



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:
Robin
Cunningham

TOURNAMENT:
SPANISH LESSONS
August 2021

Greetings NNAC Members,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and having plenty of successful fishing opportunities. Although the calendar says we are only a couple of weeks from September, which might mean we will see temperatures reverse slightly.... but it hasn't exactly happened yet. The temperatures are still hovering in the mid to low 80s and that can mean a number of things.



The good news is the Spanish mackerel are on fire. The big red drum are now sometimes found with them, and the fighting cobia, which have dominated so much of our fishing focus this summer, are still here. One of the local charter boats caught over 100 mackerel a few days ago and that was in just a short morning of fishing. They also put a citation mac on board. I also witnessed another citation mackerel on a trip with some new members a week or so ago. Congrats to new NNAC member Alan MacEachin for catching a Virginia Citation Spanish mackerel:



Member Spotlight

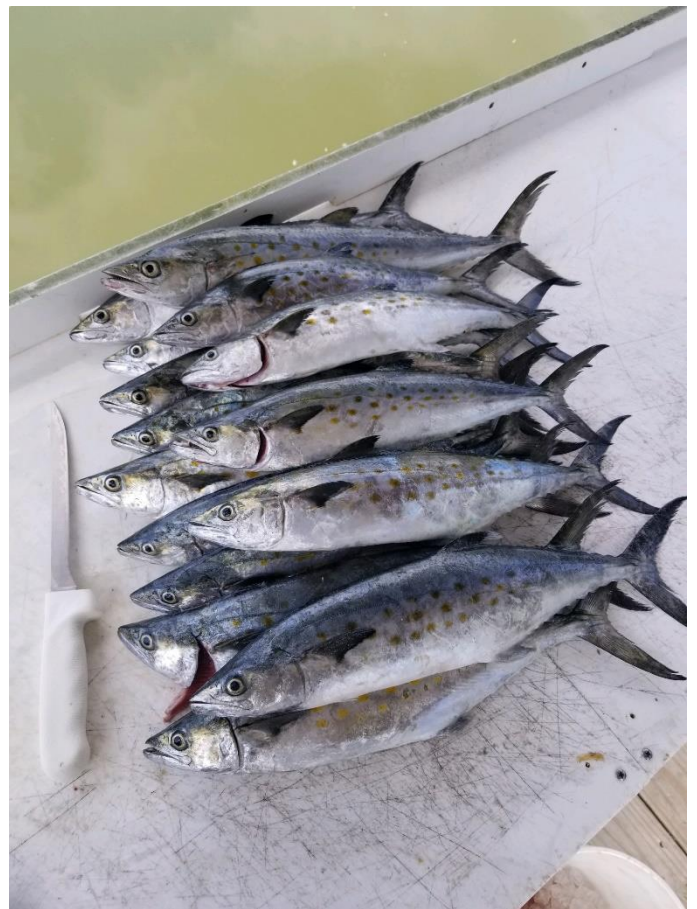
ROBIN CUNNINGHAM

Cover Story – I first began fishing at about 4 years old with my parents on family vacations, off the fishing pier at Colonial Beach. I started with a bamboo pole, hanging my line straight down off the end of the pier and pulling up small spot and perch. My dad always made me feel like I had accomplished some terrific feat every time I would get one up to the pier. I loved making him proud, so I loved going fishing with him. When I started school, we started taking vacations in Ocean City, Maryland, and that's where fishing became a passion for me. We would fish daily off the Route 50 bridge, catching flounder, sugar toads, blue fish and the occasional skate (which the bridge keeper would shoot with a rifle or shotgun – very exciting to an elementary-aged little girl). I preferred to fish on vacations rather than playing in the ocean. I would surf fish, fish from piers, go out on party boats, and, later became enthralled with fresh-water fishing, too. I love fly fishing, for trout, bass, sunnies, crappies, or anything that will bite as well as tossing different lures to them on the spinning reel. Later, when I started driving myself, I bought a little collapsible rod and some tackle to keep in my car, since you never know when you might come across some inviting water. When we bought our house in Callao, I became almost obsessed with fishing. I didn't own a boat yet but went out on my friend's pontoon fishing for croaker. I joined the NNAC and tried to learn everything I could about catching "the big ones." When I was finally able to afford a boat, I really got serious. My biggest desire was to hook in to one of those giant rockfish I had seen pictures of but had always eluded me. Due to work obligations, I had to quit the club for a few years but when we moved here permanently, I was able to rejoin last fall. I'm happy to say, thanks to the informative club meetings and being lucky enough to go fishing with club members who really know their stuff, I have caught my first citation rockfish, two keeper cobias, lots of blues and macks, and I'm living the dream.

