

*The Virginian-Pilot*. "Zuni bass fisherman has clinched '07 title-hunt slot...Angler award: Kevin "Kayak" Whitley..." Lee Tolliver. December 3, 2006.

Angler award: Kevin "Kayak" Whitley recently recorded his sixth saltwater citation catch, qualifying him for the state's Expert Angler award.

He has done it in a way few others would try.

Whitley, 36, caught all of his trophy fish from his kayak. Although no records are kept on the type of vessel from which people catch award-winning fish, Whitley is thought to be one of the first to earn Expert status from a kayak.

"I proved you can do it," said Whitley, a Norfolk resident. "I set out to do this."

Whitley is a goal-oriented paddler. In the past five years, he has set and met touring goals of anywhere from 500 to 1,800 miles.

"After last year's 1,800-miler from Florida, I didn't really have anything I wanted to try until this," Whitley said. "And I think getting this award was tougher than the 1,800 miles."

Anglers earn Expert status in Virginia for catching citation-sized fish for six species in a one-year period.

Whitley earned citations for red drum, sheepshead, flounder, spot, speckled trout and tautog.