 15 or more stout rods with baitcasting reels spooled with 30-pound line connected to a 20-pound leader tied to No 5/0 or 7/0 hooks.

"If you're fishing primarily for blues, use heavier leader,

continued on page 94 >



TEX'S TACKLE

"YOUR SALTWATER FISHING CONNECTION"

15% OFF

any PENN SPINFISHER, CONFLICT or PASSION COMBO



CONFLICT



SPINFISHER



PASSION



Half Price Braid

AT TIME OF PURCHASE

With This Ad Expires 8/26/18



Gift Certificates Available

910-791-1763
215 OLD EASTWOOD RD. • WILMINGTON 28403
www.texstackle.com

Lake Norman continued >

because blues are notorious for twisting and fraying line," Gustafson said.

Best baits for blues are chicken breasts, cut gizzard shad and strips of white perch or bream. Flatheads prefer live baits, such as perch, bream or shad.

"If there's no wind, rock your boat to put your lines in motion," said Gustafson. "The movement triggers catfish to bite."

Gustafson may also slow-troll or drift



Guide Gus Gustafson loves to target flathead catfish on Lake Norman when August's heat wave arrives.

Lake Norman Ventures

using the same set-up.

Two special occasions create great fishing opportunities.

The summer heat may cause a fish kill at the lower end of the lake near Cowans Ford Dam.

"The fish kill mostly affected stripers back when Norman had stripers," said Gustafson. "Now, it's mostly gizzard shad; the dying shad attract blues that come to feed and clean up the mess."

Gustafson said the fish are suspended, so fish the thermocline with Carolina rigs carrying strips of perch or bream. He covers the area by drifting or slow-trolling. Some anglers employ 2½-ounce jiggling spoons tipped with cut bait.

The other occasion involves flatheads. "Flatheads love white perch," said Gustafson. "If you see white perch chasing forage, flatheads will be below the feeding fish dining upon the scraps of forage left behind. Rig a live perch, hang on and have a big net." ■

— Tony Garitta



Guide Wendell Wilson said Lake Russell is full of stripers weighing up to 20 pounds or slightly heavier.

Pat Robertson

STRIPED BASS HOT AT RUSSELL

Most of August fishery is at either end of big reservoir

August is a prime time to catch a trophy striped bass in South Carolina's Lake Russell, and finding them is pretty simple, according to guide Wendell Wilson of Elberton, Ga. — go north or go south.

"The reason I like to target big stripers in August is because the fish are concentrated in two areas: the Hartwell Dam tailrace at the upper end of the lake or the deeper water down near the Russell Dam at the lower end," Wilson said.

"If you go up the lake near Hartwell

Dam, the best way to target the stripers is pulling planer boards with large herring, gizzard shad or trout. If you fish down near Russell Dam, you can use down lines, fishing live blueback herring down in the thermocline, usually about 30 feet deep."

The thing that makes striper fishing unique on Lake Russell in August, he said, is that it is not a place to come and catch a cooler full of fish; the limit is two fish per day per angler.

"Russell is a place to come and catch some larger fish. We throw back the

smaller ones," said Wilson (706-283-3336). "I am amazed at how many people still don't realize that the limit on Russell is only two fish, even with signs up around the lake. It's really kind of shocking that a lot of people think the limit on Russell is the same as on Clarks Hill and Hartwell, where it is 10. If you want a numbers of stripers, go right below Russell Dam. You can catch plenty of them there."

On Russell, he explained, an angler can keep one fish over 34 inches or two fish under 34 inches. But chances are good at catching a good-sized striper, he added.

"Right now in Russell, we seem to have a pretty good crop of stripers that weigh in the teens into the low 20-pound range," Wilson said. "This also seems to be a banner year for hybrids. They don't stock hybrids in Russell, but they come into the lake during the pump-back operation at Russell Dam from Clarks Hill Lake. Hybrids are not plentiful, but we caught one in June that weighed 6 pounds, which is good size for a hybrid."

Several things are essential when fishing for Russell's stripers, Wilson said. First, you need good tackle; make sure the line is not frayed and the hook is in good shape.

"We've lost them just about every way you can lose them, and you do have the submerged trees to worry about," he said. "It's not a good combination when you have a fish that will pull line and you have all those trees it can get into."

The good bite for big stripers lasts into the middle of September when the water starts cooling slightly.

"Once we start getting longer nights and cooler mornings the fish start scattering out," Wilson said. ■

— Pat Robertson

Better quality flounder can be caught during the peak of summer heat in the cooler, deeper waters around nearshore reefs off Garden City Beach, S.C.