On that trip, a couple of our guys also caught two cobia which made the grade and went home with us to our freezers. Congrats to Chris and John:



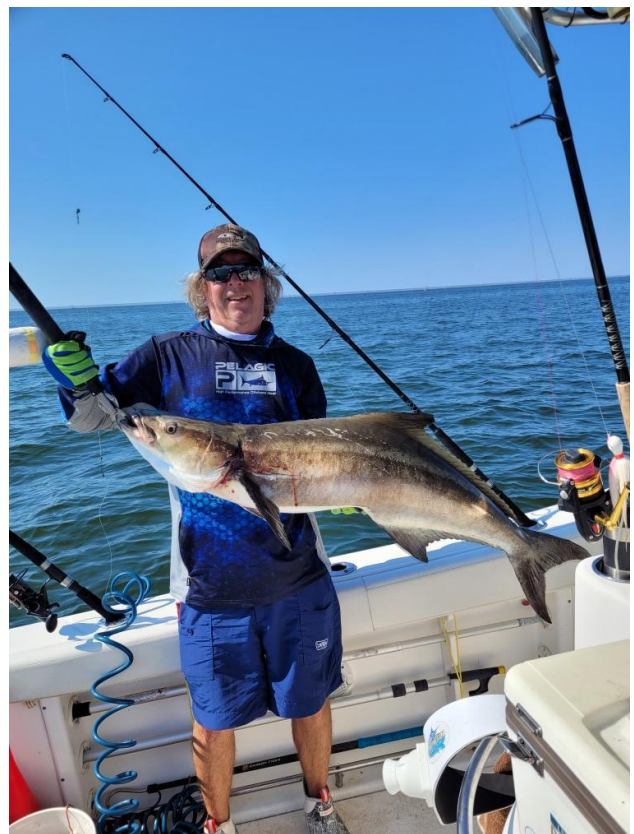
One of the success stories of last weekend comes from our very own Jan Jamrog and his day fishing for Spanish. For those of you who were able to hear his lecture on Spanish mackerel fishing at our last Northern Neck Angler Club Meeting in July (if you miss these meetings just know that you are losing out on a tremendous opportunity to learn from some excellent fisherman), we will agree that Jan wrote the bible on Spanish fishing in the bay. Last Saturday, while solo fishing on his Steiger by himself, he quickly caught his limit of 15 beautiful Spanish mackerel. And yes, I said it, he was fishing solo. Amazing:



Cobia have remained active in the area well into August. I had a couple of fishermen with me on my boat who had never caught cobia and three successive trips all three scored their first fish. A special thanks to Tom Hedgpeth for providing assistance as a great mate on two of those trips. Here's club member and US Army vet Bruce Belt with his first:



Those were not the only success stories so far in August. Here are some more great catches from some of our members:





Club News

The club membership has reached 98 members, just 2 members shy of our goal of 100 members.

Next month club activities include the final club member meeting at Wicomico Parish Church and the club's Grab Bag tournament. Targeted species for the tournament includes Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish and Trophy Red Drum.

Spanish Lessons Tournament Updates

The club's 4th tournament of the season, Spanish Lessons, is being held during the first 3 weekends of August. Two weekends have been completed. Only the 4th day of the two weekends was canceled due to Small Craft Advisory. Target species include Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish, and Cobia. Check the club website for specific details and leaderboard.

Thanks to all our tournament sponsors and weigh stations for their continued support for the club and its members.

Tackle Box

Best New Spinning Reel of 2021?

<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/daiwa-saltist-mq/>

History of Virginia's own LB Huntington and his Drone Spoons.

Many of us know that the genesis of the Drone spoon goes back to the early 1900s. Mr. Huntington began making fishing lures targeting Spanish mackerel and other saltwater species from his home in Tidewater Virginia. Since 1916 they had a very successful run in the fishing tackle business which culminated in the sale in 2020 to another large lure company based in Florida. Some of you may know these guys as the current owners of Mirrolure, a Chesapeake staple loved by speckled trout, puppy drum, rockfish among others. Here's a little historical video clip showing Mr. Lev Huntington, grandson of the founder, as he continued his operation out of the Virginia Beach area until recently sold:

<https://youtu.be/OJlvuuS1jM0>

It started out that you could get any colors you wanted as long as they were silver and gold. As the world turned, new colors were invented, and they now make a myriad of colors. Some of them work all the time and some just on certain days depending on the sun, water clarity, etc. But if you tie one of these

on, besides Spanish mackerel, you're sure to get a visit from a big red drum which may be more than your tackle can handle. So always be thinking red drum when you are out after Spanish macs.



The photo above is one of the original drone spoons. The following photos are some of my favorites and obviously they are super popular now. But don't forget to put a plain silver and a plain gold out. Macs have not forgotten how to hit those.



Drone spoons come in a variety of colors, styles, and sizes.



Wow, they have more colors than what VP Tom Hedgpeth has in his Xtra Tuff boot collection! Maybe....

Boater Safety News

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/video-anglers-save-men-from-fully-engulfed-boat-fire-off-va-coast/>

Coast Guard Meeting, August 2021

Thanks to a notification by our Virginia senators and our local congressional representative, I attended a recent meeting in Hudgens, VA regarding the potential move by the US Coast Guard to shut down their closest facility to the Northern Neck.



