

# MOREHEAD CITY SALTWATER FISHING SCHOOL CAPTAINS

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**Capt. Chris Kimrey    Mount Maker Charters    (252) 342-0464    [www.mountmakercharters.com](http://www.mountmakercharters.com)**

Chris' range is expansive, targeting waters from the Pamlico Sound to Morehead City's inshore and nearshore waters all the way out to the Gulf Stream. He decks everything from reds and speckled trout to gag grouper to bluefin tuna, all from his 2025 25' Southern Cross (with half-tower and 300 hp Suzuki).

**Capt. Jim Sabella    Plan 9 Charters    (910) 367-2224    [www.topsailfishingcharters.com](http://www.topsailfishingcharters.com)**

Jim has over 25 years of experience fishing the local waters out of Masonboro, Topsail, and New River inlets, and he specializes in nearshore light tackle fishing adventures, including fly fishing, spinning, jigging, trolling, and bottom fishing.

**Capt. Jeff Cronk    FISH'N4LIFE Charters    (336) 558-5697    [www.nccharterfishing.com](http://www.nccharterfishing.com)**

Jeff has been professionally fishing the waters of the Crystal Coast for over 30 years and specializes in both inshore and nearshore light tackle fishing using both artificials and live baits.

**Capt. Nick Nance    Chasin' Tails Outdoors    (252) 240-3474    [www.chasintailsoutdoors.com](http://www.chasintailsoutdoors.com)**

Nick has been with the Chasin' Tails charter fleet for 9 years, and he also works retail and provides the shop with all its live bait needs. From catching chopper bluefish in the spring to giant bluefins in the winter, Nick has done it all.

**Capt. Joe Tunstall    Carolina Traditions Guide Service    (252) 342-2000    [www.CTGuideCo.com](http://www.CTGuideCo.com)**

A Crystal Coast native and full-time professional waterman, Joe co-founded Carolina Traditions in 2012 which evolved into a guide company in 2017. His passion is to guide clients in their pursuit of the most thrilling inshore species that NC has to offer on light tackle or fly.

**Capt. Russell Weaver    Blue Water Candy Lures    (910) 803-2262    [www.bluewatercandylures.com](http://www.bluewatercandylures.com)**

Russell has been fishing the Cape Fear Region's inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters since he was six years old. A former professional guide and SKA champion, he's been with Blue Water Candy since 2007.

**Capt. Matt Littleton    Friendly City Fishing Charters    (910) 330-4764    [www.friendlycityfishing.com](http://www.friendlycityfishing.com)**

Matt was born and raised in Swansboro and has spent his life fishing the waters of the Crystal Coast. He's a tournament winning angler and has been a fishing guide for over a decade. Matt fishes primarily inshore, specializing in redfish, speckled trout, black drum, and flounder, as well as some nearshore species like kings and spanish.

**Capt. Cody Garner    Reel Time Charters    (919) 621-6715    [www.reeltimechartersnc.squarespace.com](http://www.reeltimechartersnc.squarespace.com)**

In his third year as a charter captain, Cody primarily operates out of Atlantic Beach on a 31' Custom Carolina, where he chases pelagics (such as mahi, wahoo, and tuna), as well as bottom fish (such as snappers, triggers, and grouper).

**Capt. Byron Shults    Going Bogue Outdoors    (252) 240-0570    [www.goingbogue.com](http://www.goingbogue.com)**

Byron grew up on the water and has been devoted to learning and engaging with the ocean, especially his passion for bottom fishing. Byron and his 27' Onslow Bay are equally comfortable carrying charters shallow water fishing for gag groupers to deep dropping for blueline tilefish (or trolling for wahoo and mahi).

**Capt. Daniel Griffiee    Chasin' Tails Outdoors    (252) 240-3474    [www.chasintailsoutdoors.com](http://www.chasintailsoutdoors.com)**

Daniel has been fishing his entire life, starting out in the freshwater lakes and streams around Hickory and Boone and now in the waters from New Bern to Cape Lookout. He's been competing in inshore tournaments since 2009, became a licensed guide in 2018, and loves chasing red drum, trout, albacore/bonito, and flounder.

**Capt. Justin Ragsdale    Breakday Fishing Charters    (252) 732-0990    [www.breakdaycharters.com](http://www.breakdaycharters.com)**

Justin is a lifelong angler and full-time fishing guide with a combined 37 years of experience (12 years guiding) in the inshore and coastal waters from Virginia to the Crystal Coast. He offers a two-boat platform and specializes in light tackle inshore and nearshore adventures from the marshes of the Neuse River to the nearshore wrecks and reefs off Beaufort Inlet.

**Capt. Rick Croson    Living Waters Guide Service    (910) 620-7709    [www.livingwatersoutdoors.com](http://www.livingwatersoutdoors.com)**

Rick is the Owner/Operator of Living Waters Guide Service and has proudly served the Cape Fear waters for the last 20 years running private charters on his custom 265 Tideline catamaran.