SC FLOUNDER set up on nearshore reefs, structure

Since July 1, South Carolina anglers have had to abide by a new set of flounder regulations: a 15-inch size minimum.

While estuaries are packed with flounder in the dead of summer, the typical inshore flounder will be hovering around that minimum size.

Anglers looking to consistently catch the bigger, doormat flounder should head to the ocean. The waters just off Garden City Beach are ideal for oversized flounder, packed with prime flounder habitat, including nearshore reefs.

J Baisch of Fishful Thinking Guide Service will take full advantage of the nearshore reefs for his summer flounder seekers because they can be real hot spots when much of the rest of the area is boiling over.

"Our reefs provide deeper water and plenty of good structure," said Baisch (843-902-0356). "These flounder in the ocean will be more abundant around the very established structure, with old growth and a debris field precipitated from storms."

Flounder are ambush predators, and the old structure on the sea floor provides baitfish and shrimp a real false sense of security. Unlike the

inshore estuaries where submerged vegetation, oyster reefs and man-made features are abundant, the ocean bottom appears as a barren wasteland except in places around natural rock outcrops and man-made reefs. In places where vertical structure is rare, the baitfish, shrimp and crabs gravitate to these aquatic jungle gyms for protection. Plus, the nearshore ocean waters remain cooler down deep.

Baisch likes to position his boat where he can fish a full 360 degrees around the structure.

"The flounder are structure-oriented, and I like to position the boat right on top of the structure and cast away to fish all the sand around the structure," he said.

Live finger mullet and mud minnows are ideal baits. Baisch will use both a Carolina rig and a jighead.

"I like to use 12 to 16 inches of leader on my Carolina rig to a octopus circle hook or a mosquito hook. And for my jighead method, it's hard to beat a ½-ounce stand-up style so it stands up on its own. I get better hook ups when the hook is standing on its own," he said. ■

— Jeff Bursleson

Harris Bass up next >

HARRIS BASS DON'T MIND HOT WEATHER

Patches of grass, deep structure hold plenty of big largemouths

While the 16-to 20-inch slot limit on North Carolina's Shearon Harris Lake may be an obstacle for some tournament anglers, it is a boon for the casual angler.

"There are plenty of bass within the slot limit for anglers to catch and release," said Joel Munday of Outdoor Expeditions Guide Service. "I'm speaking of fish 3 pounds and up."

For the trophy bass hunter at Harris, Munday said the bigger fish usually come from the remaining patches of hydrilla.

"At one time, Harris was inundated with hydrilla," said Munday (919-669-2959).

"Now, most of the grass has been killed off. The patches that are left will be at full growth in August."

Munday said most locals probe the hydrilla with plastics and spinnerbaits for a big bite.

Offshore structure in the form of points and humps, some of which feature short, standing timber, holds large numbers of quality bass. Most are situated in 12 to 14 feet of water on the main body of the lake. A submerged railroad trestle is a productive community hot spot.

Carolina rigs with big, green pumpkin worms and deep-diving crankbaits with chartreuse backs account for plenty of bass on these places.

Munday always has a rod pre-rigged



Hot weather doesn't slow down the bass bite on Shearon Harris Lake, rated as one of the nation's best.

Joel Munday

with a Fluke-type plastic or a Pop-R lure for surface action.

"Short bursts of fish crashing shad on top can occur any time during the day," he said. "The activity ends quickly, so you have to be ready to cast into the feeding fish."

The schools of feeding fish include white perch and largemouth bass mingled together in a brief frenzy. For better or worse, white perch are the newest species to take up residence in Shearon Harris.

"White perch can save the day on those rare occasions when the bass aren't biting," said Munday.

Hydrilla isn't the only growth in Harris. Unfortunately, black mat algae has taken hold in the Buckhorn Branch and other areas of the lake. The algae not only smells, but its clingy nature kills the action

of lures and requires being removed by hand.

"It's a nuisance to fishermen, but the fish don't seem to mind it," said Munday. "Schools of bass have been observed swimming above it."

After back-to-back weekends in 2017 featuring 5-fish, 40-pound catches, followed by *BASSMASTER* magazine ranking Harris as the fourth-best lake in the country and the top lake in the southeast, Harris, at only 4,100 acres, has experienced intense fishing pressure.

Holleman's Landing and Cross Point, the lake's only two public landings, draw overflow traffic on weekends despite recent renovations.

"If at all possible, fish Harris during the week," Munday said. ■

— Tony Garitta

RED HOT, RED HOT REDFISH

With “missing” shrimp showing up, SC inshore reds are on the prowl again

With deer season cranking up in South Carolina’s Lowcountry in mid-August, many outdoorsmen are trading in their fishing rods for a shot at a velvet buck, but for those who stay on the water, they’re in for some hot redfish action that many anglers overlook.

