



# DIFF CLUB NEWS



## AT THE TOP



Laughlin

### **Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima*

Crow-sized large tern with long, heavy orange bill, black cap, pale gray back and wings and forked tail. Breeds along coast from Maryland to Texas and winters from North Carolina south to the Gulf. Nests in large, dense colonies laying one buff-spotted olive egg in a depression in sandy or rocky soil. Feeds on aquatic invertebrates, hovering before diving. Skims the water to drink and is known to occasionally pirate fish, especially from the Brown Pelican.



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## 22nd Annual Fall Tourney (A Grassy Event)

The twenty-second DIFF Fall Surf Fishing Tournament was held September 27 through September 29, 2007. This year's event was impacted by an assault of "sea grass". Old-timers could not recall experiencing sea grass of this magnitude. Determined Ophelia inlet fishermen reported catches ranging from soccer ball to basketball size trophies. Scientist were baffled to identify the intruder, guessing it to be the rare *grassiousmaximum-sauerkraut-snot*. It frustrated the plans of the North-end experts. By Friday afternoon, even veteran Kevin Davis was seen taking a rare break at Cape Lookout Point.

One hundred eighty contestants entered this year's Fall Tournament. Approximately 25 first-time entrants were welcomed. The common bond of all DIFF members was described as a love affair with this island based on our past experiences. The DIFF Fall Tournament is for bragging rights, with prize money used as a way to keep score. Everyone was reminded of our responsibility as

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## Gamefish Status for Red Drum, Striped Bass Ordered!

On October 20, 2007, conservationists and fishermen gathered on the shores of Chesapeake Bay to witness President Bush sign an Executive Order establishing gamefish status for Red Drum and Striped Bass in federal waters. The Order is a landmark victory for recreational anglers who have fought for decades to restore and conserve two of the most coveted sport fish in America.

U. S. Presidents have issued executive orders since 1789, usually to direct the operation of executive officers. The Executive

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leaders to always comply with NPS CALO and NCDMF rules. Tournament rules were reviewed and the Pompano and Spanish Mackerel category were announced. J. W. Smith described the special recognition for the slot-size Drum with the most spots. Steven Caskey offered a prayer of thanks and good fishing. The DIFF members faced the American flag as the *National Anthem* reminded us of how fortunate we are to be in this place. The tournament began with “Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Fishing”.

The winning Red Drum was caught and released by John Christopher Barefoot of Benson, NC. John won while overcoming a late starting time. He had committed to attend his college class Thursday morning. Special arrangements



**John C. Barefoot**  
**Winner Red Drum**

were made for his Thursday afternoon registration. Congratulations to this fine young man demonstrating how to manage his school and fishing priorities. John's first place finish won a Drum Rod/ Reel combo (donated by Mark Childress

GIFC). Eighteen Red Drum catch and release measurement sheets were submitted, with a combined length and girth ranging from John's winning 52.5 inches down to 42.5 inches.

Thirty-four slot-size Puppy Drum were weighed ranging from 2.70 to 8.15 pounds. Sixty-one Blues were recorded from 0.50 to 3.75 pounds. Forty-one Pompano were recorded from 0.20 pounds to 1.55 pounds. Only seven Spanish Mackerel were weighed from 0.65 to 4.05 pounds. Fifty-eight Whiting were recorded from 0.35 to 1.30 pounds. Forty-one Flounder were recorded from 1.15 to 3.60 pounds. Kenny Long received an additional prize for the winning flounder, a rod and reel donated by the Yadkin County fishermen in memory of John Thomas Powell of East Bend.

We enjoyed having two youngsters in the Tournament this year. The three-year veteran eleven year-old Tate Wilkinson of Lucama, NC weighed-in two fish, including a nice .95-pound Whiting. Tate has new competition from eight year-old Tyler Reavis of East Bend, NC. Tyler weighed-in three fish, including a nice 2.60-pound Bluefish.

White Swan of Atlantic Beach, NC provided a delicious Saturday lunch consisting of Bar-B-Que pork and baked or Bar-B-Que chicken with all the trimmings sponsored by Mark Childress. Ed Caskey and Vickie King presented valuable door prizes provided by this year's sponsors. Thanks to Ed and Vickie for a great job coordinating sponsors and door prizes.



