



# HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter

## What's inside this Issue:

Club News, Tournament Updates,  
Fishing Reports, Boating Safety Tips  
and more

**Member Spotlight:**  
Andy Huang



**OCTOBERFEST**  
October 2020

## Greetings NNAC Members



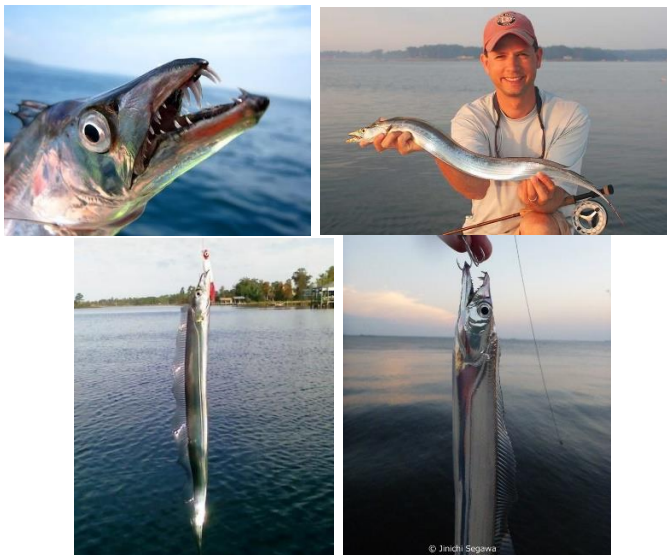
Welcome to the Halloween edition of the NNAC October Newsletter! We spend most of the year talking about the wonderful and beautiful flora and fauna of the Chesapeake watershed ecosystem, but today we wanted to start off this newsletter with some discussion of the funny spooks and goblins that ply our waters every day!

## Oyster Toadfish



For most of us, there is not much caught in the bay that we would rather not see at the other end of our line. And they certainly have a face only a mother oyster toadfish could love. The right picture shows that Jan and John are excellent toadfish anglers and spend a good portion of their spot trying to catch an oyster toadfish. Heaven knows why but they seem to enjoy it.

## Ribbonfish



## Member Spotlight

### ANDY HUANG

**Joined NNAC: 2014**

**Rivah Home: Great Wicomico**

**Boat: Grady White, Boston Whaler**

**Favorite Fish to Target: Cobia**

**Bucket List Fish: Bull Red Drum, Black Drum, Trophy Rockfish**

**Favorite Fish to Eat: Cobia, Speckled Trout**

**Favorite Style of Fishing: Inshore light tackle**

**Club Record Holder: Cobia 58 lbs.**

**Cover Story** – Andy Huang has been in the NNAC since 2014. After purchasing his Rivah residence on the Great Wicomico river, he had his sights on tackling bay fishing. Andy came across the NNAC website and thought that would be an excellent fishing resource to tap into and learn bay fishing tactics. He also took advantage of local charter boat options and he is never shy to ask anyone fishing questions to help him gain more fishing knowledge. He enjoys all types of inshore and offshore fishing from tarpon to speckled trout.

When targeting fish in the bay, Andy uses his Grady White and for inshore he uses his 19' Boston Whaler Montauk. In the cover photo, Andy is standing on his dock holding a puppy drum and a speckled trout he caught one evening while fishing his home waters of the Great Wicomico. He was using a jig matched with Gulp paddle tail.



Ribbonfish are so ugly even their mothers do not love them. Recently, Ivor and I were enjoying an afternoon in the Wicomico river catching gray trout when suddenly, the ribbon fish showed up. We caught a few by mistake and then fired up the motor and a raced out of there. Even Andy H does not have a good recipe for ribbon fish.

## Eels



I was totally on board with cobia fishing until eels became the rage for bait. Now I am not so sure. The important thing is to make sure you have someone on your boat that likes handling eels. And that is not me.