Guide Rob Bennett of Lowcountry Inshore Charters said with a shortage of shrimp for most of this year, this August should be even better than most as the late shrimp finally flood into the creeks and inlets around Charleston, John’s Island and other areas along the state’s southern coast.

“Menhaden and mud minnows are the predominant baitfish throughout much of the summer, especially this year because of the unusually low shrimp numbers. But now that the shrimp are showing up, the redfish bite really gets hot. It’s probably my favorite month to fish for them, despite the heat,” said Bennett (843-367-3777).

Bennett suggests hooking a live shrimp on a 1/0 Kahle hook under a popping cork with a 2-foot leader of 30-pound fluorocarbon, then casting it around oyster beds. He said it’s especially effective on the incoming tide. He uses 7-foot, medium to medium-light spinning rods with 2000 to 3000 class reels.

With plenty of oyster shells in these areas, Bennett said anglers can narrow down some of the best spots by keeping one thing in mind. As the tide starts to come in, he said finding an inlet with a long, sandy bank, then focusing on the first set of oysters you see is a good bet. But don’t get too close to these oysters. As the tide comes in, the redfish will flock to these shelly areas, and they can be a little wary.

“I like to anchor down about 30 feet away from that first set of oysters after the sandy bank and cast to the shells. You can let your cork float along, then pop it back toward the boat as you reel,” he said. “And as the tide comes in, you can change your depth quickly if you’re using a clip-on popping cork instead of a fixed one. Once the bite turns on, you’re not going to want to waste time re-tying just to adjust your depth.”

While the bite is hot, Bennett said many of these fish are in the lower range of the slot, so he advises anglers looking to take a fish or two home for dinner shouldn’t put the first keeper in the box. With patience, anglers can take home some upper-slot sized fish as long as their limit isn’t already on ice. ■

— Brian Cope

Kerr Lake up next >



Upper-slot and even over-slot redfish will be a distinct possibility this month in inshore waters around Charleston and John’s Island.

Rob Bennett



362 CALHOUN DRIVE
800.354.0161
803.536.2277




1548 DK

YAMAHA 40 HP
IN STOCK & PRICED RIGHT!



YAMAHA

We Have **NEW & USED**
BOAT
PACKAGES
READY TO GO!



ENGEL COOLERS ON SALE!



ROD & REEL PACKAGES

FRESH & SALTWATER BAIT



CAST NETS BY

HUNTING SUPPLIES:








-DEER CORN AVAILABLE-

TRAILER REPAIRS • SALES • SERVICE BOAT & MOTOR ACCESSORIES



TIPS FOR KERR CATS

Blue catfish on North Carolina's Kerr Lake will be close to food in August: either mussels or baitfish schools.

Wes Jordan

Fish mussel beds or baitfish schools for best hot-weather action on blues

Summer does not have to mean a decline in fishing potential — especially for blue catfish. According to guide Wes Jordan of Creedmoor, N.C., blues will be actively feeding throughout Kerr Lake, aka Buggs Island, but their depth range will run the gamut, and an angler wanting to load up will have to cover the water column.

Jordan (919-619-5753), who runs Red-beard Cats Guide Service, follows a couple of patterns for late-summer blues. The first centers around mussel beds on main-lake points — found in the highest concentration on the lower end of Kerr's 50,000 acres and easily detectable by hard sonar returns. The second keys on large schools of baitfish that can also be spotted via sonar or the naked eye in the early mornings or evenings when they are nearest the surface. The good news is that with enough rods, he can target both at the

same time.

"You can catch fish on a slip bobber 5 feet under the surface or on the bottom in 40 feet," Jordan said. "I'll start fishing in 30 to 40 feet, following the contours around main lake points as I troll at a ½ to 1 mile per hour and push up on the point if I'm catching fish on the shallow end. You can catch fish in shallow water, but they're not going to be far from deep water. Most big cats are going to be somewhere where they can get relief from the heat and then come up at certain times to feed."

Jordan starts testing the depths at around 10 feet with one of three slip bobbers running straight out from the back of the boat, while the other two are set at 15 and 20 feet deep. Next, he casts a pair of traditional Santee rigs with a 1½- to 2-ounce slinky weight to drag bottom. On either side of the boat, he deploys one or two planer boards with the Santee rigs.

If more fish are hitting the slip bobbers, he uses the board to act as a float, and clips the line to suspend the bait below it. Up front, he hangs four downlines with Carolina rigs and 3-ounce egg sinkers, suspended between 20 and 25 feet.