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**Capt. Tanner Lynk    Noah's Ark Fishing Charters    (252) 723-7414    [www.noahsarkfishingcharters.com](http://www.noahsarkfishingcharters.com)**

Tanner is a 5th generation fisherman from Harkers Island, with ancestry going back to ancestors from Diamond City on Shackleford Banks. He's been guiding in Core, Pamlico, and Bogue sounds since 2014, and his specialty species include red drum, speckled trout, flounder, false albacore, and chopper bluefish.

**Capt. Brad Smith    Gunny B Outdoors    (803) 920-5501    [www.gunnyboutdoors.com](http://www.gunnyboutdoors.com)**

Brought to NC via the Marine Corps in 2002, Brad has a passion for the outdoors and has been fishing the Crystal Coast since 2005. He's been guiding since 2020 from Sneads Ferry to New Bern and does everything inshore, nearshore, and even the occasional offshore trip. He also fishes competitively for redfish and trout.

**Rod Olsen    Toadfish Mafia    (252) 229-8914    [www.toadfishmafia.com](http://www.toadfishmafia.com)**

Rod and his Toad Fish Mafia Fishing Team bring decades of combined experience with inshore, nearshore, and offshore fishing to the world of kayak fishing. They routinely target a multitude of species with a variety of artificial baits in both tournament and recreational settings.

**Capt. Dave Hegel    Pamlico Pirate Fishing Charters    (252) 670-3499    [www.pamlicopiratefishingcharters.com](http://www.pamlicopiratefishingcharters.com)**

Dave began fishing the Lower Neuse River, Pamlico Sound, and Cape Lookout during his time at East Carolina University. After decades of leadership roles in the marine industry, Dave now dedicates himself full-time to guiding and targets species such as old drum, striped bass, false albacore, cobia, and speckled trout.

**Capt. Mark Henderson    Liquid Fire Fishing Team    (910) 376-4144    [www.fishlf.com](http://www.fishlf.com)**

Since 2005, Mark's family fishing team has racked up numerous wins and top 5 finishes, including an AOY title, chasing king mackerel throughout the Southeastern U.S. You can watch their adventures, including TROLL THE EDGE TV, at [www.youtube.com/@LiquidFireFishing](http://www.youtube.com/@LiquidFireFishing). Mark's current day job is SiriusXM Marine & Aviation Sales Manager.

**Capt. Jason Temple    Ali Kat Sportfishing Charters    (252) 503-9494    [www.templefamilycharters.com](http://www.templefamilycharters.com)**

Based out of Morehead City, Jason has fished the NC and VA coasts since a very young age. Jason and the Ali-Kat family of boats/guides fish everything inshore, nearshore, and offshore for all the popular fish species.

**Capt. Jacob Boucher    Southern Tides Fishing Charters    (252) 424-2252    [www.stfcnc.com](http://www.stfcnc.com)**

Jacob grew up in the Swansboro area and has fished the surrounding waters all his life. He specializes in inshore/backwater trips in the Swansboro and Emerald Isle areas. On those trips, Jacob primarily targets redfish, speckled trout, black drum, and sheepshead with live and cut bait on light tackle.

**Capt. Lee Winkleman    Top Gun Fishing    (757) 761-2167    [www.TopGunFishing.com](http://www.TopGunFishing.com)**

Lee was introduced to fishing at age 8 while living in Alaska, and his passion for fishing stayed with him all his life. He now calls the Crystal Coast home and specializes in all inshore and nearshore species. Based out of Morehead City, Lee targets the inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters and wrecks around Atlantic Beach, Beaufort, and Morehead City.

**Capt. Rick Patterson    Cape Crusader Charters    (252) 342-1513    [www.ncinshorefishing.com](http://www.ncinshorefishing.com)**

Rick has been fishing and guiding the Crystal Coast and the Neuse River areas for 25 years and specializes in light tackle using a variety of both artificial and live bait. He targets all of the inshore species—redfish, speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, bluefish, striped bass, and flounder—and the nearshore reefs for Atlantic bonito and spanish mackerel.

**Capt. John Mauser    Tailing Tide Guide Service    910-340-4811    [www.tailingtideguideservice.com](http://www.tailingtideguideservice.com)**

John has fished coastal NC for four decades and started his guide service on the Crystal Coast in 2012. He specializes in sightfishing for everything from redfish to false albacore on fly and light tackle. Along with guiding, John operates Mauser Fly Rods and the Carolina Fly Fishing Academy.

**Wes Motsinger    Mots Custom Rods    (336) 660-4422    [www.motscustomrods.com](http://www.motscustomrods.com)**

With over 30 years of experience running the NC coastline, Wes has spent a lifetime learning the rhythms of the ocean. His approach to surf fishing is based on years of tying rigs, testing techniques, and dialing in the setups that work across a wide range of species. He has a passion for understanding every detail of the surf environment, and that same passion for fishing is evident in his custom rod building company that has a following from fly to offshore.