

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission 2600 Washington Avenue Third Floor Newport News, Virginia 23607

Molly Joseph Ward Secretary of Natural Resources John M.R. Bull Commissioner

## For Immediate Release

November 30, 2016

Annual Meeting of Saltwater Tournament Committee Set

The annual meeting of the Tournament Committee of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, 7 PM, in the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Library, located on the fourth floor of the building. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7 PM and is open to the public.

The meeting will begin with a public comment period to provide anglers an opportunity to address the Committee with their suggestions and concerns relating to the operation and policies of the Tournament's program. Following the public comment period, the Committee will proceed with its formal meeting. The main agenda items will be a review of the 2016 Citation data with a comparison to prior years, review of golden tilefish registrations in the second year since adding this species to the list of eligible species and results from the reduction of the minimum qualifying weight from 7 pounds to 6 pounds for summer flounder.

The Tournament Committee meets at least annually to review and set minimum qualifying weights and lengths for species eligible in the State's popular recognition program. Additionally the Committee can consider changes to the Tournament's rules regarding Citations and State records at this time.

For more information, contact Lewis S. Gillingham, Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 2600 Washington Avenue, Third Floor, Newport News, VA 23607, (757) 491-5160, <u>vswft@mrc.virginia.gov</u>. Or visit the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's website at <u>www.mrc.virginia.gov</u>.