**Patti Barefoot**  
**Winner Generator Raffle**

Jimmy Brown won the custom rod sponsored by Hatteras Jacks with the Ambassador reel sponsored by Compo-rium. Patti Barefoot won the Honda generator raffle, donated by H&S Roofing of Charlotte. Tyler Levitts won the rod & reel donated by Scott



Mosely Lawn Care and Stan Batts won the rod & reel donated by GIFCS. Thanks to everyone for supporting our raffles that fund the expanded prize categories. William Flinchum was recognized as the oldest participant by presentation of the James McCoy – Ervin Taylor plaque. Long-time DIFF member Glenn Green presented his ideas on how

to improve the tournament in the future. His suggestion to move it to an October date was well received by those in attendance.

The 2007 tournament was a big success thanks to the following people: B. K. Barringer, Laura Barringer, Ed Caskey, Mark Childress, Niles Chumley, Chuck Cranfield (NPS, CALO), Jack Davis, Tim Doss, Tom Dunaway, Connie Grant, the entire GIC&FS staff, Wouter Ketel (NPS, CALO), Scot King, Vickie King, Rich Lambert, Mike Laughlin, Damon and Rebecca Newton, Bill Stiles, Robert Wilson, Roger Wise, Lynn Winstead (NPS, CALO). What a great team!

The stories and memories for this tournament will last a lifetime. Why does Vickie King refer



to Mark Weir as the “Fish Hog”? Ask Steven Caskey about Ed Caskey’s fifteen-minute battle with a “doormat” Spot. Ask “Genius” Gene Stewart about B.K. Barringer’s fast fillet job on his

cut-a-been a winning Whiting. A lady was overheard describing how her husband accidental mixed-up their fish at the weigh-in and took credit for her winning fish... Let’s all pray for this man to have the strength to endure the verbal beating that can result from such a careless mistake.

Plans are underway for the 2008 Fall Tournament to be held September 25-27. Start making your reservations and detail plans. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. Final rules and entry forms will be available at the annual membership meeting in Pineville. Contact Ed Caskey or Vickie King if you know of interested sponsors. Support our current and past sponsors listed at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com). If you have never attended a DIFF Tournament, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and veteran. It is a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends.

**Mark “Fish Hog” Weir**  
Tournament Director

**Editor’s Note:** The “sauerkraut seaweed” encountered during the Fall Tourney was not seaweed at all. Turns out, a rare combination of warm waters with increased salinity resulted in the profusion of tiny water animals that form colonies in the western Atlantic (*zoobotryon verticillatum*). Other names for these wee beasties include: sauerkraut bryozoan, moss animals, sea mats and animal grass. The animal has tentacles, a gizzard and appears in clear or milky –colored colonies which attach themselves to structure and fishing line in large clumps. Fishermen call it animal grass for the reason that, when dried, it stinks like sewage or a dead animal. **KML**



**Sauerkraut bry**

## Fish Measuring Technique

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries regulates and enforces fish that we catch on South Core Banks. The following species are regulated by Total Length (TL): Bluefish, Flounder, Gray Trout, Red Drum (including Puppy Drum), Speckled Trout and Striped Bass. **Total length is measured in a straight line parallel to the body from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the top of the compressed tail. Compressing the caudal tail fin will result in a slightly longer measurement than the natural tail position. This technique is used to measure fish with minimum length regulations, and also applies to the upper limit on slot-size Red Drum.** King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel are regulated by Fork Length (FL), measured in a straight line parallel to the body from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the middle of the fork in the tail.

Current regulations can be found at [www.ncdmf.net/recreational/recguide.htm](http://www.ncdmf.net/recreational/recguide.htm) or you can call the NCDMF at 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021.

