

## Outdoors notebook: Kayaker proves size of the boat doesn't matter

The Virginian-Pilot  
© December 9, 2007

Kevin Whitley of Norfolk has caught another giant fish from his small kayak.

Whitley, known around the lower Chesapeake Bay as "Kayak Kevin," was fishing with Lee Williams of Norfolk on Wednesday near the Concrete Ships off the Eastern Shore town of Kiptopeke.

The two were using live eels for bait along the deep channel under the high-level spans of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Cold, tired and fishless after a full day, the two headed back to the boat ramp, slowly trolling the eels the entire trip.

That's when Whitley, 37, hooked the biggest striped bass he has ever caught. "It hit the eel that had a light weight on it, so it hit close to the surface," Whitley said. "I knew it was big."

Whitley maneuvered his kayak so that he was above the fish for the entire 20-minute fight.

"It was a vertical fight the entire time," he said. "It didn't drag me far, but it sure put up a fight."

The striper was 49 inches long and had a girth of 31 inches - measurements that told him the fish was close to 50 pounds. It weighed 52 pounds, 3-1/2 ounces.

"When I filleted it, there were two 13 -inch-long flounder and one 12 -incher in its belly," Whitley said. "Amazing."

"Every year I get better at this and catch a fish that's bigger than the one I caught for that species last year."