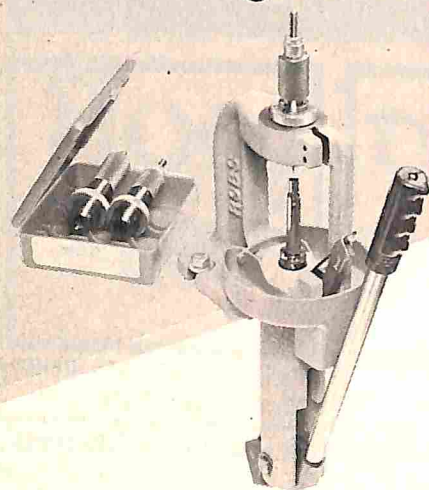


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Camping & Travel

By Hank Andrews



Surprise Bass Spot

ONE of North America's most delightful regions is the Outer Banks of North Carolina in the region made famous by the Wright Brothers.

It was in the Nags Head area that they conducted their experiments on flying heavier-than-air craft.

This region, especially around Cape Hatteras, is one spot where campers can enjoy a spring outing. A few years ago, I spent the Easter holiday weekend at Cape Hatteras. You can enjoy this country in the summer and fall, too.

In late October of 1975 I was there again as a judge and press observer in the 1975 Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society Classic fishing tourney. And my eyes were opened to the largemouth bass fishing to be found in Currituck Sound.

This sound, or inland bay, is just a few yards from the Atlantic Ocean but it supports a tremendous population of freshwater largemouth bass. Because of this Ray Scott, the man who runs the Bass Anglers Society, decided to have his 1975 tourney in Currituck Sound.

The point I wish to make at this stage is that this sound offers good bass fishing and some of it can be in well protected waters where you can use a small boat. The area also can kick up real

good, too, so be careful.

So if you are looking for a place to camp out and to enjoy both freshwater and saltwater fishing without traveling more than five or ten minutes, then consider this region.

Joel Arrington of the North Carolina Travel Development Section told me about Currituck Sound as we rode down to the region after he had picked me up at the Norfolk, Virginia, airport.

And this is how he described it:

"In the extreme northeastern corner of North Carolina, Currituck Sound stretches north and south 30 miles and has an average width of about four miles," he said. "On the east, it is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a narrow barrier reef called the Currituck Bank.

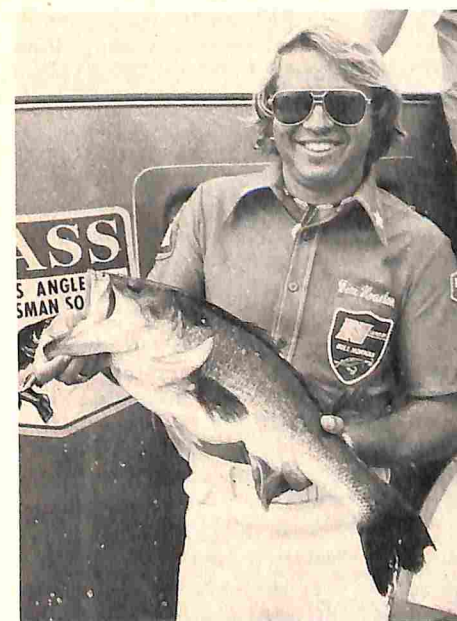
"Since the water is nearly fresh, it supports populations of largemouth bass, white perch, sunfish and other inland species. Although it's primary attraction for anglers is its extensive population of largemouth bass, in summer many fish for white perch.

"Currituck bass do not weigh as much, on the average, as those from most inland lakes and ponds. Average size is about two pounds, but five-pounders are common. What they lack in weight is compensated by numbers. Typically action is fast. A fish management study indicates that fishermen average more than 1.5 fish per hour of effort and it reports that the population of largemouths there can sustain without detrimental effect at least twice the fishing pressure it now receives.

"Fishermen travel from near and far to fish Currituck's weedbeds and marshy shorelines, not only because fish are plentiful, but because Currituck Sound is one of the few spots in the U.S. where a flyrod is consistently (but not always) the best tackle choice.

"Other reasons include the availability of guides and comfortable lodges along the western shore. Guides furnish a boat and motor and pole one or two anglers most of a long day for about \$40. Room and board ranges up to \$25 a day per person. That includes a packed lunch, breakfast and dinner. Motel nearby offer rooms for up to about \$18. Several campgrounds are convenient to the sound and free public launch ramps are located at Poplar Branch and Coinjock.

(Continued on page 42)



This is the kind of largemouth bass to be found in Currituck Sound, N.C. Jim Houston of Tahlequah, Okla., caught this 6-pound 12-ounce beauty there during the 1975 Bassmasters Classic.

FEBRUARY, 1976

Coyote Hounds—Ice Fish for Pike—Minn. Beaver

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