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Tournament Fishing and Chances of Fortune in Virginia Beach Lure Anglers to the Challenge

(Virginia Beach, Va., 2008) – Year-round, from rockfish to tautog, anglers of all ages and abilities find that sport fishing in Virginia Beach can provide more than a trophy for the wall. Virginia Beach’s line-up of saltwater fishing tournaments offers both in-state and out-of-state fishing fanatics the opportunity to test their skills and to earn thousands in prize money. For more information on the Virginia Beach fishing tournaments, please visit www.vbfun.com.

Waterman’s Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout

The annual Waterman’s Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout is the largest rockfish (a.k.a. striped bass) tournament in the country, hosted out of Virginia Beach’s Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets each January – the next is January 10-12, 2008. In 2007, 300 boats and over 1,000 anglers participated and the total tournament payout to the top seven teams was \$202,545 in cash and prizes, with first place receiving over \$35,000. Over \$20,000 has been donated back to the community. Already, the tournament draws participants from all four corners of the country and as far away as Washington State and Texas. This is a team tournament and there is no limit to the number of anglers/team members per entry. Each team is eligible to weigh-in their three largest striped bass that measures over 28” fork length and is awarded 1 point per pound. The Rockfish Shootout benefits “Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs,” The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center. Visit www.midatlanticrockfishshootout.com for more information.



Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament

This annual Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament held August 20-23, 2008 draws skilled and novice anglers to Virginia Beach’s shore with the promise of fun and big cash prizes for the largest catch. The tournament begins with a kickoff party, followed by 3 days of intense billfish action. This is a catch-and-release tournament, however anglers who happen to hook a blue marlin are allowed to bring it in if it meets the tournament’s minimum requirement for length and weight of 115” and/or 500 pounds. A Charity Auction is held prior to the awards ceremony. For more information, including how to register, visit www.VBBT.com.

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Striped Bass World Championship

The annual Striped Bass World Championship from November 1 - December 31 offers cash and prizes in several categories, including tournament largest overall, largest monthly, junior (16 years or younger), women's, fly fishing, surf & pier and military. In 2007, the two-month event awarded hundreds of prizes valued at over \$9,000. Also in 2007, the angler who caught the overall largest striped bass during the tournament received an additional \$1,000 Cabelas gift certificate, a Custom Tops and Towers aluminum bumper-mount rod rack (accommodates 6 rods and cooler), Hook & Tackle Outfitters Tournament Shirt, Striper Lure Sets from Hopkins, Mann's, Swede's and Rogue Tackle. Last year's top striper caught by Richard Hylton of Rileyville, VA weighed in at 51lbs. 5ozs. For more information, visit www.stripedbassworldchampionship.com.



Virginia Saltwater Tournament

The 51st Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament opens January 1st and runs throughout the year. And where better to begin the journey for citations than from Virginia Beach's sandy shores? During the tournament's inaugural year in 1958, 15 species of fish were eligible for Citation awards, and anglers registered 500 fish with the program. The tournament now has 35 eligible species, and has issued more than 155,000 Citation awards - an average of almost 3200 awards per year. The popular Junior Angler Program, and the Expert and Master Angler Programs, will return unchanged in 2008. The Junior Angler Program challenges children less than 16 years of age to catch and release six species of saltwater fish. To qualify as an Expert Angler a fisherman must register fish in at least six different species for Citation awards during the year. Master Angler requirements are 25 Citations (with a maximum of one per species per year) in at least five different species over an unlimited period of time starting in 1996. The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament is a program of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission funded with revenues from Virginia's saltwater fishing license. For more information, e-mail the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament at vswft@mrc.virginia.gov or visit www.mrc.state.va.us/vswft/index.shtm.

Virginia Beach entices visitors to "Live the Life" every season of the year! Located in the southeastern corner of the state, Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of D.C. by car and within a day's drive or less from two-thirds of the U.S. population. For visitor information, call 1-800-VA-BEACH (800/822-3224) or visit the Web site www.vbfun.com for online trip planning and more information about Virginia Beach's new \$202.5 million convention center. For media information and digital images, click on www.vbpressroom.com.

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