## Sugar Toad



Ok, when I was a youngster growing up on the south part of the Bay, we used to have fun catching these things and of course the name was blow toad then. But just to prove that ugly things can sometimes taste good, some fisheries expert decide to name them "sugar toads" and drop the adjective "delicacy" somewhere in the discussion. That still does not change the fact that they are ugly, albeit comical.

## Cownose Ray



I can tell you from first-hand experience, we have some excellent cow nose ray fishermen in the club. Andy, John, Tom H and Jan come to mind. If you like fishing for cobia but you insist on using bunkers for bait, you will get up front and personal with perhaps hundreds of rays during your Chesapeake fishing career. Enjoy them. I do not.

## Sharks



Luckily, even though there are lots of sharks down near the bridge tunnel, the further you travel north the fewer you will see. There are actually more than seven species of sharks that have been found in the lower bay. But again, they do not usually cause much problem up here. But just when you think it's safe to go out in the water, maybe a little swim on a hot day, just take note that the picture of the huge bull shark.....was taken in the Potomac River.

Happy Halloween!



## Club News

We are constantly trying to improve the information we provide to club members through the most widely distributed social media methods. For instance, this year we have improved the club website, added Facebook and Instagram sites, have the club's own email address and now enhancing the newsletter. As you have already noticed, the newsletter has a new name "Hardlines". We will be including a Member Spotlight section that highlights a different club member each month. In addition, it will include helpful sections that cover fishing tips, reports, safety, regulations, and other interesting topics. We hope you enjoy the newsletter, and all the other improvements. We look forward to your valued feedback. You can use the club's email address to send your feedback.

## Club Fishing Reports

In October, anglers transitioned from trolling for Spanish mackerel and bluefish to moving more inshore to hunt rockfish, puppy drum and speckled trout. Lots of the three species are being caught near and in Dividing Creek, Indian Creek, and the Great Wicomico. Other hot spots include the Little Wicomico jetty and the Rappahannock River and its tributaries. An abundance of juvenile rockfish can be found in the Little Wicomico jetty and mixed in are some small puppy drum as shown by Tom Hedgpeth and wife Dawn here with a juvenile puppy drum.



Robin Cunningham caught a couple nice rockfish. Looks like the larger fish are starting to show up.



And if you think the bluefish are done, do not be fooled. John O'Connor caught this 5 lb. bluefish in the northern neck area of the Chesapeake Bay. The fish is 1<sup>st</sup> in Best of Species for 2020 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest bluefish caught by a club member.





Another surprise was when Jan Jamrog went jigging at one of the local reefs in the fog, he was surprised by a huge bull red drum that grabbed his hopkins jig.



And we cannot forget Ben Ames' 6lb. 1oz. speckled trout. 2<sup>nd</sup> place in all-time club record for speckled trout.

## Octoberfest Tournament Updates

Unfortunately, 3 of the 6 tournament days had to be canceled due to Small Craft Advisories. However, that did not stop Ben Ames from strong arming a 6lb. 1oz. speckled trout to capture 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Speckled Trout division. Earl Pierotti ended up with a rockfish just shy of 6lbs to capture 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Rockfish division. Although puppy drum were caught, all fell short of the minimum size limit.

The following are the finishing anglers from each division in the club's Octoberfest Tournament.

### Rockfish Division

	Angler	Date	Weight
1	Earl Pierotti	10/18/2020	5lb 15oz
2	Stuart Mckenzie	10/04/2020	3lb 9oz
3	Tom Hedgpeth	10/18/2020	3lb 0oz
4	Robin Cunningham	10/18/2020	2lb 11oz

### Speckled Trout Division

	Angler	Date	Weight
1	Ben Ames	10/11/2020	6lb 1oz
2	Earl Pierotti	10/11/2020	2lb 12oz
3	Tom Smith	10/11/2020	2lb 1oz
4	Jan Jamrog	10/11/2020	1lb 14oz

### Puppy Drum Division

No puppy drum were weighed in.

