



# HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter

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

**Are  
these  
days  
gone  
for  
good?**



**SPRING SEASON**

May 2023

[WWW.NORTHERNNECKANGLERSCLUB.COM](http://WWW.NORTHERNNECKANGLERSCLUB.COM)

## NNAC Members

Greetings and welcome to the time of year when most of our fisheries come alive and provide lots of recreation for much of the remaining year. We had an early start this year as most of us know. In fact, so many rockfish/stripers were here early that basically very few were here when the trophy season opened on 5/1 in Maryland and the Potomac Rivers. When I say no one caught fish, I mean no one that I know caught fish, including charter boats. And here's another fact that is polarizing:

57 boats entered the Potomac rockfish tournament last week. Zero fish.



The good news is that Captain Ryan Rogers of Midnight Sun Charters will be our speaker this coming Saturday night, May 20th, and will certainly have an informed look at the latest regulatory proceedings pertaining to striped bass. Since we are staring down the barrel of less than a month to go to

cobia season, I know Ryan will want to talk much about cobia as well.

### More on Striped Bass:

For those of you that want more basic information on the striped bass, the link below is excellent:

[Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission](#)

There is no greater political football in East Coast sport fishing than striped bass. Every state from Maine to North Carolina is involved in making fisheries policy. And the way I look at it, very seldom is everyone on the same page.

## Club News

We have started accepting membership applications for 2023 season and have received several so far. We are close to meeting our goal of 100 members

again this year and are off to a great start. We are only a few short of meeting that goal. Please get your membership application and dues in soon.

We get texts and emails constantly asking about our schedule for the meetings.

We have included the complete list of monthly meetings and dates below:

Saturday May 20, 2023  
Saturday June 24, 2023  
Saturday July 22, 2023  
Saturday August 26, 2023  
Saturday September 23, 2023

We have added a club meeting date in August which traditionally we took that month off because of vacation schedules.

All meetings will take place at our traditional meeting site, the Wicomico Parish Church, Wicomico Church, VA. Meeting times are 7-9 PM. All monthly meeting dates are scheduled on Saturday evenings.

They can always be found on our website at [northernneckanglersclub.com](http://northernneckanglersclub.com) and on our Facebook page.

The club website and Facebook resources are filled with good information. We build it and keep it active for you, so please use it. It's also the way to join the club. If you are not a member, you can access membership forms, update your membership, and more. Also, we will always have membership sign up forms at all meetings. However, if you can't find what you are looking for on either of these resources, feel free to send a message to the club email and we will make sure you get the information you are seeking.

### NNAC Fishing Seminar Recap (4/22)

We have had lots of members contact us to say how much they enjoyed the fishing seminar we conducted last month. I think you will agree that all our speakers were excellent. We certainly had a full slate with a lot of info packed into an almost 8-hour day. This was the second year in a row that we have conducted this seminar and it continues to be a success on several fronts. We had almost 120 attendees, we gained 29



new members, distributed some great door prizes, had an excellent lunch provided by William Clarke and Horn's Ace Hardware, drank lots of coffee and enjoyed some excellent Chesapeake Donuts. We certainly thank all of our supportive sponsors.

#### Seminar Speakers Included:



**Jason Anderson**  
*Ebbtide Charters, LLC*

Techniques for Catching  
Cobia



**Thomas Licht**  
*Inshore Specialist*

Using Soft & Hard  
Plastics for catching  
trout, redfish & stripers



**Wayne Young**  
*Author*

Reefs, wrecks,  
obstructions, and other  
structures for  
recreational fishermen



**NNK Saltwater Shootout Tournament**  
*Butler's Bait & Tackle*

Wes Butler and Emma Pickett provided a briefing and answered lots of questions on the upcoming NNK Saltwater Shootout tournament to be held on July 8 hosted by Butler's Bait & Tackle. For all the rules and details about the tournament you can visit the official tournament website: [NNK Saltwater Shootout – Fishing for Students](http://NNK Saltwater Shootout – Fishing for Students)



**William Clarke**  
*Horn's NNK Ace  
Hardware Fishing  
Tackle*

Lastest baits & tackle for  
fishing for monster  
Reds, Sheepshead,  
Taug, etc.

Joe Jones, Lead Marine Technician at Jett's Marine provided a briefing on keeping your vessel in top shape season after season.

