



# Northern Neck Anglers Club

## Monthly Newsletter

### September 2020

As we roll into fall, we hope all fishermen and friends had a great summer. Our final 2020 NNAC club meeting is this Saturday evening, September 26, 7:00 PM at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum's outdoor pavilion. Social distancing seating will be the norm and masks will be required. There will be some great speakers focusing on fall rockfish techniques, a boat safety discussion by Smith Point Sea Rescue, rod and lure building by Doug Gray of the Midnight Sun charter vessel (and HIS secret fall rockfish techniques), 50/50 raffle, door prizes/giveaways, refreshments, and more.

Our July meeting was remarkably successful and I'm sure because of our current cooler temperatures our attendance will be through the roof. As you know, because of COVID-19, we were severely limited in our meeting schedule this year. But we will get this one in and look forward to a full slate next year. Luckily, other than the early spring rockfish tournament, all of the other tournaments we have had so far have gone off without a hitch. And we have three more remaining this year! See you on Saturday night!

#### Tournament Updates

**Spanish Lessons Tournament:** Congratulations to Jam Jamrog for his first-place finish in the Bluefish Division and Tom Hedgpeth for his first-place finish in the Spanish Mackerel Division.

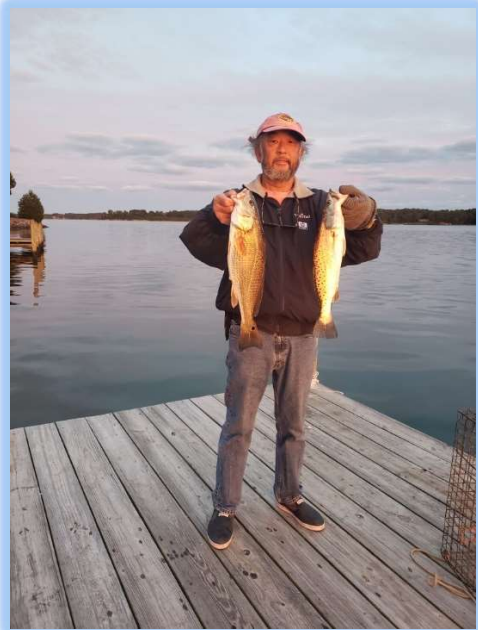
**Grab Bag Tournament:** Congratulations to Stuart McKenzie for his first-place finish on the Spanish Mackerel Division and Jan Jamrog for his first-place finish in the Bluefish Division.

Kudos to all the members that took part in these tournaments. Thanks to all our tournament sponsors and weigh stations for their continued support for the club and its members.

**Octoberfest Tournament:** Our upcoming Octoberfest Tournament will target Rockfish, Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum and commences on October 3 for three straight weekends. As always, each species/division will offer AOY points and prizes as is the norm. Keep in mind that Virginia Rockfish season opens on October 4, 1 day after our Octoberfest tournament begins. However, Maryland waters of the bay and the Potomac River Rockfish seasons are open on October 3. Also make sure you are aware of all the regulations for each targeted species in each body of water you will fish in.

#### Fishing Update

I do not know about you, but I am extremely glad to see the tremendous heat and humidity we experienced this summer in the rearview mirror. That was a rough one in many ways. Just asked the fish, the birds, your lawn, and our fishing friends who had to endure it. I had a hard time believing that I was looking at 86° water in August and now in fact we are seeing Bay water temperature below 65°. Wow! Fishing for several species held up well during the hottest periods, especially Spanish mackerel, some species almost went dormant. In looking at my logbooks from previous years we had great trout fishing the end of August and early September last year, but they were hard to find this year.



Yes, the puppy drum situation was much better than last year and that made up for the trout turning off the way they did. But now with the water cooling quickly, the puppies are still biting, and the trout are waking up.

Another bright spot in the last six weeks has been the population of nice big red drum in most parts of the middle and lower bay. It has been incredible to see the numbers that have been caught and released by



local anglers, charter boat captains, etc. Yeah with the water temperature cooling quickly, they will head south, and I am guessing we will not see many by October 1 in the middle bay.

