

Northern Neck Anglers Club

October 2018 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

During each of the past four fishing seasons, we have experienced hurricanes off the Atlantic coast during the month of September (Joaquin in 2015, Matthew in 2016, Jose and Maria in 2017 and Florence this year). Fortunately, each hurricane did not directly hit our area and we only experienced windy days and rain in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula as a result. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy a pleasant fall fishing season during the remaining three months of the 2018 season.

We held the last member meeting of 2018 on Saturday Sept 29 with a great member turnout. Two new members joined during the meeting. Following personal introductions, "Fishing in the Fall for Rockfish, Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum" was discussed through a power point presentation and group discussion. A \$30 gift certificate was awarded by random drawing as a members only door prize at the end of the meeting.

The NNAC Grab Bag Tournament, originally scheduled for the weekend of Sept 8-9 was cancelled by the Board of Directors due to adverse weather and, in accordance with tournament rules, was re-scheduled for the weekend of Sept 15-16, weather permitting. As a result of Hurricane Florence, the re-scheduled tournament was also cancelled. Due to unsettled weather conditions the third weekend and the ongoing impacts of Hurricane Florence and a tornado in the Richmond area, the Board of Directors cancelled the Grab Bag Tournament for this season. The tournament sponsorship of J&W Seafood, Deltaville, will be carried over to the Octoberfest Tournament the weekend of October 13-14.

Fall Rockfish season opens in Virginia waters on October 4 and closes December 31. Rockfish season continues in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay (closes December 20) and the Potomac River (closes December 31). Minimum length in Virginia and the Potomac River is 20 inches. Maryland has lowered the minimum length to 19 inches. Possession limit is two per angler, one of which can be over 28 inches.

The next scheduled tournament is the Octoberfest Saturday Oct 13 and Sunday Oct 14, weather permitting, sponsored by J&W Seafood, Deltaville. Target species for this tournament are Rockfish, Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum. Gift cards will be awarded for the top three fish (by weight) for each species, with the first place

winner of each species also receiving a plaque. Angler of the Year (AOY) points will be awarded for each species, with 5 points for first place, 4 for second, 3 for third, 2 for fourth and 1 point each for all other entries. Remember to weigh in all eligible fish caught during the tournament.

Twenty members have recorded one or more AOY points so far this season with three tournaments remaining. Tom Hedgpeth with 23 points, Stuart McKenzie with 16 and Scott Gregg, Steve Hedgpeth and Tom Smith with 10 each are leading the group. AOY standings can be found on the club's website.

Cobia season ended September 30. Remember to meet the required Virginia cobia reporting requirement no later than October 15 if you have not already done so. Reporting is required for all anglers who hold a 2018 Virginia cobia permit. Failure to meet this requirement may result in denial of a cobia permit for 2019. Details of this requirement and reporting instructions can be found in the members only section of the club's website.

Good luck fishing. Be safe out there.

Tight lines !!

John O'Connor

NNAC President