Jordan's cut bait choice leads off with white perch — because of how easy they are to catch with a Sabiki rig. Gizzard shad are a close second. Jordan also keeps a number of small perch as live bait, suspending them on slip bobbers to pull through bait schools. He hooks them through the jaw with a 7/0 circle hook instead of the 10/0 he uses with cut bait. To increase hookups, he adds a trailer J-hook, tied from the eye of the initial hook and pierced below the dorsal fin. ■

— Dusty Wilson

INSHORE

Highlander Charters, Inc
 Capt. Ron McPherson • Atlantic Beach, NC



25' Parker CC w/225hp 4-Stroke Yamaha

Let's Go Fishing
 1/4 Day (2.5 hrs) • Tours • Ponies, Birds, Dolphins, etc.
 1/2 day (5 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore
 3/4 day (7 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out
 Full Day (9 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out
 This includes tackle, bait, ice, and fishing license. Party size is 1 - 6.
 Ladies & children are welcome. Call for prices.

mcp221ab@earthlink.net
 www.highlanderchartersinc.com
252-723-8616

Noah's Ark CHARTERS
 Cape Lookout, NC
 252-342-6911 • 252-504-3139



Custom Inshore Fishing and Tour Charters Designed just for you!
 www.noahsarkfishingcharters.com

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
 1907 Paulette Rd
 Morehead City, NC 28557
 info@downeastguideservice.com
 www.downeastguideservice.com



PAMLICO SOUND / ORIENTAL
 • TARPON
 • GIANT RED DRUM
 • TROUT, DRUM, FLOUNDER

CAPE LOOKOUT/ ATLANTIC BEACH
 • COBIA • ALBIES

ROANOKE AND NEUSE RIVER STRIPERS

ALSO: COSTA RICA SAILFISH, TARPON AND ROOSTERFISH. ARGENTINA DUCK AND DOVE HUNTS.

252-671-3474
 Call Capt. George Beckwith, Jr


INSHORE

POGIE'S
 SWANSBORO NC
 910-325-7876
 www.pogiesfishing.com

LET US PLAN YOUR DAY ON THE WATER!



At Pogie's you can find a variety of guided and unguided trips to book. Whether by boat or kayak, YOU can go on nature tours, fishing trips, island exploration, or self guided paddle trips.



DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
 1907 Paulette Rd.
 Morehead City, NC 28557
 info@downeastguideservice.com
 www.downeastguideservice.com



Your Costa Rica Connection



42' Maverick, the Dragon Fly
 Not just fishing trips, also honeymoons, family and surf trips available. Packages include a variety of hotels and condo options, all ground transportation, guides, tours and fishing.

Also Costa Rica Tarpon
 Argentina Duck and Dove Hunting
 North Carolina Inshore/Offshore

Special discounts May-September
252-671-3474

HUNTING

Hunt Argentina



Kids Dove Hunt FREE

All inclusive packages for dove and duck hunting in Argentina. Limit of 50 ducks/person/day
No Limit Doves

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
 1907 Paulette Rd.
 Morehead City, NC 28557
 info@downeastguideservice.com
 www.downeastguideservice.com
252-671-3474
 *With 4 adult full fare hunts

Turkey Hill Whitetails
 PENNSYLVANIA
 Specializing in Trophy Whitetails



Last Minute Booking Special
 Receive a \$500 CREDIT on 170" or larger deer if booked by Aug. 15th

To Experience your hunt of a Lifetime give us a call 814-592-4351
 turkeyhillwhitetailhunts.com

Guides & Charters

Display Ads

1/16 Page BW\$70/mn*
 1/8 Page BW \$120/mn*
 *Based on Pre-Paid 12 Month Contract

To place an ad in Guides & Charters
252.299.2138
 or rdorsey3@ncrr.com

HUNTING

CHEROKEE RUN
 Hunting Lodge

Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey in the wilds of South Carolina



Trophy Managed Whitetail on the Great Pee Dee River



Trophy Wild Boar in the SC Swamps

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year' round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
 Dear/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC. Comfortable lodging including satellite TV, pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
 eatsleephunt.com

ADVERTISE
Your Charter Boat or Guide Service here!
 Reach 1000's of potential customers each month starting at **\$70**
Call for details at 252.299.2138 843.442.7250

