

Northern Neck Anglers Club

May 2016 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The 2016 trophy rockfish (striped bass) season is now open through May 15 in Virginia and Maryland waters and the Potomac River. Several members have reported catches of big rockfish and a number of photos have been posted in the 2016 photo gallery on the club website.

The club's first member tournament of the year, the Trophy Rockfish Tournament sponsored by the NNAC, will be held over the weekend of May 7-8, weather permitting. Gift certificates will be awarded to the top two anglers (\$75 for first place and \$50 for second place) and Angler of the Year (AOY) points will be awarded as follows: 4 points for first place, 3 points for second place, 2 points for third place and 1 point each for all other entries. If a member catches fish on both days of the tournament, only the largest (by weight) of the two fish will count for placings and AOY points.

The club's first meeting of 2016 was held on Saturday April 30. The meeting was well attended and those present enjoyed excellent and informative presentations "Fishing for Trophy Rockfish" by Captain Billy Pipkin and "Boating and Fishing Medical Safety" by club member Dr. John Hoekstra. Thanks to Captain Billy and Dr. Hoekstra for their presentations and support of the club.

Bacterial infections are a serious problem. Be sure to immediately treat any scratches, cuts or open wounds with hydrogen peroxide (preferred) or clorox.

The club's next meeting is scheduled for 7pm Saturday June 25 at the Wicomico Parish Church Hall, 5191 Jessie DuPont Memorial Highway, Wicomico Church VA. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The speaker and topic for this meeting will be provided later.

As of April 30, we have received 76 adult membership dues, including both renewals and new members, for 2016. Adult member renewal dues of \$30 for this year are now past due. Member dues are the principal source of the club's income during each calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your membership dues for 2016, please do so in the near future. Dues must be current to be eligible for tournament awards and AOY points.

The National Fisheries Service has previously announced closure of the 2016 cobia season on June 20 in federal waters from New York to Georgia. The Virginia

Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) will make a decision regarding the 2016 cobia season in Virginia waters at the scheduled VMRC meeting on May 24. In anticipation of the possible closure of the 2016 cobia season in Virginia waters, the NNAC Board of Directors has tentatively scheduled a cobia and croaker member tournament for the weekend of June 18-19, weather permitting. Cobia was previously listed as a target species in the September Grab Bag member tournament.

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). All motorboat operators irrespective of age now must meet this requirement by July 1 of this year. Courses are available from several sources, including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and online through the Boat U.S. Foundation. If you have not yet completed this requirement, you should do so as soon as possible.

Tight lines!!

John O'Connor