

Northern Neck Anglers Club

March 2018 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The 2018 fishing season on Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is nearing. Marinas will be bringing boats out of winter storage and getting them ready to fish, as will those who store their boats individually on trailers or private docks. Spring Trophy Rockfish Season begins on April 21st (third Saturday in April) in Maryland waters and the Potomac River and on May 1st in Virginia waters. If not already done, it is time to get the rods and tackle ready.

The first member meeting of 2018 is scheduled for 7pm on Saturday April 28th at the Wicomico Parish Church, 5191 Jessie DuPont Memorial Highway, Wicomico Church VA.

The club's first tournament of the year, the Trophy Rockfish Tournament, follows on Saturday May 5 and Sunday May 6, weather permitting.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the member meeting and fish the Trophy Rockfish Tournament.

Member dues (adult members only – no dues for youth members) of \$30 for 2018 are due by March 31st. Dues must be paid to be eligible for tournament awards and Angler of the Year points. If your dues are not already paid, I encourage you to do so as soon as practical. Dues continue to be the primary source of the club's annual income.

The club's website contains direct links (click on Fishing Links on the home page) to the saltwater angler registration programs of both Virginia and Maryland. Background information for each follows:

Virginia Fisherman Identification Program

Since Jan. 1, 2011, every adult saltwater angler (16 and older) in Virginia has been required each year to either hold a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license or to register with the state's Fisherman Identification Program (FIP). If you hold an annual Virginia saltwater fishing license of any type or an annual Potomac River Fisheries Sport Fishing License, you do not have to register with the state FIP. You are automatically registered when issued the license.

Maryland Saltwater Angler Registry

Saltwater anglers who do not have a Maryland Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing license and want to fish Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and/or tidal Maryland waters of the Potomac River must obtain a free Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration. Anglers who are eligible for this free registration include those who hold a Virginia saltwater license of any type. Anglers who hold a Potomac River Fisheries sport fishing license are not required to register.

The NNAC has been a member of the Boat U.S. Cooperating Group Program since 2012. Under this program, NNAC members who are or become Boat U.S. members are entitled to a discount on the annual Boat U.S. membership fee – the fee is discounted to \$15 for NNAC members. To receive the discount, an NNAC member needs only to enter the club's Cooperating Group ID Number on the initial or renewal membership form. The Cooperating Group ID Number can be found in the NNAC Members Only section of the club's website.

Think Spring !!

John O'Connor

NNAC President