

Northern Neck Anglers Club

April 2020 Newsletter

Dear NNAC Members:

I hope this mailing finds you well and relatively happy this evening as we close in on the middle of April, 2020. The Virginia Northern Neck area dodged a big weather system last Sunday night and Monday with very minimal damage. We're very sorry for the death toll in the southeast but lucky we didn't get that system at that strength when it crossed our state. Our best wishes continue for those families in Virginia and the nation who have been afflicted and lost loved ones to the COVID-19 virus situation.

We are all finding ways to be useful, catch up on our reading, and maybe even wet a line here and there during this difficult. Social distancing remains the norm. However, while complying with the governor's requirements on social distancing and fishing, some of us have caught some really nice, fat, 20 inch plus rockfish in the creeks and bays off of the Chesapeake. The fish look extremely healthy. Although not targeting them specifically, they seem to get in the way just when that big 10 pound speckled trout was about to bite my hook. Wishful thinking perhaps, but there are some beautiful rockfish and trout starting to be caught in our area.

The crappie fishing has been on fire and we have posted many great pictures to our website and also our Facebook and Instagram pages.

As many as you know, Maryland DNR has canceled all fishing tournaments in not only Maryland waters but also in the Potomac River. Even though Maryland does not set fishing regulations in the Potomac River, the river is still under Maryland's executive order stopping those tournaments. Tom Hedgpeth, our vice president has been in contact with Maryland DNR directly. They do not have a good idea of when this restriction will be lifted. We have filed for all of our tournaments listed on our club calendar in Maryland and have been approved for those. Once we are informed by DNR that those restrictions have been lifted, we will let the membership know immediately.

Dr. Ivor Van Heerden, NNAC board member in charge of government relations applied for membership in the Virginia VMRC committee advising on the menhaden commercial fishery in Virginia. Ivor had an excellent application and we were hopeful for his inclusion. But we were informed in early April that he was not selected. Thank you Ivor for your work on behalf of the club. We will watch for other opportunities in that regard.

Because Virginia has no May rockfish season and tournaments are closed in the Potomac and Maryland, we have discussed moving our May rockfish tournament into June to run along side of our June Cobia Classic. Unless we receive membership objections, we will most likely announced in early May that that will be the decision to move our rockfish tournament into June.

As far as the June 27 club meeting at Wicomico Church, we are awaiting the lifting of the June 10 ban by the Virginia governor in order to be able to conduct meetings of more than 10 people. For now, that meeting is on. We are also considering doing a church revival type in the church parking lot where by

members could stay in their cars and we conduct the meeting over a PA system. Hopefully that will not be necessary but we want to look ahead and try to get as many events in, safely, as possible.

Remember, if you go boating in Maryland it's OK as long as you're fishing to produce food for your family. You can fish and recreational boat in Virginia as long as you maintain social distancing recommendations.

We will continue to update our NNAC Tournaments, our next general club meeting in June, fishing reports and updates and anything else of interest in the near future. We are updating our website, our Facebook and Instagram pages to include local fishing successes from our club members as often as we receive them. Further, I was made aware of a great trout that was caught recently In Dymer Creek by a local resident. The speck was in the 8 pound range:



Wow! What a speck!

We appreciate members sending their 2020 dues in and we hope all members will see fit to do so soon. If for some reason we lose more tournaments and or meetings to the COVID-19 situation, we are looking at crediting a portion of your 2020 club dues to 2021 memberships. For those of you who have not renewed yet for 2020, the form Including liability waiver is included below. Please fill it out sign it and follow the instructions. You can also find the membership/liability application on the website under Membership.

Best wishes and let's hear about your fishing successes!

Fish on!!

Ben Ames

President

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