Gift Certificates will be distributed to the top 3 finishers of each division. In addition, a plaque will be awarded to the winner of each division. Congratulations to all the members that participated in the tournament. Check out all the tournament photos on the NNAC website.

## Leroy Bussells Memorial Tournament



November is the club's Leroy Bussells Memorial tournament to celebrate the life of Leroy Bussells.

Leroy left his dock two days before Christmas 2018 on his 27-foot Grady White, Old Soldier, to go fishing out of the Great Wicomico River in Virginia. When he did not return home, his wife reported him missing, and the Coast Guard launched a search.

On Christmas Eve, a hunter found Old Soldier aground on Bloodsworth Island, with the engine still in gear and fishing lines in the water, according to Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP).

"Leroy was a retired Sergeant Major, US Army. He was an avid fisherman, originally from the Northern Neck area growing up in a waterman's family. He earned fishing citations from North Carolina for Sailfish and White Marlin and in Virginia for Spanish Mackerel. Leroy was a valued member of the Northern Neck Anglers Club for many years. He will always be missed for his outgoing and friendly personality, his participation in the club and his prowess fishing on the Bay." – **Northern Neck Anglers Club**

Leroy is slated to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors in mid-November 2020.

## Angler of the Year Standings

With his 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the Rockfish division, Earl Pierotti extends his lead in the AOY standings over Jan Jamrog. Jamrog is looking for his 5<sup>th</sup> AOY title. Several anglers are still in the hunt and have a chance at the title. Ben Ames finds himself 6<sup>th</sup> in the standings after his 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Octoberfest Speckled trout Division. The next tournament has 3 divisions and can have a dramatic outcome in the AOY standings.

The following are the top 5 in the AOY standings after the club's Octoberfest Tournament.

	Angler	Points
1	Earl Pierotti	28
2	Jan Jamrog	21
3	Tom Smith	17
4	Stuart Mckenzie	15
5	Tom Hedgpeth	13

Be sure to visit the NNAC website site for additional AOY statistics.

## Weigh Station Report

Many of the fish being recorded are coming from northern portions of the tournament zones with Buzzards Point and Smith Point on top both coming in with 22 fish weighed in and Lewisetta with 5 weighed.

The following table shows the cumulative number of fish entered at each weigh station for this season thus far.

Weigh Station	Fish Weighed
Buzzards Point Marina	22
Smith Point Marina	22
Lewisetta Marina	5
Chesapeake Boat Basin	2
Tackle Shop @ J & W Seafood	1
Ingram Bay Marina	0
Boatyard @ Christ Church	0
Norview Marina	0
Morningstar Marina	0

Thanks to all the weigh stations and our sponsors for their continued support for the club and its members. Be sure to check out all the detailed catch statistics on the club's website.

## Regulation Updates

Cobia Restrictions: 2021-2023

It looks like the powers that be have decided that we have taken way too many Cobia in the bay for the past three years. I had not heard much about this until the last few months. So, the VMRC and the ASMFC are going to do something about it. In a

preliminary conference call with sport anglers a couple of weeks ago, it looks like there are five choices which are going to be recommended to get Virginia back into compliance. Please visit the NNAC website to view the latest proposed regulation updates and supporting documents.

## Fishing Safety Tips

As we start the fall season, water temps begin to drop, and the winds and/or fog generally begin to pick up. The waters of the bay can get narly and dangerous during this time. It is a good time to review your safety equipment on your boat.



The Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important lifesaving device you can have only second only to a life preserver. In a life threatening emergency, you can activate the device which sends an SOS signal to rescue agencies, along with your location and vital personal information (like name, address, emergency contact phone numbers and medical conditions) that can help speed the response time for your rescuers.

Should you decide to purchase a PLB, you will be required to register it in the NOAA SARSAT (Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking) database at no cost. Note that you also need to update your data every two years and, if you ever sell or transfer ownership of your PLB, you must report that in this database and the next user is then required to register their personal data. The PLB works world-wide. There are several companies that manufacture PLBs in various styles for you to choose from. Its best to review the different products and styles to select what safety requirements work best for you. It is a decision that one day could save your life.

