

Northern Neck Anglers Club

May 2015 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

Warmer weather has arrived and fishing has begun. The club's first tournament of the year, the Trophy Rockfish Tournament, was held over the weekend of May 2-3 as scheduled. The weather was beautiful, the water calm and the fish tight lipped. Congratulations to John Elkin and Jay Straughan for their first and second place rockfish entries of 37lbs 0ozs and 24lbs 4ozs, respectively, and to the others who weighed in rockfish during the tournament. From my experience over the weekend, it was an accomplishment just to catch a fish.

The club's first meeting of 2015 was held on Saturday April 25. The meeting was well attended and those present enjoyed an excellent and informative presentation "Fishing for Trophy Rockfish" by local Captains Bob Reed and Gene Pittman. The club's next meeting is scheduled for 7pm Saturday June 13 at the Lancaster Library in Kilmarnock. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The speaker and topic for this meeting will be provided later.

The NNAC's second tournament of the year, the Target Ship Shootout (name only, not location) is scheduled for Saturday June 20 and Sunday June 21 (two days). Target species for this tournament are croaker and flounder. The tournament is sponsored by Surfside Bait and Tackle of Mechanicsville. The largest fish weighed in by a member for each species will be entered for placings, gift certificate awards and Angler of the Year points. Gift certificates from Surfside Bait and Tackle will be awarded for the top two entries for each species.

We have received over 100 adult membership dues, including both renewals and new members, so far this year. Adult member renewal dues of \$30 for 2015 are now past due. Member dues are the principal source of the club's income during each calendar year. Notices have been sent to last year's members whose renewal dues have not yet been received. Those who have not renewed by May 31 will be deleted from the membership roster.

The 2015 Rockfish Regulations (after May 15) are summarized as follows:

Maryland – Season from May 16 thru December 15. Two fish per angler per day from 20 to 28 inches or one fish from 20 to 28 inches and one fish over 28 inches.

Potomac River – Season from May 16 thru December 31. Two fish per angler per day from 20 to 28 inches or one fish from 20 to 28 inches and one fish over 28 inches.

Virginia – Spring Season from May 16 thru June 15. Two fish per angler per day from 20 to 28 inches. One of the fish may be 36 inches or longer if the angler possesses a Spring Trophy Rockfish Permit, which is available online at the website of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission or from any VMRC license agent.

In 2007, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to establish a boating safety education requirement for all motorboat operators using a motor of 10hp or greater (including boats documented by the U.S. Coast Guard) and personal watercraft operators (i.e. jet skis). Sailboat operators do not have to meet this requirement unless the sailboat has a motor 10hp or greater (whether or not the engine is running). A canoeist, kayaker, rower or operator of other manually propelled craft does not have to comply with this requirement. All motorboat operators age 50 or younger must meet this requirement by July 1 of this year. All motorboat operators age 50 or older must meet this requirement by July 1 of 2016. Courses are available from several sources, including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or online through the Boat U.S. Foundation. If you have not yet completed this requirement, you should consider doing so as soon as possible.

Tight lines!!

John O'Connor

NNAC President