

Northern Neck Anglers Club

April 2016 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The 2016 saltwater fishing season is upon us. Saturday April 16th is opening day for Trophy Rockfish in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Virginia's Trophy Rockfish season opens May 1st. The boat should be ready, fishing tackle set to go and licenses, permits and saltwater angler registrations obtained, where required.

The club's first meeting of 2016 is scheduled for 7pm Saturday April 30 at the Wicomico Church Parish Hall, 5191 Jessie DuPont Memorial Highway, Wicomico Church VA. Captain Billy Pipkin will be the featured speaker with a presentation "Fishing for Trophy Rockfish" at the beginning of the meeting. Captain Pipkin, the owner operator of Ingram Bay Marina and Capt Billy's Charters, is a long time charter captain, columnist, radio commentator and speaker in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas who shares his wealth of knowledge fishing Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This promises to be an interesting and informative presentation. In addition, NNAC member Dr. John Hoekstra will be making a presentation on medical safety while boating and fishing. Upon completion of the business meeting that follows, a members only door prize – a \$30 gift certificate from a local tackle shop – will be drawn at random. Members are encouraged to attend, guests are welcome and the public is invited.

March 31 was the due date for renewal of annual adult membership dues of \$30 for 2016. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I encourage to do so as soon as possible. Dues will be collected at the April 30 meeting. E-mail reminders will be sent to those who have not renewed by April 20. Your membership must be current to be eligible for the members only door prize at the meeting, tournament awards and Angler of the Year (AOY) competition points. Member dues are the principal source of the club's income during each calendar year.

The NNAC's first tournament of the year, the Trophy Rockfish Tournament, is scheduled for Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8 (two days). One fish may be weighed per member per day. The largest fish (by weight) during the tournament for each member will be entered for placings and gift certificate awards. Gift certificates will be awarded for the top two entries.

Remember to also record the length for any fish entered which was caught in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay (does not include the Potomac River). Prior

approval from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is required to hold a tournament in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the club is required to file a report following the tournament reporting the weight and length of each fish entered which was caught in Maryland waters.

This Trophy Rockfish Tournament is the first tournament in the club's 2016 annual AOY competition, with four AOY points awarded for 1st place, three for 2nd place, two for 3rd place and one point each for all other tournament entries.

The 2016 Trophy Rockfish Regulations are summarized as follows:

Maryland – Season from April 16 thru May 15. One fish per angler per day 35 inches or larger. Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration is required for those not licensed in Maryland or thru the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

Potomac River – Below the Route 301 bridge. Season from April 16 thru May 15. One fish per angler per day 35 inches or larger.

Virginia – Season from May 1 thru May 15. One fish per angler per day over 36 inches. A no cost Spring Trophy Rockfish Permit is required, available online at the website of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission or from any VMRC license agent.

Here's hoping that 2016 is a successful year for saltwater fishing.

Hope to see you at the April 30 meeting.

Tight lines!!

John O'Connor

NNAC President