## Lifestyle Benefits of Fishing

Now that your pulse is up after having seen that last photo, do not forget, fishing can be rife with many benefits:

### #1: Fishing Helps Ease Stress and Tension

Stress is the number one instigating factor to illness and death. But spend some time out on the water and the gentle lapping of the waves and calmness of nature will melt your stress and tension away better than any medication. Plus, one of the best ways to eliminate stress is to focus on an activity that brings you joy. When you're fishing, you're focus is on the task, so you're not thinking about other, stress-causing things.

### #2: Fishing is Good Exercise

It's not easy fitting exercise into one's busy day. The fact that it is not all that enjoyable only makes it that much harder. But spending the day fishing is an excellent way to get in your daily exercise. Think about it – to get to your fishing destination, there is usually a bit of walking, hiking, biking, or paddling involved. Then add in the physical movements of casting and reeling and you are in for a great cardiovascular workout. Plus, being outside is scientifically proven to be good for both your brain and your body because you are getting the most natural form of Vitamin D there is from the sun. Just be sure you wear a quality sun protectant!

### #3: Fishing Helps You Unplug from a Tech-Dependent World

We are inundated by messages all day long, whether they come from television advertisements, emails, websites, or text. The problem is all that information must be processed by the brain and that can make relaxing extremely challenging. But, when you are fishing, you are essentially unplugging yourself from the endless barrage of noise. You are at one with nature and you finally get a chance to breathe deep. Unplugging from the digital world, even for a few short hours, can help you relax and re-center yourself. And, there's no more enjoyable way to do it than by fishing in Wilmington NC.



#### #4: Fishing Helps Reduce PTSD Symptoms

We live in turbulent times and as a result, people are being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder at a rapid pace. For those afflicted, life can be extremely hard to manage and the symptoms of their disorder can make living a “normal” life even more difficult. But, according to a 2009 study conducted by Rivers of Recovery, fishing can help reduce the severity of PTSD symptoms by as much as 32 percent. Not only that, but feelings of hostility were reduced by 43 percent, fear by 30 percent, and sadness by 36 percent.

#### #5: Eating Fish is Good For You

Not every angler keeps their catch, but for those that do, they’re getting a natural source of Omega-3 fatty acids with every bite. Omega-3s are essential for keeping blood pressure regulated and they help improve brain function. In fact, eating fish has been shown to be beneficial for everything from your eyesight to your skin. It can even help reduce asthma attacks as well as lower the risk of stroke and heart failure. Japan’s fish-heavy diet is one of the reasons why Japanese men, and women in particular, are among the longest-living people on the planet.

#### Fishing Tips

[Good rockfish article from FishTalk magazine, 10/2020](#)

[Excellent rockfish article for fishing riprap from FishTalk magazine, 11/2020](#)

#### Chesapeake Facts and Figures

The Chesapeake Bay is an estuary: a body of water where fresh and saltwater mix. It is the largest estuary in the U.S. and third largest in the world. The Chesapeake Bay itself is about 200 miles long. Its watershed, the area of land that drains into it, stretches from Cooperstown, NY to Norfolk, VA and covers about 64,000 square miles. The Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, wetlands, fields, and forests provide homes, food, and protection for 18 million

people and countless species of plants and animals.  
#NationalEstuariesWeek



Fish on!!



Ben Ames  
President  
NNAC

**Captain Ben Ames, Jr.**  
**The Ames Marine Group**  
**428 Sutton Ave**  
**Reedville, VA 22539**  
**[316-304-1475](tel:316-304-1475) C**

If you would like to contribute content or photos of your recent catches to be included in the newsletter or on the club website, please forward it to the club’s email address at: [fishNNAC@gmail.com](mailto:fishNNAC@gmail.com) and we would be more than happy to publish it per your request.



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Morningstar Marina  
Norview Marina  
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