



# HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter

GRAB BAG SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION

## What's inside this Issue:

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



**Member Spotlight:**  
**Terry Medhurst**

## Greetings NNAC Members,

I don't know if the heat has broken completely but we are seeing some nights in the mid-60s now which has changed fishing in the Chesapeake and tributaries completely. Yes, we had three species that gave us some amazing fishing in the last six weeks.

I don't think I've ever seen Spanish mackerel and red drum fishing as good as we had it. Cobia season was great through about mid-July and then they took their usual mid summers break. But as we moved into the first 10 days of September even cobia turned back on until the season ceased and Virginia on September 15.

The Spanish mackerel didn't show up quite as early as they did in 2021, but when they arrived it was a game on for most of two straight months. I know many anglers who caught citation Spanish mackerel and some real nice fish we're being caught daily. Some of the charter boats in the Middle Bay reported catches up over 100 fish in a 4-hour trip.



## Member Spotlight

### TERRY MEDHURST

**Cover story** - Terry was born in Kent, England. He was first exposed to fishing as a boy as he liked to ride his bike to nearby canals and catch roach, eels, and rudd. Then graduated to catching pike and carp near Suffolk in the extensive area of long canals. Carp tourneys were popular. Later, Terry graduated to kayak fishing along the North Sea coast. Popular species were cod, pollack, etc.

Terry moved to Stafford, VA in 2009 with the same company from his work in the UK. While living in Stafford, Terry began to enjoy fresh water bass fishing in the Potomac. He joined the Potomac Bass Masters club and eventually won angler of the year with his fishing partner. 12 tourneys/year. Terry later moved to Burgess in 2021. They built a nice home here on the Great Wicomico. Terry has a wife and a 30 year old daughter in Virginia Beach.

Terry started bay fishing at that time. He owns a beautiful Steiger Craft cabin boat. A successful Internet search pointed him to NNAC!

Favorite fish: tarpon in Florida.  
Grail fish: permit.



We also had some club members who caught 40 to 50 in a morning. As we all know, they are a lot of fun and are great table fare.



Earl knows ribbonfish!

It's hard to talk about Spanish mackerel without mentioning red drum in the same sentence. Show many red drum or catch while trolling for Spanish mackerel and in an inordinately large number of red drum are also lost to tackle night quite being up to the task. Everybody has a red drum brake off now and then went fishing for Spanish. You just have to up your game when talking about leaders, terminal tackle etc. And let's face it, Drone and Clark spoons in the small sizes just aren't usually up to the task of landing a 45-pound red drum. Rings, hooks, leaders and even ball bearing swivels break when that golden big boy is on the line.

But a lot of our club members know how to catch them without trolling and if you have some spot,

you can find them over structure, and they are a blast. Yes, we have to release those fish, but they are special and they deserve to go back in the water. We know that and we still love to catch them.





And thank goodness, with the water starting to cool down, the cobia bite, while not quite as good as it was earlier in the year, did turn on and some of our members were able to catch a couple of nice ones before the end of the season on 9/15.

But for those of you with 2022 cobia permits, make sure you go into your saltwater journal and log at least one trip or if you did not fish log that as well. If you don't, you won't get a free 2023 cobia permit from

VMRC. And that's bad because we have great cobia fishing in our favorite part of the bay!

### Club News

Our next member club meeting is Saturday September 24, 7 PM at the Wicomico Parrish Church.

**Guest Speaker:** Wayne Young



We have a great treat in store for Saturday night. Wayne Young is an author and authority on many fishing subjects in the Chesapeake but one of his best and favorite talks are on

the wrecks and reefs of the Chesapeake Bay. He has tailored a talk just for us focusing on our Northern Neck area of the Chesapeake Bay. You will learn a ton and bring your notebook. Wayne will give you lat/longs for all structure on the bottom in our area! This is a tremendous way to close out our meetings for 2022 and I expect a great number of you will not want to miss this! Check him out on Amazon and note his books. He will also have some available for sale at the meeting.





Also at the upcoming meeting, I have asked each of our board members to bring us their ONE favorite bay fishing lure. The request here went like this: “If you could fish with one lure and one lure only in the Chesapeake and its tributaries, during the entire year, what would you use?” Note I asked them to bring an artificial bait, not shrimp, not blood worms, not eels, not squid.....

I think we will love seeing what they bring. I can guess most of them and I’m sure we will get a couple of duplicates. But it’s a great insight as to what these guys use as their go to lure for many different species!

So, you can see we have a super finale meeting planned for 2022. Our meetings are open to members, guests, and prospective members. And if you join now, even though we are nearing the end of 2022, you get all of our newsletters for the remainder of the year, AND you get a complete membership for 2023. How can you beat that?

