



# BISC NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE BUGGS ISLAND STRIPER CLUB

JUNE 2011

Volume 10 Issue 2

## Roanoke River Fishing Report (4/28/2011)

“Hot and heavy.”

That’s Jeremy McCargo’s response when asked how the striped bass fishing has been on the Roanoke River the last few days. With water temperatures having finally reached optimal spawning range for stripers, the fish are biting fast and furious during this last week of the season.

McCargo added the fish—and the fishermen—were, for the most part, concentrated around the big rock downstream of the Weldon boat ramp and anglers were catching stripers nearly all day long on Monday.

The season for harvesting a limit of 2 fish per angler per day closes on Saturday at 11:59 p.m., but the fishing should continue to be good for the next few weeks as more and more stripers make it to the spawning grounds.

McCargo and fellow Commission biologist, Ben Ricks, sampled the river on Monday at Weldon, collecting nearly 700 striped bass. Each week, they collect stripers while conducting annual spawning stock monitoring. The fish are counted, measured, weighed and then returned back to the river. Before they are released, most of the stripers are also tagged by biologists from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Anglers who catch a striped bass with a red or yellow tag can fatten their wallets and, at the same time, participate in research projects that help fisheries biologists manage North Carolina’s striped bass populations.

Bobby Colston, of Colston’s Tackle Box on Hwy. 48 south of Gaston, said he was getting lots of reports on Monday of anglers catching fish, drifting below the big rock. “Everywhere I looked, someone was catching fish,” Colston said. “Lots of boats, lots of catches.”

Although the fish were hitting just about anything, he said live bait seemed to be working the best for fishermen.

In other parts of the river, the fishing was good. McCargo said creel clerks at Hamilton and Jamesville saw plenty of fish over the weekend and Ricky Mobley of the Roanoke Sportsman in Williamston reported that “overall, the fishing’s been pretty good.”

“Now is the time to go, if you want to keep fish,” McCargo advised. “This last week of the harvest season will probably be the peak in terms of numbers of striped bass on the spawning grounds.”

Please Note: As of May 1, 2011-You can’t harvest any striped bass from the Roanoke River. Catch all you like; just be sure to release them!

This is an article published online during the striper spawn at Weldon, N.C. for the spring 2011.



### Attention!

VDGIF needs to hire a part-time employee to run a creel survey this summer (June - August). Must be able to operate a boat and be available most week-ends, 10 days/month. If interested contact

Dan Michaelson at 434-392-9645.

Our club needs volunteers to serve on the food committee, the tournament committee and some members willing to serve on the board of directors. Consider helping out and be a participating member of our club. Thanks in advance for your help!

### 2011 BISC Calendar

- April 9<sup>th</sup> ..... General Membership Meeting.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Spring Club Tournament
- May 21<sup>st</sup> ..... Billy Nolan Youth Day
- June 4<sup>th</sup> ..... Club Tournament
- June 11<sup>th</sup> ..... General Membership Meeting and Fish Fry
- TBD..... Open Tournament

This is a proposed Bill that would help prevent the killing of millions of fish. Just this past year, millions of striped bass were killed in nets off the coast of North Carolina. This Bill is designed to help preserve these species of fish.

## **House Bill 353 Red Drum, Spotted Sea Trout, Striped Bass**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 2011**

**H 1**

**HOUSE BILL 353**

**Short Title: Designation of Coastal Game Fish. (Public)**

**Sponsors: Representatives McCormick, Glazier, Ingle, and Samuelson (Primary Sponsors).**

**For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.**

**Referred to: Commerce and Job Development Subcommittee on Business and Labor.**

**March 16, 2011 \*H353-v-1\***

**AN ACT TO DESIGNATE RED DRUM, SPOTTED SEA TROUT, AND STRIPED BASS AS COASTAL GAME FISH; TO PROHIBIT THE TAKING OF COASTAL GAME FISH OTHER THAN BY HOOK-AND-LINE; TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF COASTAL GAME FISH; AND TO COMPENSATE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR CERTAIN LOSSES DUE TO THE DESIGNATION AND PROHIBITION.**

**The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:**

**SECTION 1. Article 15 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:**

**"§ 113-192. Coastal game fish.**

**(a) Designation. – The General Assembly hereby designates all of the following species as coastal game fish:**

- (1) Red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).**
- (2) Spotted sea trout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*).**
- (3) Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*).**

**(b) Requirements. – Species designated as coastal game fish under subsection (a) of this section are subject to all of the following requirements:**

- (1) In coastal fishing waters, they may only be taken by hook-and-line.**
- (2) They may not be bought, sold, bartered, or exchanged.**
- (3) They may not be possessed for the purpose of purchase, sale, barter, exchange, or for transport or shipment in commerce within the State or for export from the State."**

**SECTION 2.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 113-175.1, the Marine Fisheries Commission shall make mitigation payments from the North Carolina Marine Resources Fund to commercial fishermen licensed under Article 14A of this Chapter who can demonstrate actual financial losses due to a coastal game fish designation under G.S. 113-192, as enacted by 26 Section 1 of this act.**

**SECTION 2.(b) Subject to the limitation contained in subsection (c) of this section, the Marine Fisheries Commission shall make mitigation payments for all of the following:**