# Winners

## 22nd Annual Fall Tournament



### Red Drum

(L to R) **1st Place: John C. Barefoot L+G=52.5"**; 2nd : Leonard Barefoot;  
 3rd: Steve Robertson; 4th: David Keith; 5th: Robyn Hege;  
 6th (tie): Dane Curtsinger, Kenny Long, John P. Salazar



### Bluefish

(L to R) **1st Place: Tim Doss 3.75 lb.**  
 2nd: Chris Reavis; 3rd: David Holcomb; 4th: Lee Marsh; 5th: Dyke Cline (not pictured); 6th: Stan Batts; 7th: Derrick Crater



### Flounder

(L to R) **1st Place: Kenny Long 3.60 lb.**  
 2nd: Tim Caudle; 3rd: Breck Smith (not pictured) ; 4th: Larry M. Parham; 5th Barry Harris; 6th: Bennie D. Smith(not pictured); 7th: Bill Parham



### Pompano

(L to R) **1st Place: Mike Fulkerson 1.55 lb.** 2nd: Patti Barefoot; 3rd: Donald Parker; 4th: (tie) Ed Caskey, Kenneth May, John Reams; 7th: (tie) Herman Vick, Mike Matthews



### Puppy Drum

(L to R) **1st Place: Adam White 8.15lb.** 2nd: Mark Weir; 3rd: Robby Smith, Jr. 4th: Johnny W. Ray; 5th (tie): Randy Bennett, Herman Vick, Jr. 7th: Steven Caskey



### Spanish Mackerel

(L to R) **1st Place: Ernie Holcomb 4.05 lb.** 2nd: Dane Curtsinger; 3rd: Leonard Barefoot; 4th: Bubba Johnston; 5th: Walter Broome (not pictured); 6th: Vincent Fleming; 7th: Jeff Lefler



### Whiting

(L to R) **1st Place: Mike Fulkerson 1.30 lb.** 2nd: Jim Harley; 3rd: Steven Caskey; 4th: (tie) Eric Hall (not pictured); Daniel Ricketts; 6th (tie) Patti Barefoot, Mark Martin



**Lee Marsh**  
**Winner: Puppy with Most Spots**



**Patti Barefoot**  
**Kiss for Second Place Pompano**

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Order signed in Maryland by President Bush instructs the Secretary of Commerce to put regulations in place establishing gamefish status in federal waters and encourages states to take similar action in state waters.



Photo by Eric Draper

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## ORV Management Plan Update

The National Park Service has started the process of developing an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) management plan and environmental impact statement and regulation for Cape Lookout National Seashore. This plan will help guide the management decisions which allow for the use of vehicles within the Park and simultaneously protect wildlife and other resources.

The first step to involve the public in the ORV plan development is public scoping meetings. These public scoping meetings provide an opportunity for the public and users of CALO to comment on their concerns and the many issues that we will be facing during development of the ORV management plan/environmental impact statement. Three public scoping meetings were held in September.

The first meeting was held in Beaufort, NC. In attendance were DIFF members, Mickey and Helen Wynnberry. DIFF was represented at the Raleigh meeting by DIFF Board of Directors members Scot and Vickie King, with about 30 other people also in attendance. The final public scoping meeting was held in Pineville, NC and DIFF members present were Vice President Mark Weir, Board member

Niles Chumley and member Jack Davis. NPS was represented by Acting Superintendent Chuck Cranfield, Wouter Ketel, Mike McGee and several other staffers.

NPS representative Michael Edwards presented a slide show with explanations of the legal processes that guide the development of the ORV plan. He also discussed the current vehicle use and the need for alternative ideas for vehicle management under the ORV plan. Alternative A is status quo, (current use no changes). At the other end of the scale will be the extreme Alternative D (possibly a vehicle ban) with the new ORV plan falling somewhere in between, hopefully closer to the Alternative A, status quo.

After the presentation, time was allowed for questions and answers, observation of displays and informal discussions. Formal public comments were to be submitted to the NPS by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional opportunities for public comment will be available when the draft alternatives and plan is released, probably late next year or early 2009.

Each DIFF Member needs to take the time to comment on ORV use at CALO if we are to retain the privilege of driving on Core Banks. As DIFF members please remember to be responsible users of this precious resource and become involved in this planning process.

### Scot King



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## President's Letter

Our wonderful association had yet another successful Fall tournament this September and if you missed it, you missed a good one. As always, a hearty thank you to our tournament committee for making this possible. Mark Weir has been just phenomenal directing these tournaments the past few years. Congratulations to all individuals that placed in each category.