## Tournament Updates

The following are the standings as of the writing of this newsletter from the Grab Bag Tournament. There were no entries for trophy red drum. Check the club website for all the tournament details.

### Grab Bag Tournament Results

#### Spanish Mackerel Division

Place	Angler	Entry
1	Earl Pierotti	3 lbs. 0 oz.
2	Robin Cunningham	2 lbs. 14 oz.
3	Stuart McKenzie	2 lbs. 6 oz.
4	Tom Smith	1 lbs. 9 oz.
5	Jan Jamrog	1 lbs. 9 oz.
6	Carl Brown	1 lbs. 7 oz.
7	Tom Hedgpeth	1 lbs. 6 oz.

#### Bluefish Division

Place	Angler	Entry
1	Earl Pierotti	3 lbs. 0 oz.
2	Robin Cunningham	2 lbs. 3 oz.
3	Tom Smith	1 lbs. 13 oz.
4	Carl Brown	1 lbs. 10 oz.

5	Stuart McKenzie	1 lbs. 7 oz.
6	Jan Jamrog	1 lbs. 6 oz.
7	Tom Hedgpeth	1 lbs. 3 oz.

Congratulations to all the members that participated in the tournaments. Thanks to all our tournament sponsors and weigh stations for their continued support for the club and its members.

Next month is the club’s Octoberfest tournament. Targeted species are Speckled Trout, Rockfish, and Puppy Drum.

## Fishing Reports

We try to keep you updated as to species availability, techniques, success stories, gleaned from our membership group each month. It’s a way to personalize phishing information to our locale and in most cases include updates from members you may know well. But if you were not subscribing to Lennie Rudow’s online fishing magazine, you should. They do print copies which are available in many locales throughout our area, but they are always available online and they are worth a read for sure. They categorize our Northern Neck area as the lower bay which perhaps it is, but I think of it more in terms of a “mid lower bay report”.

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

**Cobia** – The season has ended for Cobia. Brian Mcmenamin and Tom Hedgpeth were fishing with Capt. Zak Hoffman for big Red Drum at the CBBT when a huge school of big Cobia (50” +) moved in. Both Red Drum and Cobia were devouring live bunkers during the frenzy.



**Spanish Mackerel / Bluefish** – There are still plenty of Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish out there. Clarkspoons and Drone spoons are the baits of choice. Tangier area and the NNK Reef are hotspots.

**Trout and Puppy Drum** – Trout and puppy drum are beginning to catch fire. Members have reported a several trout in the 16” – 24” range are being caught in the early morning and evening. MirrOlures and soft plastics were the preferred baits fished around Submerged Aquatic Grasses (SAV) in up to 5’ of water. Same with puppy drum.



## Tackle Box

Most members reading our newsletters know that we are really high on Mirrolure baits for trout, redbfish, and rockfish/stripers. We like them so much that we sent Mirrolure three of our own designs in early 2022 and they built them for us. All 1800 baits quickly sold out. We will be doing that again and they will be available during our daylong seminar in April 2023.



One thing I always wanted was a Mirrolure that could fish deeper than their standard offerings. Most of their baits that I was familiar with are either top water or run within 2 to 3 feet of the surface. But now they have introduced their 28 MR series called “Heavydine”. These will run 5 to 7 feet and enable us to fish deeper when the water cools further. I can’t wait to be fishing these in late October and November.

One of our sponsors, Horn’s Ace Hardware in Kilmarnock ordered a good number of these, and I was able to pick some up right away. They are available now.





## Regulation Updates

Virginia Striper Season opens October 4.  
Virginia Cobia season is closed as of September 16.

## Tangier In the News

We all know the forecast for Tangier. Water, water and more water. But there are some forces trying to help and here's an interesting article regarding an update.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/tangier-island-could-get-25-million-to-help-save-shorelines/>

## Boating Safety

Remember when we were complaining about high water temperatures recently? Now that local water temperatures are starting to fall below 80°, the day is coming when we will be rock fishing in water not much higher than the mid-30s. And I don't have to remind you what happens if you go overboard in that water temperature. Now is the time to be thinking about proper late fall and winter fishing gear, fishing with a buddy, double checking your safety systems, all of the above. The Chesapeake takes no prisoners in winter. Hypothermia is real and sadly; statistics say 3 to 4 fishermen will die in the bay this winter because of hypothermia. It's happened to club members and let's not allow that to happen again.

Have a great week and we look forward to a nice turnout and a super meeting on Saturday night. Don't forget, send us some pictures of your fishing successes or anything you see in the media that you think we should share with the general membership.

Fish on!!

Ben Ames  
President  
NNAC



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If you would like to contribute content, photos or suggestions 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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