



HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter

What's inside this Issue:
Club News, Tournament Updates,
Fishing Reports, Boating Safety
Tips and more

TOURNAMENT:
FLOUNDER BASH
July 2023

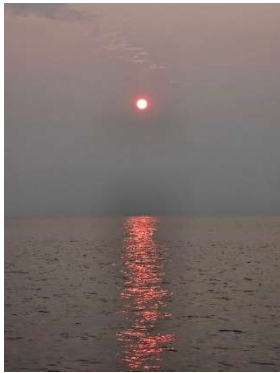


Flounder or Bust

WWW.NORTHERNNECKANGLERSCLUB.COM

Greetings Members,

Things Are Heating Up!



And we are talking about FISHING, not just the temperatures which have now settled into the mid-summer pattern over Chesapeake Bay.

I mean seriously, it's not that often that we get this many species biting at the same time. You could go out into the bay and most tributary's now and catch legal size stripers, croaker, spot, some flounder, big bluefish (11 lbs. +) numerous Spanish mackerel, speckled trout, redfish, big red drum, cobia, and snakeheads. And harder to find, but certainly out there right now are tautog and spadefish.

And if you want to learn more about how to catch a couple of these great species, come to our next club meeting as we will be doing a full-bore presentation on redfish, red drum, and Spanish mackerel. We will have tackle on display and answer questions.

Club News

The next meeting is on July 22, Saturday night 7 PM, and will be at the Wicomico Parish Church. A variety of fishing related topics will be discussed along with the usual door prize giveaway and a 50/50 raffle. Come with your fishing questions!

Timothy Rivera, owner of Hook 'Em High Bait & Tackle in Topping Virginia will be on hand at the meeting to talk about what he has to offer at his new store.

Flounder Bash Tournament Update



Congratulations to LaDonna Curzon for finishing in 1st place in the cobia division of the Flounder Bash Tournament.

LaDonna caught her cobia while fishing in the NNK Saltwater Shootout. Since the fish was caught on an official NNAC tournament day, it

was eligible to be entered in the NNAC tournament. LaDonna was the only NNAC member to enter a fish for the tournament. There were no other fish reported by any of the weigh stations for either the cobia or flounder divisions.

Also worth noting, Will Townsend landed his first cobia aboard the Midnight Sun during the Shootout tournament, however the fish barely made the 40" legal minimum size so they decide to release the fish to be caught another day.



Several NNAC club members entered the Shootout but were unable to boat a legal fish.

2023 NNK Saltwater Shootout Update

Well, the first Saltwater Shootout sponsored by Butler's Bait & Tackle is now in the books. We saw almost 80 boats register and take part. The winner garnered almost \$10,000 in prize money. An almost similar amount was raised to endow scholarships for graduates of Northumberland High School on the Northern Neck of Virginia. This was the first big cobia tournament in this area, and it was a sizzling success. The weather was great, and there were some very nice fish taken. We had entries in youth and women's divisions. There was a great party on Friday night at the captain's meeting and another one on Saturday night at the award ceremony. Food trucks and a BYOB policy made for two fun evenings. Many thanks to Butler's Bait And Tackle, Buzzards Point Marina, and many excellent local sponsors. The organization committee did a super job and look forward to our second NNK Saltwater Shootout out in 2024.

Tales & Scales



Another fish I forgot to mention above is the delicious white perch which can be caught in prodigious numbers in most of our rivers flowing into the bay. They can be caught on artificial's and bait. Here's our own Robin Cunningham with a nice whitey recently entered into the white perch division of a recent NNAC tournament:

Robin Cunningham has already applied for 1 white perch citation this year and she is working on another. She has been fishing for these Fry Daddy stuffers with peelers parts and it has been extremely effective.

The following is an excerpt from The Southern Maryland Angler regarding targeting white perch:

"One of the most popular species to target on the U.S. Atlantic coast is a small, silvery fish called the white perch. White perch are



a relative of the striped bass, but are smaller in size, typically measuring in at 8-10 inches which makes them an ideal (and delectable) panfish.

They are generally found in brackish waters and freshwater ponds and are most prominent in the Chesapeake Bay and New England region. Here are some useful white perch fishing tips to pack in your bag of tricks on your next fishing adventure!