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We will be losing several key members of the Board after this term so we are in need of individuals who wish to make a lasting contribution to DIFF. Please search within yourselves to see if you have those qualities, the desire to contribute and become a board member. The pay is lousy but the opportunity to contribute to our club and the preservation of the island is priceless. A large amount of time is not required but a sincere effort is.

Along with those Board members that are announcing their retirement, so am I. I will not seek re-election this February as I have been President since 2002 and my business and family require more attention than I have given! It is simply time to change leadership! There are so many things I wanted to get done or see finished and it is with great reservations that I hand the reins to another person. It had been an absolute honor to have served as President and I thank you for your past support and love of DIFF.

Key items for our future still need to be addressed and followed closely. Hopefully, future Boards and Presidents will build on what we have established. We must continue to follow the ORV issue and make our voices heard, even to the point of appearing extreme.

We must continue to make our club grow so please always renew your membership and ask friends and family to join the club as well.

We must continue to seek more information regarding our endangered species and what we can reasonably do to protect them. Even though I just mentioned making our voices heard, we also should be willing to educate ourselves and accept the responsibility of protecting our natural resources. Don't just say it but live it.

We must continue to take care of OUR island. Contribute on work trips or at a minimum, provide financial or physical support for organizations that contribute to the island.

And lastly, we must continue to associate our club with other organizations around the country that have similar interests as ours such as fishing and ORV usage. They are a wealth of information and numbers talk in Washington and politics.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to have served you and I look forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting in February.

**Roger Wise**

## Wilson New CALO Superintendent

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced the selection of Russel J. (Russ) Wilson as Superintendent of Cape Lookout National Seashore, Harker's Island, N.C. Wilson comes to CALO from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California where he served for the last four years as Deputy Superintendent. According to Acting Southeast Regional Director Art Frederick, Wilson will assume his new responsibilities on November 9, 2007.

Wilson's career with the NPS spans 30 years and includes numerous assignments. He accepted his first NPS position at Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland following graduation from Penn State University with a B.S. in Park Management. He worked at Cape Cod National Seashore as a horse patrol ranger and numerous parks as a boat patrol ranger.

Wilson earned a Law Degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1984. Other NPS assignments include a variety of places: Anchorage, Alaska; Guam; Saipan; Denali and Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

Off duty, Wilson enjoys sailing and *fishing*.



**Russel J. (Russ) Wilson**  
New CALO Superintendent

# DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation  
P.O. Box 268  
Mooresville, NC 28115

## **Notice**

**DIFF Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 1, 2008**  
**11:00 AM**  
**“The Hut”**  
**413 Johnston Drive**  
**Pineville, NC**

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**\*DIFF Spring Tourney\***  
**April 11-12, 2008**



**Davis Island Fishing  
Foundation**  
  
P.O. Box 268  
Mooresville, NC 28115

### **Officers**

Roger Wise, President 336 766 9473  
Mark Weir, Vice President 336 751 5135  
BK Barringer, Treasurer 704 663 4044  
Mike Laughlin, Secretary 803 328 8915

### **Board of Directors**

Ed Caskey 803 285 9025  
Niles Chumley 803 366 5079  
Tim Doss 919 563 2330  
Richard Frank 704 588 4549  
Connie Grant 803 329 1265  
Scot King 919 632 3099  
Vickie King 919 632 3099  
Mark Weir 336 751 5135  
Robert Wilson 252 235 5141

Email us at: [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com)

**DIFF...Beyond fishing!**

*The Davis Island Fishing Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and natural heritage of Davis Island in Carteret County, NC.*

*DIFF helps maintain the cabins at the Great Island camp and is involved in projects designed to protect the fish and wildlife population in the portion of Cape Lookout Seashore known as Core Banks South.*

*DIFF members can fish in annual spring and fall fishing tournaments sponsored by the Club.*

*If you are interested in joining DIFF, visit our website, [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com) for membership form.*

*This newsletter is published quarterly and edited by Mike Laughlin. 803 328 8915.*

