



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2014

Special Meeting of Saltwater Tournament Committee Set

A special meeting of the Tournament Committee of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held Tuesday, February 18th at 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, 7 PM, in the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's meeting room, located on the fourth floor of the building. The meeting was scheduled in response to a significant number of requests for the Committee to reconsider their decision, made during their annual meeting in November 2013, to eliminate the multiple tiers of the Master Angler Program as originally designed. The multiple tier design was modeled after a similar and popular program run by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The meeting will begin with a public comment period, providing anglers an opportunity to address the Committee with their suggestions and concerns relating to the operation and policies of the Master Angler Program. Following the public comment period, the Committee will deliberate the merits and drawbacks of the original Master Angler Program and consider modifying their November decision. At the discretion of the Committee the public may be given time for additional comments.

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 and any other of its associated recognition programs. Written comments will be accepted until 5 PM, February 18th and provided to the Committee at the start of their meeting at 7 PM.

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

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