



## MIKE SWEENEY BIO

In my life, there have been many heroes that I looked up to but my grandfather Robert Peele is one of the best fisherman I have ever fished with and the knowledge he passed down to me is the reason I am the man that I am today.

When I was young and fishing with him on the beach or piers in Emerald Isle and the inter-coastal waterway, I listened to every word and detail even if it made no sense at the time. I knew it would be important when I was older. Since my grandfather passed I have made it my passion to not only fish every chance I get but teach people how to fish the way he taught me.

I started to tournament bass fish in the 80s and quickly moved up the ranks to state and east coast levels including the Red Man, Pro-Am and B.A.S.S. tournaments all while working a normal job like everyone else. Once my kids grew up and out of the house my wife and I decided to get out of the rat race of northern Virginia and move back to the part of the country we love. We have been here in Albemarle region for over 10 years and the fishing has been getting better every season. I really shouldn't say season because I fish more in the winter than I do in the summer.

The summer brings great offshore action with mahi, tuna and billfish while the local bite is largemouth and white perch. The fall is a great time for top water action for bass in our rivers and ponds while the striper action runs all the way through the winter. In January, it's time to put the kayak in the ponds for the biggest largemouth in the eastern seaboard. I spent twenty years chasing bass over eight pounds in boats that ran over 70 miles per hour but it wasn't until I started to fish out of my kayak till I finally broke that mark and I have now passed the twelve-pound mark with a couple of bass. Whether it is trolling for stripers in the I.C.W. or paddling a local creek for largemouth, fishing has become my passion and my life. In September of 2011 I started to write instructional articles and fishing reports for the Daily Advance Newspaper here in Elizabeth City on a weekly basis. This has opened the door to other articles for publications such as the Chowan Herald and Albemarle Magazine. I have had fishing clinics through the College of the Albemarle and local tackle stores and some of my sponsors include Eagle Claw, Izorline, Lazer Trokar and Uncle Jessie lures. When you fish in eastern North Carolina you can experience the ability to catch multiple species and not have to travel hours to succeed on this endeavor. From largemouth to billfish we have it all in the Albemarle region and I am lucky to be a part of this great fortune.