



## May 2020 Club Newsletter

Dear NNAC Members:

There's great news for all club members! We are actually staring down the barrel of two NNAC tournaments commencing soon! It seems like forever since we have had a tournament due to the COVID-19 situation. I don't know about you, but I am super excited to get the club tournament season kicked off!

We were forced to move our May rockfish tournament into the first two weekends of June because Maryland decided not to allow us to hold a tournament in their waters. Our vice president, Tom Hedgpeth, had secured permission from Maryland originally, but then they canceled all tournaments due to the emergency shut down of certain fishing activities as decreed by the Maryland governor. Of course, Virginia did not even have a trophy season again this year so Virginia fishermen were out of luck there also.

Nevertheless, our postponed NNAC rockfish tournament will begin on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7 and continue through Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14. It will be busy out on the water as the first part of June will also see our regularly scheduled cobia classic tournament run during those two weekends plus June 20 and 21. Again, due to rockfish regulations, the fishery is only open in Virginia through June 15. So as far as rockfish are concerned, the June rockfish tournament will consist of two weekends of fishing. Pursuant to regulations, the cobia season will be open much longer which will enable us to fish our cobia tournament the first three weekends of June.

**DO NOT FORGET TO REGISTER FOR VIRGINIA'S FREE COBIA PERMIT!!!!** The application can be accessed through the Virginia Saltwater Journal. Most of you have done this before and are familiar with the process but it has to be done and trips need to be logged so that the VMRC has up-to-date information as to number of anglers and catch data.

You will be in violation without an electronic permit, and if you do not login at least one time during the season or submit notice that you did not cobia fish, you will not receive a Virginia cobia permit for next year.

Trust me, a couple of years ago I registered for a tilefish permit and forgot all about it. I did not tilefish nor did I update my tilefish fishing progress. Which was zero. I got a nasty gram later that winter that said I would not be granted a tilefish permit the following season. The state is serious about this permit procedure so you certainly need to be if you want to cobia fish next year as well!

### Current Rockfish and Cobia Fishing Regs:

#### Maryland:

Rockfish: May 16-July 6. 2 fish, 20" minimum. Check regs requiring non-offset circle hooks when live-lining and chumming, or circle or J hooks when using fish, crabs, worms or processed baits. There are

further rockfish season listings in the Maryland regs so make sure you familiarize yourself with those as the summer progresses. This synopsis is only concerned with the regulations during the upcoming rockfish tournament.

Cobia: June 1-Sept 30. 40" minimum. 1 per angler and 3 per vessel.

### **Potomac River:**

Rockfish: May 16-July 6. (Check regs for later seasons). 2 fish, 20" minimum.

Non offset circle hooks are recommended for 2020 but required for 2021.

Cobia: 40" minimum. 1 per angler and 3 per vessel. Only 1 fish per day per vessel over 50".

### **Virginia:**

Rockfish: May 16-June 15. Min 20", Max 28", 1 fish per angler per day. Further dates and regulations begin later in the summer. We will update those regulations in time for the fall rockfish club tournaments.

Cobia: June 1-Sept. 30. 1 fish per day per angler, 3 per vessel. 40" minimum. Only 1 cobia per vessel over 50" per day.

As is the norm for all NNAC tournaments, start times for tournaments is official sunrise as determined each day for Kilmarnock, Virginia. Fishing time ends at 4 PM each tournament day. All entries must be weighed in at authorized NNAC check stations by 5 PM on tournament days. Check our NorthernNeckAnglersClub.com website for approved and authorized weigh in stations for 2020. But these have not changed. We are very appreciative of the facilities that have again agreed to weigh in our entries again this year. All facilities are listed on our website at [NorthernNeckAnglersClub.com](http://NorthernNeckAnglersClub.com). Further detailed tournament rules are also listed on the website. Please familiarize yourself with the operating rules but feel free to contact us if you have questions. Also, please familiarize yourself with angler of the year points, prizes awarded for each tournament, etc.

### **Menhaden Update:**

Because of the free handed decision by Omega Protein to harvest 80 million metric tons of menhaden last year, they got their hand slapped by the VA legislature and now the VMRC menhaden committee and have been cut back to 30 million metric tons for this year. We will hope in the future that all entities which are under the jurisdiction of seasons and limits adhere to those as required.

<https://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-nw-menhaden-20200428-gxtukdev4vd5rmyff7xlr7grhm-story.html>

Thanks to our club president emeritus, Dave Compton, we will make interesting information as to the club formation in 2003 and pertinent history available at our regularly scheduled meeting on June 27 at Wicomico Parish Church. For now, we do plan on having this meeting pursuant to the guidelines required by the state of Virginia for meetings of more than 10 persons (not currently allowed). It is our hope that we can hold this meeting in some way shape or form even if it is deemed by the board that we would be better off having members remain in their cars as we hold the meeting in the church parking lot. We will of course, err to the safety of our members in planning this meeting. I would really like to have this as we do not have another scheduled meeting until August.

We have had a good number of members already signed the club's waiver of liability and send us their check for 2020 membership. Please do so in the near future if you have not so far done with this. If you have membership questions on whether you have re-upped for 2020, or are confused as to the process, most of it is under our membership page on the club website. Please feel free to send us a note if you're not sure you have re-upped or not. Our club email address is: [FishNNAC@gmail.com](mailto:FishNNAC@gmail.com) Best regards to all and stay safe.

Fish On!!

Ben

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