

## Northern Neck Anglers Club

### March 2019 Newsletter

([www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com](http://www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com))

The 2019 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 20th (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 2019 is scheduled for 7pm on Saturday April 27th 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 the weekends of May 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19, weather permitting. Note the tournament format change for this season. Tournament rules are set forth on the club's website if you have any questions.

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 2019 are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## Virginia Recreational Species Permits

For individuals fishing for the below listed species (cobia, trophy striped bass and tilefish/grouper) from a recreational vessel, the captain or operator of the vessel must possess the appropriate species permit and report for everyone aboard. All of the permits below require reporting of all fishing trips for permitted species, even if no fish were caught. If no trips were taken for species of a given permit, it is required to report “no activity” at the end of the season. The reporting regulations are outlined in their entirety in [regulation](#) as well as the email you will receive as part of the permitting process.

Gear	Description	Prerequisite License
473	COBIA RECREATIONAL PERMIT	Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licenses Requirements Apply
471	SPRING TROPHY ST BASS REC PERMIT	Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licenses Requirements Apply
475	TILEFSH/GRPR REC LANDING PERMIT	Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licenses Requirements Apply

Think Spring !!

John O'Connor

NNAC President