

Dear All:

Welcome to the dead winter days of mid-February I realize the NNAC membership is sometimes scattered this time of year, but I hope everyone is staying warm and dry. Most of us are dreaming of bright summer days out on the rivers and bays of our homeland. The calendar says we are beginning to close in on some great April fishing so we will continue to point that way.

As a quick reminder, many members have sent in their 2020 club membership fee and their release of liability form. The form can be found on our website. It needs to be signed and sent in with your check as is customary.

New 2/20 News:

1) From John Bello of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association:

“History made today! Senate Bill 791 (companion to House Bill 1448) transferring the management of menhaden from the General Assembly to VMRC passed the full Senate today 40 to 0. Read that again, 40 to 0. This is not only monumental, it is Historic! These bills now crossover to the opposite chambers for approval and then on their way to the Governor for signature.

Thank you, Governor Northam, the administration, the Delegates and Senators who championed this legislation and voted in favor of it. And a big thank you goes out to everyone who wrote letters to and called your Delegates and Senators to get this legislation passed. Again, history was made today. Thank you everyone who worked on this.”

Omega had to back this otherwise they faced a shutdown of fishing activities in the Chesapeake Bay. Menhaden regulations by the VMRC have not been published as of yet as this is a new and fluid situation.

2) As we all know, there is a great deal of activity on the regulatory side involving sport fishing, commercial fishing, the menhaden situation, etc. Most of this has immediate ramifications to our club members especially as it relates to rockfish seasons and limits.

While some of this will be discussed during our fishing seminar in Kilmarnock on April 18, more will be handled in our first general membership meeting in Wicomico Church on April 25.

The following is an article that should be of interest to all of us. I’m going to let you read it and make your own suppositions but let me just say much of it is “not over yet” There are some new factors presented in this article which I have not seen previously. Some of the comments at the end are of interest as well:

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/striped_bass_fishing_cuts_to_hit_bay_anglers_harder_than_water_men?fbclid=IwAR3O8F9h3Wfb2BEW-ZA0gO2v-CUTVVfqpq3Vyt7JC9ZULsxnEQC2UwxIN58

3) We have been approached by a professor/researcher gathering comments from sportfishing groups as it relates to Omega’s menhaden activities in the Bay. Dr. Ivor Van Heerden, NNAC board member in charge of regulations, conservation, water quality, etc., will be handling the inquiry on our behalf.

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram. We now have over 75 followers on Facebook and have garnered several new members because of it. We are potentially reaching an audience not reach before and are hopeful these social media programs benefit the club.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for April 18 and 25th! We have a great slate of speakers lined up for both the fishing seminar in Kilmarnock at the Lancaster county public library on the 18th and also our normal meeting date of April 25 at Wicomico Church.

Again, please get those dues coming our way. The correct address to use is written on the release form on our website, NorthernNeckAnglersClub.com. For those of you who have forgotten the members' password, it is starboard. And thank you to those members who have already sent in their dues and paperwork for 2020.

Fish on!!

Ben Ames

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