

Northern Neck Anglers Club

July 2019 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

Summer is here and hot weather has arrived. I hope all are doing well during the prolonged heat wave, rain and windy conditions we have been experiencing. The July 4th holiday festivities and fireworks have been a highlight of this month. School is out and families are now taking or planning summer vacations and children are visiting or spending time with grandparents and relatives. Hopefully, your summer plans include time for boating and fishing.

Croaker and Flounder fishing have again this year been poor and Cobia fishing has been spotty. Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish and Spot have arrived and trolling and bottom fishing have been added as fishing options when not anchored and chumming for Cobia.

We had an excellent member meeting on Saturday June 29. Our guest speaker, Martin (Marty) Gary, Executive Secretary of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), did an outstanding job explaining the current status and answering questions relating to proposed changes to Striped Bass regulations due to population decline and overfishing. Regulatory changes from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and member state regulatory agencies will be forthcoming by October for the 2020 season. Marty encouraged the club and its members to stay engaged as the proposed changes progress through the fisheries regulatory process. He also discussed the PRFC's concern about invasive species in the Potomac River, particularly Blue Catfish and Snakehead.

Our next member meeting is scheduled for 7pm Saturday July 27 at the Wicomico Parish Church, Wicomico Church VA. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. As always, guests are welcome and the public is invited.

The June Cobia Classic member tournament (Cobia and Croaker target species) experienced limited fishing opportunities due to adverse weather over the three scheduled weekends. As a result, no eligible fish were entered and no tournament gift certificates or Angler of the Year (AOY) points were awarded for the tournament. As a result of the lack of awards for last month's tournament, the club's Board of Directors approved adding Croaker as a target species for the ongoing Flounder Bash Tournament and increasing the tournament's gift certificates awards for Cobia only from three to five.

The club's third member tournament of 2019, the Flounder Bash tournament began the first weekend of this month July 6-7 and will continue through the next two weekends July 13-14 and July 20-21, weather permitting. The tournament is sponsored by Surfside Bait and Tackle of Mechanicsville. Target species are Cobia, Croaker and Flounder. Gift certificates will be awarded for the top five fish (by weight) for Cobia and the top three fish (by weight) for Croaker and Flounder. The first place winner of each species will also receive a plaque. 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 for all other entries.

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 \$30 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.

Remember to always be safe and courteous on the water and to treat cuts, punctures, scrapes or scratches with hydrogen peroxide (preferred) or clorox to kill any bacteria present. Hydrogen peroxide bottles contain an expiration date and should be checked annually to ensure that bottles on board have not expired.

Tight lines !!

John O'Connor, NNAC President