There were over 100 concerned citizens at the meeting. Those of us in attendance had a chance to voice our thoughts concerning the potential move.



The Coast Guard seemed interested in our input spoke as I did speak as representative of the NNAC with nearly 100 members. We attempted to make sure the Coast Guard understood that although pleasure watercraft numbers may fall off during winter months, the Bay is an active 12-month body of water with shipping, commerce, research, tourism, and fishing including some watermen who work the waters for a living all year. I pointed out our fishing and boating activities are certainly not limited to six months out of the year. Congressman Wittman was also in attendance leading the meeting.

This was a fact-finding opportunity so that the Coast Guard could judge public sentiment. It is my understanding that a decision will be made soon. Here is a copy of a release made available prior to the meeting:

<https://www.gazettejournal.net/uscg-to-downgrade-milford-haven-to-seasonal-status/>



Virginia Fuel Tax Refund Program

A refund of the Virginia fuels tax paid on purchases of fuel in quantities of five gallons or more is available to any person provided that they have paid the fuels tax and that the fuel was used for an Eligible Use.

What's an eligible use?

Some of the eligible uses that qualify for a fuel tax refund are; **used in operating or propelling recreational and pleasure watercraft**, used in operating or propelling commercial watercraft, and diesel fuel used in a passenger car, pickup or panel truck, or truck having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. The refund amount for diesel fuel tax is equal to the difference between the tax rate for diesel and the tax rate for gasoline.

How do I apply for a refund?

Registration is required the first time you use the Fuels Tax Online Refund system, thereafter, logon with your email address and the password you have chosen for your account. Read the system prompts carefully. First the claim is created then users must go to "Pending Claims", to add the claim(s) to the cart and check out.

What information do I need to file a fuels tax refund claim?

To submit a refund claim, you will need to provide the refund claim period, number of gallons, fuel type (gas, diesel, etc.), how the fuel was used, and other information required for the type of refund claim you are submitting. The system will guide you through the application process and display messages when the fuel receipts or other documentation is required to be submitted to DMV.

[Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Fuels Tax Refund](#)

Other Fishing Information

[The Maryland Fishing Challenge](#) (link)


Offers citations, patches, and an annual award to the individual with the largest fish in each species category. Follow the link for rules and regulations.

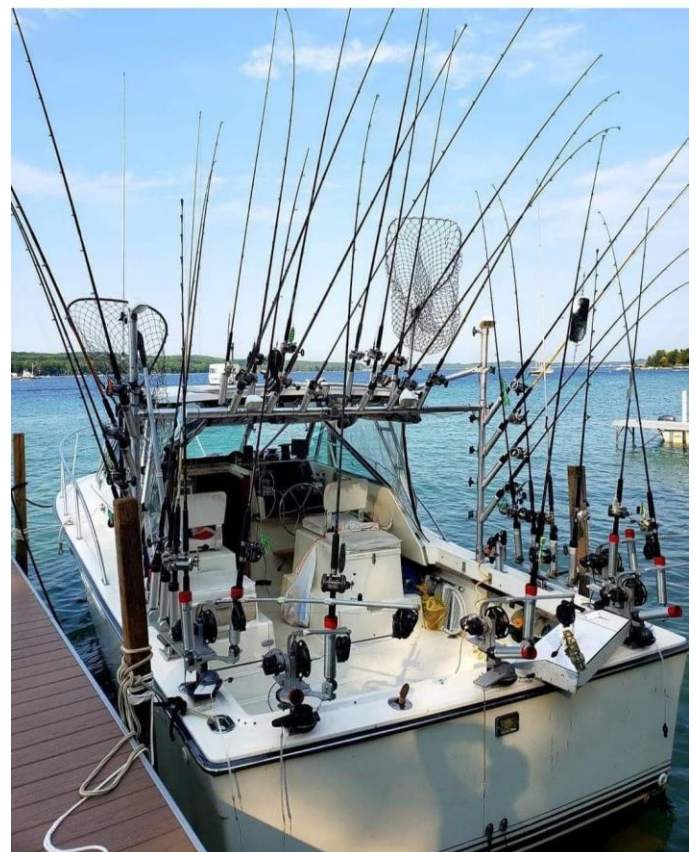
[The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament](#) (link)

Offers citations and awards for largest fish in each species category. Also offers Outstanding Angler awards to those who register several outstanding catches for citation awards. Follow the link for rules and regulations.

[20 Pro-Am 21 Cobia Tournament](#) (link)



This is overkill! I mean, really, come on!
Who needs 2 nets? 



Enjoy the rest of your August and stay safe out there. We do have some more club charters scheduled for the fall, but we will discuss that at our next meeting on September 25 at Wicomico Parish Church. Speakers for that evening will be Charlie Biddlecomb on the latest in Boating Electronics and how to use them, and an officer from the VMRC will take your questions so we all know what is expected when the flashing blue lights come on behind us!

Fish on!!



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If you would like to contribute content or photos to be included in the newsletter or on the club website, please forward it to the club's email address at: fishNNAC@gmail.com and we would be more than happy to publish it.

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