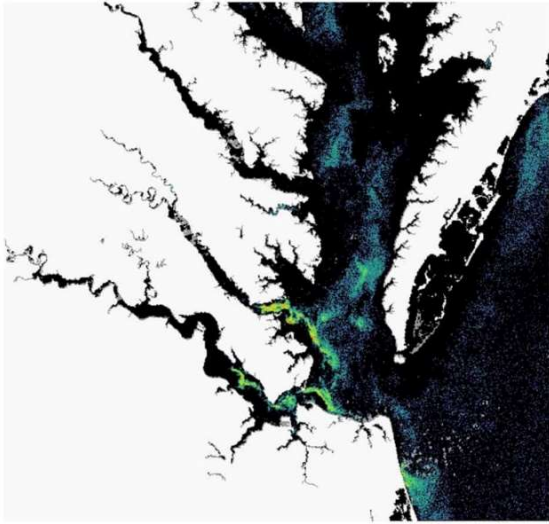
While our first attempt at providing a NNAC release tournament fishery for red drum didn't exactly come off as planned, as we had no entries from club members in September, part of the problem was we lost half of the tournament days due to SCA's. In fact, regarding our September tournament, we had extremely limited entries for bluefish and Spanish mackerel as well. Again, time on the water was limited but for most of us, it seemed like the macks vanished and only baby blues were around. We had reports of only a couple of our anglers finding even moderate sized mackerel schools where they were able to put several on board. But they were very much hit and miss. They may have gone further north as I have friends who did well with macks last weekend near the mouth of the Saint Mary's River in Maryland. But of course, an SCA was in effect in most of our zone so they were not available for our tournament specifically. Several local charter captains stopped fishing for mackerel altogether the past couple of weeks.

### **Clamping Down on Rockfish Regs**

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/md-targets-charter-boats-for-rockfish-violations/>

We all know you need a lawyer on board to rockfish in Maryland these days. Virginia is not very far behind other than the fact that their seasons are so short that not as many people actually fish for them anymore. Remember the spring of 2020? But I think it is safe to say if they are going to make regulations based on fisheries science, curious as some are, let's at least enforce them. Otherwise it is just lip service.

## Chesapeake Algal Blooms - Summer 2020



*The bloom, captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-3 satellite. Image: NOAA/VIMS*

**BAY BULLETIN**

### **MASSIVE, GLOWING ALGAL BLOOMS OVERTAKE VA. WATERS**

September 13, 2020

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/waterborne-hazards-control/algal-bloom-surveillance->

This is an interesting article with a great map. I ran into a couple of algal blooms this summer. One up at the Smith Point light area, another around Gwynns Island, and an extensive area just south of the



Rappahannock River all the way out to the fish channel. Nasty stuff and of course a dead zone for fish.

### **Fishing Safety**

We are constantly preaching about sunscreen, SPF clothing, vibrio (keep that hydrogen peroxide handy!) flares, radios, forecasts, SCA's, first aid, PLB's, EPIRB's, dehydration, fishing float plans, etc. But here is one of the saddest articles I have read lately about a good Samaritan who was trying to do the right thing, but it ends up costing his life. Our hearts go out to his family:

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/va-charter-captain-drowns-helping-sea-turtle/>

And while we are on a quick boater safety discussion, perhaps you heard of the 17-year-old Eagle Scout who saved a drowning boater off Kent Island Maryland a few weeks ago. It's really great hearing some positive news about someone in the Boy Scouts (and not just the incessant ambulance chaser ads on many radio stations trying to identify clients for law firms to be involved in a sexual discrimination suit against the Boy Scouts in general). I know many of us were in the Boy Scouts and several of us were Eagle Scouts. And I will bet many of us fished and or learn to fish while in the Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts. Enough said, sorry for the rant!!

### **Fishing Tips**

Again, don't forget we are going to have some seriously good rockfish tips and discussion on Saturday night. We have got a couple of great rockfish fisherman to speak to us and they will have their gear, baits, and years of knowledge ready to go! For those of you who are trout fisherman, you probably know this but it's good to remember: Whatever you did for trout yesterday does not have any bearing necessarily on what will happen today. What lure type/color they liked, the type of retrieve, the tide, the water temperature, the water depth, all have something to say about what the trout do or not do at any given time. The bottom line is, keep moving and keep looking. When you find trout, always keep in the back your mind that they may have 50 of their closest friends right there in a pod with them.





*Fishing Tip #10: You have your sights set on specks? Remember: they like different retrieve styles depending on tide, depth, and light levels. Try fast, try slow, try steady, and try erratic until you figure out what they want. If the bite slows, start trying all the different cadences gain, and you'll likely find that they've switched preference as the conditions have changed.*

See you all Saturday night for the meeting. We have lots of awards and giveaways to hand out and some great fellowship with our superb member group. Speaking for myself and the Board of Directors, we really appreciate your support and the fact that everyone hung in there during a difficult year regarding the Covid situation. We will keep our fingers crossed that things will be better next year for our country.

Our membership numbers are strong, and I constantly get calls from members that are very appreciative of the information we can provide them. I would reiterate that if you have specific fishing questions, you are welcome to send them to us individually or make contact in whatever way is easiest for you. We love talking fishing and we love helping you.

Fish on!!



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