WHITE PERCH FISHING TIPS

1. Get your fishing license. A simple, yet sometimes overlooked requirement!
2. Fish the spring spawn. In April through June, white perch migrate from larger estuaries up into rivers to spawn. This makes for great shore fishing and a denser concentration of fish.
3. Fish river mouths. Tributaries outflow into bays create a thriving brackish estuary ideal for catching white perch.
4. Use light tackle. Due to their small size, white perch tend to nibble delicately. Light tackle will allow you to feel the most feeble attempts so you can better anticipate the hook set.
5. Give them time. Allow your bait to sit as the fish nibbles or else you'll pull the hook away from them. Set the hook once you feel the perch take the hook.

6. Try live bait. White perch love fish delicacies such as worms, minnows and shrimp. Try a few variations to see what works best in your area.
7. Try trolling. If you're a boating angler, trolling is an effective method for catching white perch. Drift slowly with baited lines in the water until you get a bite.
8. Quadruple your odds. Try using a sabiki rig to catch multiple white perch at once. Bait each of the tiny hooks with a small minnow and drop down into the strike zone. Set a hook when you feel the strike and drop the line back down to keep fishing."

Try these white perch fishing tips for yourself and you'll quickly find out why this fish is so fun to catch. It's also a great species for teaching kids how to fish. Learn more about [white perch](#) including where to find them, fishing techniques and types of bait and tackle to use.

Bay News

Captain Chris Dollar, expert angler, and outdoorsman, brings his most up-to-date insight to the **Bay Bulletin**. Check in weekly to Chesapeake Bay magazine to see where the fish are biting, and which gear is working right now.

Wild Chesapeake: A Week of Impressive Catches | Chesapeake Bay Magazine

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/wild-chesapeake-a-week-of-impressive-catches/>

It was definitely a wild week!

Rudow's Fish Talk Magazine

Here's the latest update of Fish Talk magazine. This is an excellent way to keep up on what is happening and pick up some good tips on bay fishing.

Fishing Reports Fishtalk Magazine

<https://www.fishtalkmag.com/fishing-reports>

Tackle Box



With mackerel season in full swing, it seems appropriate to talk about tackle for these beauties.

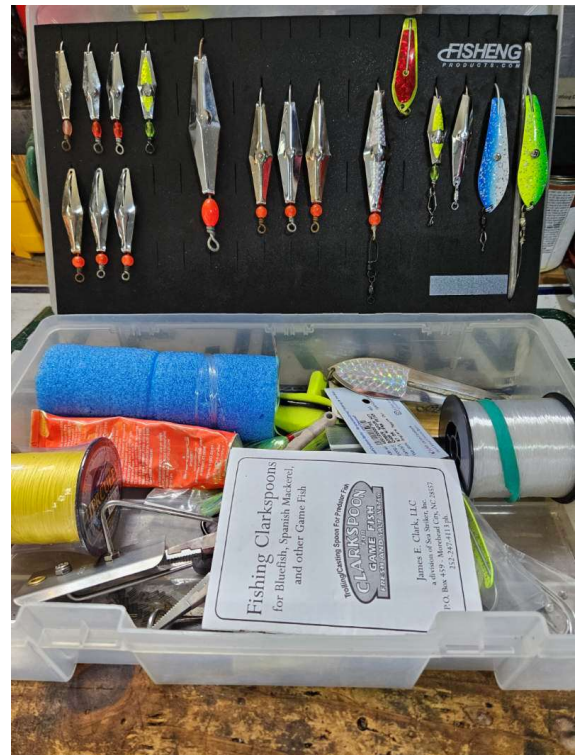
A club member has recently given me a product called Jig and Leader Board made by FishengProducts.com. He got the product on a recent sturgeon trip to the west coast. The guide he used gave him these to try out. As soon as I saw it, I knew it would be a perfect tool for organizing and storing my trolling spoons.

The board has 5 rows and 17 columns of slots to hold your baits. You can double that by utilizing

the front and back of the board. The boards come in multiple sizes. This size board retails for about \$14.

You can store just your spoons or if you are unlike me and tie a leader directly to the spoon, you can store both the spoon and leader on the board by wrapping the leader around the board and locking it in the slot at the top and bottom of the board.

