

Northern Neck Anglers Club

May 2019 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), at its meeting on April 23, cancelled the Spring Trophy Striped Bass (Rockfish) Season in Virginia coastal waters, Virginia waters of Chesapeake Bay and Virginia tributaries of the Potomac River. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission did not take any related action and the trophy rockfish season in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River opened on Saturday April 20, 2019, as scheduled.

The Board of Directors previously scheduled the 2019 member Trophy Rockfish Tournament for the weekends of May 4-5, May 11-12 and May 18-19. The Board met on Saturday April 27, prior to the scheduled member meeting at 7pm. One of the issues on the Board's agenda related to decision concerning whether or not to cancel or alter the club's upcoming Trophy Rockfish Tournament in view of the VMRC's action to cancel the season in Virginia waters. The Board recognized if a decision was made to continue the tournament as scheduled club members would be able to fish only in two of the club's four tournament fishing zones (Drum Point MD to Smith Point VA in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay and Cobb Island to Smith Point VA in the Potomac River) during the first two tournament weekends. The Board decided to present the following three options to members attending the meeting that evening:

Option 1 - Cancel the Trophy Rockfish Tournament for this season;

Option 2 - Hold the tournament as originally scheduled, limiting the fishing to the club's tournament fishing zones in Maryland waters of Chesapeake Bay and the lower Potomac River for the first two tournament weekends;

Option 3 - Re-schedule the tournament to the weekend of May 18-19, following the start of the Virginia spring rockfish season on May 16. Anglers in Virginia would then be able to harvest two rockfish daily from 20 to 28 inches during the third tournament weekend.

The Trophy Rockfish Tournament, sponsored by the NNAC, is the club's first member tournament of 2019. Gift certificates will be awarded to the top three anglers and Angler of the Year (AOY) points will be awarded as follows: 5 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 3 points for third place, 2 points for fourth place and 1 point each for all other entries. If a member weighs in fish on more

than one tournament day, only the largest (by weight) fish counts for placings and AOY points.

The club's first meeting of 2019 was held on Saturday April 27. The meeting was well attended and those present enjoyed an informative presentation by Tom Hedgpeth on trolling for trophy rockfish and fishing for cobia. Cobia season opens June 1st. Thanks to Tom for sharing his fishing knowledge and techniques with club members present. During the member meeting, each of the three tournament options set forth above was discussed and over 60% of the members present voted to hold the tournament as originally scheduled (Option 2). Therefore, the Trophy Rockfish Tournament will be held over the weekends of May 4-5, May 11-12 and May 18-19, weather permitting as always per tournament rules.

The club's next meeting is scheduled for 7pm Saturday June 27 at the Wicomico Parish Church Hall, 5191 Jessie DuPont Memorial Highway, Wicomico Church VA. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

The next scheduled member tournament is the Cobia Classic during the weekends of June 1-2, June 8-9 and June 15-16. Target species for the tournament will be Cobia and Croaker. Gift certificates will be awarded for the top three fish (by weight) for each species. AOY points will be awarded for each species.

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). As of July 1, 2016, all motorboat operators, irrespective of age, must have completed the boating safety education course. The law provides an exception for an individual who is operating the motorboat under the onboard direct supervision of a person who has already met the boating safety education requirement (so you can teach your kids or family members/friends how to safely operate a boat). At least one person on board must have met the boating safety education requirement and is responsible for directly supervising the motorboat operator in the safe operation of the boat.

Good luck fishing this season.

Tight lines!!

John O'Connor

NNAC President