

## Northern Neck Anglers Club

### December 2014 Newsletter

([www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com](http://www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)).

The club's 2014 fishing season is over and the final tournament results and the 2014 Best of Species winners have been posted on the club's website. The Board of Directors met Saturday December 13 to plan for the coming year, including tournament and meeting schedules. The year 2015 will bring monthly two day tournaments from May through November and member meetings in April, June and October.

The last club tournament of 2014, the Bonus Rockfish Tournament, was held from November 29 through December 7. Unfortunately, the weather failed to cooperate during the tournament with Small Craft Advisories cancelling seven of the nine scheduled tournament days. However, members were able to catch and weigh in winning fish during the two fishable days. Congratulations to the winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Ed Fortunato	13 lbs 8 ozs
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Tom Smith	12 lbs 8 ozs
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Leroy Bussells	8 lbs 3 ozs
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Stuart McKenzie	7 lbs 13 ozs
5 <sup>th</sup> place	Wade Dickerson	5 lbs 10 ozs
6 <sup>th</sup> place	Emmett Boyd	5 lbs 8 ozs

The Best of Species competition for the year has been concluded and posted on the club website, with Jerry Rushing's 32lb 1 oz rockfish on May 3 during the Trophy Rockfish Tournament highlighting the list. Winners for the other tournament species were Paulette O'Connor (bluefish), Jay Straughan (croaker and spot), Evan Gregg (flounder), Tom Smith (spanish mackerel) and Jan Jamrog (speckled trout). All awards were based on tournament results with no citation fish reported by club members during the tournament season. There were no tournament entries for puppy drum. Congratulations to the winners, each of whom will receive a plaque from the club.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has recently issued mandatory striped bass catch reductions for Atlantic coastal and Chesapeake Bay states. Chesapeake Bay states are mandated to reduce the recreational and

commercial catches by 17.5% for 2015. Recent media reports indicate the following changes for recreational anglers will be implemented in the near future by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission:

**Striped Bass – Chesapeake Bay - Virginia Waters**

**2015 Recreational Angler**

1. Minimum size will increase from 18 inches to 20 inches
2. Spring Trophy Season – May 1 thru May 15
  - a. Minimum size will increase from 32 inches to 36 inches
  - b. Possession limit will remain 1 fish per angler per day
  - c. Anglers will need a special license (free) to participate in the spring trophy season
  - d. Trophy license holders will be required to report their catches or lack of catches
3. Spring Rockfish Season – May 16 thru June 15
  - a. Two fish possession limit 20 inches to 28 inches per angler per day
  - b. One fish of the two fish limit may be 36 inches or larger if angler has the special license
4. Fall Rockfish Season – October 4 thru December 31
  - a. Two fish possession limit 20 inches to 28 inches per angler per day
  - b. One fish of the two fish limit may be over 28 inches (special license not required)

I have no information at present as to what changes will be implemented by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to comply with the ASMFC mandated reductions or how Virginia will implement the special license requirement for angler participation in the spring trophy rockfish season.

Remember to thank and patronize those businesses that have sponsored club tournaments and awards during 2014 and the marinas and weigh-in locations that support the club's monthly tournaments. Our success as a club is dependent upon this support.

In closing, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and a joyous and prosperous new year in 2015.

Tight lines !!

John O'Connor

NNAC President