Red Fish Rodeo

October 11th & 12th 2025

About a year ago we started talking about a Red Fish enhancement program for the Wrightsville Beach area to benefit both Recreational Fishman and Commercial Fisherman. Clearly wanting to lean in the recreational direction, we set out to create the dream.

Starting anything like this from scratch is difficult, so we enlisted the help of the Center for Marine Sciences at UNCW’s Aquaculture Facility on Wrightsville Beach who will be providing the initial care and breeding research for our program. Having spent many months planning and researching, we have come up with a plan to catch 20-25 Red Fish from the local waters around Wrightsville Beach. We think it’s important to have local fish because they have “Local” DNA that will hopefully aid in not only keeping them local but more importantly, breeding locally. With these fish needing to be 25+ inches, we are looking for experienced local Angler and Guides who know what it takes to not only catch these fish, but also the capacity to keep them alive until they can be safely transferred to the holding tanks on UNCW’s Wrightsville Beach Facility. With these fish being above Slot limits, we have obtained the appropriate licensing and permitting through the help of the UNCW.

Rodeo Details:

This will be a 2 day event, October 11th and 12th. We are looking for 8-10 experienced anglers and guides who can help us with our program’s mission. The Fishing territory will be from the Snows Cut Bridge to Virginia Creek, behind Topsail. With no set fishing times these dates, this will be SUPER laid-back fishing but should you wish to participate, we ask that you fish between 8am and 5pm.

To keep us on the water fishing, there will be a runner boat(s) collecting the fish as they are caught to bringing them back to the holding tanks on Wrightsville Beach. The runner boats will be on the water from 8am to 5pm both days to collect the fish as they are called in. Once we have collected the fish, we will alert everyone via text of our accomplishment. We REALLY hope that we can collect these fish because once these fish are spawned and the fingerlings become the size for releasing, we will have release viewing and “Welcome Home” event for the new additions and all who participated in this event will be invited.

Please feel free to call as we are happy to answer any questions should you have any. Our Contact number is on the website.

Thank you in advance for participating and looking forward to much success and future fishing.