

Northern Neck Anglers Club

April 2019 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The 2019 saltwater fishing season is almost here. Saturday April 20 is opening day for Trophy Rockfish in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Virginia's trophy rockfish season, scheduled to open May 1, may be closed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). VMRC staff has submitted an emergency proposal which will close Virginia's 2019 trophy rockfish season effective April 29. The VMRC will consider the staff proposal at the scheduled VMRC meeting on April 23.

The club's first member meeting of 2019 is scheduled for 7pm Saturday April 27 at the Wicomico Church Parish Hall, 5191 Jessie DuPont Memorial Highway, Wicomico Church VA. A members only door prize (\$30 gift certificate from a local tackle shop) will be drawn at random at the conclusion of the meeting. Members are encouraged to attend, guests are welcome and the public is invited. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

March 31 was the due date for renewal of annual adult membership dues of \$30 for 2019. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I encourage to do so as soon as possible. Dues will be collected at the April 27 meeting. 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 Saturdays and Sundays May 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19, weather permitting. One fish may be weighed per member per day. The largest fish (by weight) during the tournament for each member will be entered for tournament placings and gift certificate awards (top three placings). If the VMRC closes the spring trophy rockfish season as proposed, the status of this scheduled tournament will be decided at the April 27 member meeting.

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). The club has received prior approval from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to hold rockfish tournaments during 2019 in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the club is required to file a report following each rockfish tournament listing the weight and length of each rockfish entered which was

caught in Maryland waters. We are not required to obtain prior approval for a tournament or to report the results of rockfish caught in Virginia waters or in the Potomac River.

This Trophy Rockfish Tournament is the first tournament in the club's 2019 annual AOY competition, with five AOY points awarded for 1st place, four for 2nd place, three for 3rd place, two for 4th place and one point each for all other tournament entries.

The 2019 Trophy Rockfish Regulations are summarized as follows:

Maryland – Season from April 20 thru May 15. One fish per angler per day 35 inches or larger.

Potomac River – Below the Route 301 bridge. Season from April 20 thru May 15. One fish per angler per day 35 inches or larger.

Virginia – Season from May 1 thru June 15. One fish per angler per day 36 inches or larger. A no cost Spring Trophy Rockfish Permit is required, available online at the VMRC website or from any VMRC license agent. As discussed above, the Virginia trophy rockfish season may be closed by the VMRC at its meeting on April 23. Members will be advised if this occurs.

Hope to see you at the April 27 meeting.

Tight lines!!

John O'Connor

NNAC President