The final speaker session was of a panel including, Jason Anderson (Ebbtide Charters), Zane Oliver (Midnight Sun Charters), Mark Roy (NNAC Director), Earl Pierotti (NNAC Director). The panel discussed a

wide range of techniques for catching a variety of species available in the Bay.

## Tournament Updates

No changes are anticipated for NNAC Tournament rules or schedule at this point.

## Tackle Box



Everyone who attended our seminar got a great bag of goodies. If you attended, you know you got an excellent Mirrolure designed by Thomas Licht. If you were at the club seminar you heard Thomas talk about that bait. This was a custom lure, designed for our area by one of the best Virginia trout fishermen, I know of. It's a special Mardi Gras pattern designed for low light or stained water. I can't wait to give it a try.



Also in the gift bag was a pack of 7 KWigglers Jr. Ball Tail Shad. Excellent trout and redfish soft plastic.

## Boating Safety Tips

National Safe Boating Week begins May 21 and runs through May 27. In support, BoatUS has posted an excellent article entitled **BoatUS Foundation: 5 Ways to Be Seen and Heard When You Really Need to Summon Help.**

The 5 things you need on board are:

- (1) VHF Radio
- (2) Emergency Beacon
- (3) Sound-Producing Device
- (4) Visual Distress Signals
- (5) Distress Flag

For specific details, you can visit the following BoatUS website: <https://bit.ly/3pyN6yz>



The remains of the vessel that sank recently in the Bay near red marker 62. All eight people aboard had to abandon ship, and all were rescued by Smith Point Sea Rescue. Fortunately, one of them had a handheld VHF radio with them and were able to hail for help that saved their lives.



The remains of the 50' vessel was raised with the help of very heavy equipment and the Smith Point Sea Rescue crew. Nice going guys!

## Regulation Updates

Now for the bad news. The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved an emergency action to



implement a 31-inch maximum size limit for striped bass recreational fisheries, effective immediately for 180 days (through October 28, 2023). This action responds to the unprecedented magnitude of 2022 recreational harvest, which is nearly double that of 2021, and new stock rebuilding projections, which estimate the probability of the spawning stock rebuilding to its biomass target by 2029 drops from 97% under the lower 2021 fishing mortality rate to



less than 15% if the higher 2022 fishing mortality rate continues each year.

The Board implemented the emergency 31-inch maximum size limit for 2023 to reduce harvest of the strong 2015-year class. The 31-inch maximum size limit applies to all existing recreational fishery Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission NEWS RELEASE 2 regulations where a higher (or no) maximum size applies, excluding the May Chesapeake Bay trophy fisheries which already prohibit harvest of fish less than 35 inches. All bag limits, seasons, and gear restrictions will remain the same.

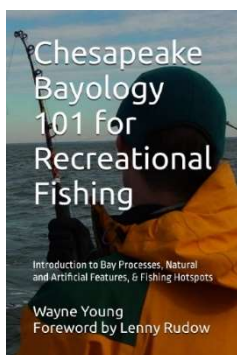
States must implement compliant measures as soon as possible and no later than July 2, 2023— or risk being found out-of-compliance and having a full harvest moratorium enacted.

Virginia is not likely to make any changes to the maximum size limit since it is already in compliance with its 28" maximum size limit.

Maryland has already implemented the change beginning May 16, 2023, in the Maryland waters of the Bay and Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River. Potomac River is likely to follow soon.

Attached to this newsletter are the entire ASMFC and Maryland DNR notices for your convenience.

## Other Hardlines News



Wayne Young's new book is now available for purchase. There was much interest at the seminar in April and when it would be available to the public. It is finally here and available on Amazon for \$14.95.

## EPA & Bay State Reach Settlement Over PA Pollution



"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would further increase oversight over farms, stormwater systems and wastewater treatment plants in Pennsylvania under terms of a proposed settlement to a 2020 lawsuit against the agency.

The suit, brought by environmentalists and several states, contended that the EPA had failed to do enough to force Pennsylvania, which is far behind in its Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction goals, to accelerate its efforts."

You can find the entire article here:

[EPA & Bay State Reach Settlement Over PA Pollution | Chesapeake Bay Magazine](#)



Best regards to all wherever you may be.

Fish on!!



Ben Ames  
President  
NNAC

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Tom Hedgpeth  
Vice President  
NNAC

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.

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