ADVERTISERS INDEX

A.K. MCCALLUM CO.....	7	EAST COAST SPORTS	40	SARAH JUDY'S INSURANCE AGENCY	19
AGRI SUPPLY COMPANY.....	48	FOURTH GENERATION OUTFITTERS	19	SLEEP INN/MAIN STAY INN	46
BAITCLOUD.....	13	GREG'S OUTBOARDS	79	SOUTHEAST PRODUCTIONS	4
BAREFOOT ARCHERY, INC.....	75	HIGHLANDER CHARTERS	99	SOUTHSIDE OUTDOORS, LLC.....	32
BLACK RIVER MARINE.....	97	ISLAND TACKLE AND HARDWARE	69	SPORTSMAN'S WHOLESALE.....	35
BOB'S GUIDE SERVICE ENCHORE.....	77	KING MACKEREL TACKLE.....	26	SUZUKI MOTOR OF AMERICA, INC.....	30, 31
BOST ARGO.....	20	MARINE WAREHOUSE	101	TEX'S TACKLE.....	93
BQ GRILLS	61	MOSSY OAK PROPERTIES - BILLY MCOWEN	14	THE ARCHERY SHOP	19
BUTLER MARINE	99	NICHOLS STORE, INC.	11	THE REEL OUTDOORS	36
CAPPS TRAILERS	26	NOAH'S ARK FISHING CHARTERS.....	99	TURKEY HILL WHITETAILS	99
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC.....	3	OAK ISLAND REALTY INC.....	75	VOYAGER FISHING FLEET	81
CCA - SOUTH CAROLINA.....	41	PALMETTO BRUSH CONTROL	65	WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY.....	9
CENTRAL GARDEN & PET	18	PALMETTO STATE TRAINING.....	40	WHITTAIL PROPERTIES	21
CHATLEE BOAT AND MARINE	5, 22, 30, 39, 45, 57, 59, 63, 100	PERFORMANCE EAST INC.....	36, 47, 58, 61	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.	2
CHEROKEE RUN HUNTING LODGE.....	20, 99	PINEY ISLAND GUN CLUB.....	66	YOPP BROTHERS	52
CLOVER ENTERPRISES	69	P-LINE /G. PUCCI & SONS.....	27		
COLLINS INC.	30	POGIE'S.....	32, 99		
CROSS CREEK OUTDOOR SUPPLIES, LLC	21	POWER MARINE OUTFITTERS	29		
DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE.....	99	PRECISION MARINE, INC.....	25, 55		
DUDLEY'S MARINA.....	46	RAY'S TRACTORS	75		
		SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY	77		

Get decked out in the latest from the **SPORTSMAN** Store67, 102

Subscribe Today and SAVE71

NEED CASH FAST?

Prefer 15' - 24'
and 2005 Year Model or Newer
**SKIFF • PONTOON • BAY BOAT
DECK BOAT • RUNABOUT
FISH & SKI • CENTER CONSOLE
ALUMINUM BASS BOAT**

We Will Buy Your Boat!

CALL ROBBIE!
919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com

Powered by

**MARINE
WAREHOUSE
CENTER**



**CAROLINA
SKIFF**

GO ANYWHERE. DO ANYTHING.™



Celebrating 35 Years



Two Locations to serve you!

6921 Market Street, 3881 Savannah Hwy,
Wilmington, NC Johns Island, SC
(910) 799-1277 (843) 974-5353
marinewarehousecenter.com

POWERED BY





OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PIQUE.

FOR PERFORMANCE THAT'S PERFECT

- Premium Blend of Peruvian Pima Cotton & Micro Denier Polyester
- Ultimate Moisture Wicking
- Year-Round Durability & Comfort



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

More colors & options available online

BUTTLER Marine



Chris



Jim

It's a  **STINGRAY**® Boats
P O W E R B O A T S
SUMMER BLOW-OUT!!!



182SC



191 DC



206CC



212SC

Come check the  **STINGRAY**® models powered by **Yamaha** Outboards

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

70 Sea Island Pkwy
Beaufort, SC
843.522.9461

3590 Savannah Hwy
Charleston, SC
(at the corner of Savannah Hwy & Main Rd)
843.576.2233



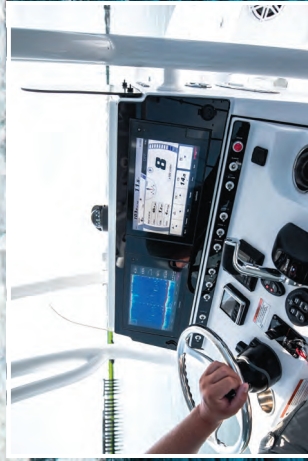
YAMAHA

Eastern NC's Premier

Dealer



Best Selection in the State!



919-934-3143

Hwy. 70, Exit 337

Smithfield, NC



WWW.COLLINSBOATING.COM