The board fits precisely in a Plano 2-3731 storage box. The box would fit several of these boards full of lures. I use two of the boards and two Plano boxes to hold all my mackerel and bluefish tackle including leader material, replacement hooks, planers, tools, etc.



The two boxes fit comfortably in a 5-gallon bucket. By the way, you should make sure you include at least one 5-gallon bucket in your mackerel arsenal.

The board would also be great for jigs and Mirrolures. This is a very versatile tool for your tackle storage needs.

Invasive Species News

For those of you who were at our June meeting, you heard an excellent talk about the invasive snakehead and how the population is growing and growing. In a curious decision, Virginia has decided that you no longer have to dispose of any snakehead caught in Virginia waters. You can release them if you want, but that was strictly against the law for the first few years but now it's not. Go figure.

Another fish that is even worse for bay ecology is the blue catfish.

- “Blue catfish are considered an invasive species in the Chesapeake Bay. They were introduced to several rivers on Virginia’s Western Shore decades ago. People thought that these fish, which like fresh water, would stay in those rivers. But blue catfish were able to tolerate higher salinity than anticipated.”

There are several things on going to try to limit the numbers of blue catfish in the bay and here's the latest:

Shocking Proposal: Commercial Electro-fishing for Catfish | Chesapeake Bay Magazine

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/shocking-proposal-commercial-electro-fishing-for-catfish/>

Fishing Safety



I remember seeing this photograph about a year ago and could not believe it when I found out it was not photo shopped but actual. The weather was beautiful, visibility was excellent, so why does this happen?

Read this article, and you may find out:

VIDEO: Watch CBM Recreate Sailboat vs. Fishing Boat Collision | Chesapeake Bay Magazine

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/video-watch-cbm-recreate-sailboat-vs-fishing-boat-collision/>

Regulations Changes

No regulation changes to report in any of the tournament zones. Regulations sometime change during the season so always check regulations in your zone before keeping a fish.

The following press release was provided to NNAC by Capt. Chris Dollar, CD Outdoors Communications, Chesapeake Conservation Consultant - Coastal Conservation Association.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2023

CONTACT: Chris

Dollar | cdollar@chesapeake.com | (410) 991-8468

WHO: Coastal Conservation

Association Virginia and Communities of Virginia's Northern Neck.

WHAT: An Oyster Reef Ball Build in Irvington VA, hosted by Coastal Conservation Association Virginia (**CCA Virginia**) and local partners, is part of the “Living Reef Action Campaign” (LRAC), the organization’s flagship habitat and education program. Since 2015, CCA has engaged with thousands of students and community members across the Chesapeake region in hands-on, educational experiences that help improve the Bay’s health while inspiring stewardship of our marine resources. The two-day event (August 9-10) is being organized in cooperation with CCA’s local Northern Neck partners and is an exciting next step in CCA’s commitment to expand our habitat work throughout the Commonwealth.

Volunteer Today.

WHEN: Aug. 9-10, 2023;
8:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Both days.

WHERE: Tackle Cove Outfitters @ ReFuel,
73 Seafood Lane, Irvington VA 22480.

About CCA Virginia: *CCA Virginia’s mission is to advise and educate the public on the conservation of marine resources. The objective of CCA is to conserve, promote, and enhance the present and future availability of those coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. For more information and to support our efforts, visit ccavirginia.org.*

Thanks to Capt. Chris and CCA VA. for their great conservation work!

Thanks to our 110 great members for supporting the Northern Neck Angler’s Club. Don’t forget to sign up for one of our club, sponsored charters coming up in August, September, October and November!

See you at our next meeting on July 22! And don’t forget you can always check our website and Facebook page for our schedules and updates.

Remember, there are four ways for you to know about club events and tournament schedules:

- 1) Monthly club newsletter announcements
- 2) Club website. Tom does a great job with this, and I can guarantee you we pay strict attention to the schedules and updating information there.
- 3) Club Facebook page. I sometimes put three or four new posts up a week. There are schedule items posted as well as fishing information, photographs, etc.
- 4) Finally, you are welcome to text me at (804) 436-4554 if you have schedule questions.

I hope some of you catch some nice fish.

Fish on!!



Ben Ames
President, NNAC

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If you would like to contribute content, photos or have any suggestion of things you'd would like to see 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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