- (1) The average annual income to a commercial fisherman from the sale of fish designated as coastal game fish under G.S. 113-192 over the period 2008 through 2010. The Marine Fisheries Commission shall make an annual payment in this amount to an eligible commercial fisherman in the years 2012, 2013, and 2014.**

**General Assembly of North Carolina Session 2011**

- (2) The 2010 value of commercial fishing gear used in 2010 to exclusively take fish designated as coastal game fish under G.S. 113-192. The Marine Fisheries Commission shall make this payment in 2012.**

**SECTION 2.(c) Payments made under this section shall be limited to a total of one million dollars (\$1,000,000).**

**Current Fishing Regulations**

The VDGIF and NCWRC adopted new regulations for striped bass on Buggs Island / Kerr lake effective July 1, 2006. From June 1 to September 30, the limit is 4 stripers per day, no size limit. From October to May 31, the limit is 2 per day, 26 inch minimum.

**BUGGS ISLAND STRIPER CLUB**

*The Buggs Island Striper Club was formed for the purpose of preserving and enjoying the landlocked striper angling quality in Kerr-Buggs Island Lake. The BISC is a family oriented club promoting educational, conservation, and social activities involved in Striper fishing on the lake.*

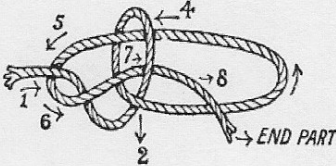
**Keep Tight Lines !**

Effective May 1, 2010, anyone under age 26 must have passed a boater safety course to operate a boat with a motor of 10 hp or greater in North Carolina. In Virginia the boater safety course requirement takes effect July 1, 2011 for anyone age 20 or younger. Age 30 or younger is July 1, 2012. Age 40 or younger is July 1, 2013. Age 45 or younger is July 1, 2014. Age 50 or younger is July 1, 2015. All ages (includes old geezers) by July 1, 2016

Both states require the operator to have proof of age and completion of the course with you when you are operating a boat.

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**BUGGS ISLAND STRIPER CLUB, TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM**

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Entry Forms must be received no later than 7:00 pm Friday June 3, 2011

Entry fees are \$25.00 per Boat, Big Fish Pot is \$10.00 per Boat

We encourage you to register early by mailing a completed form and check to:

BISC PO Box 64 Creedmoor, NC 27522

Make checks payable to BUGGS ISLAND STRIPER CLUB or BISC.

Entry Forms can also be dropped off at R. J.'s Country Store on Rt. 39

Please list the names of all Participants.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Number/Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Creel Limits</u></b> 4 fish per person Weigh in 2 fish/boat	<b><u>Start Fishing Time is 6:30 AM</u></b> <i>Weigh in Time is 3:30 PM at R.J.'s Country Store on Rt. 39.</i>
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Tournament Registration \$25.00\_\_\_\_\_

Big Fish Pot/optional \$10.00\_\_\_\_\_

Renew Membership \$20.00\_\_\_\_\_

Total\_\_\_\_\_

**BISC Tournament Rules and Regulations**

Fishing is limited to Kerr-Buggs Island Lake. The honor system will be used for the start of the BISC Tournaments, i.e. participants can launch or start fishing from anywhere on the lake at the designated time as set by the BISC tournament committee prior to each date. Weigh-in will be at 3:30 PM at the designated weigh-in location. Each boat can weigh only two fish and the total weight wins. Largest fish by weight takes the big fish pot. **\*There will be Trophies or Plaques awarded. There will be one trophy/plaque awarded per 5 boat entries. That is to say ten boat entries would equate to two trophies/plaques awarded, fifteen boat entries= three trophies/plaques awarded, ETC.**

1. All entries must be received by 7:00 pm the day before the tournament.

2. The Tournament will begin at a time designated by the tournament committee prior to the day of the tournament. See the entry form for each tournament for details. 3. Weigh-in time is 3:30 pm. All Fish must be presented for weigh-in no later than 3:30pm.

4. No Fish are to be brought to the scales with any foreign matter on or in the fish, including ice.

5. Entry fee is \$25.00 per boat. All participants must be club members. (Club membership is \$20.00 per person per year.)

6. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are not allowed in a contestant's boat or on the grounds at the weigh-in.

7. The combined weight of two (2) stripers per boat will determine winning places.

8. All fish must be in fresh condition or they will not be accepted for weigh-in. Fresh condition means clear eyes, red gills, firm flesh, etc. Please keep your fish well iced.

9. Fishing conditions: The tournament will be held regardless of weather conditions.

10. Sportsmanship, safety, courtesy, and conservation are expected from each contestant. 11. Any contestant wishing to protest the catch of a fellow contestant must do so to the tournament chairman at weigh-in time. The decision of the tournament chairman in such cases will be final. 12. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by means acceptable to the tournament chairman. 13. Each contestant will be responsible for reading and understanding the rules. 14. Any violation of the above rules will be grounds for disqualification. 15. All NC and VA game laws apply. 16. All fish submitted for weigh-in may be retained by the BISC. An exception will be granted if the fish will be mounted. 17. All contention fish will be subject to inspection and gutting.

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING:**

Having read and understand the rules, I am enclosing the completed application, and in signing this application, I waive and release all other contestants, sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims of injury and /or damage incurred in connection with this tournament. I understand and agree that the tournament rules committee will make the final decisions in all tournament matters. All applicants under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian's signature.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_