

For Immediate Release
December 8, 2015

Annual Meeting of Saltwater Tournament Committee Set

The annual meeting of the Tournament Committee of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held Tuesday, December 15th 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 the introduction of two new Committee members and will be followed immediately by 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 introduction and public comment period, the Committee will proceed with its formal meeting. The main agenda items will be a review of the 2015 Citation data with a comparison to prior years and consideration of a request to require all release Citations, whenever a minimum measured length is specified, be required to submit a clear side view photo of the fish on a measuring device clearly showing the length of the fish, in addition to having a witness of the catch sign-off on the Citation form. Currently only in those unusual situations where an angler is fishing alone, and no witness to the citation catch is available, is a photograph of the catch required.

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, vswft@mrc.virginia.gov. Or visit the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's website at www.mrc.virginia.gov.