



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

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For Immediate Release

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Annual Meeting of Saltwater Tournament Committee Set

The annual meeting of the Tournament Committee of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held Thursday, November 15th at 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, 6 PM, in the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Library, located on the fourth floor of the building. The meeting is scheduled to start at 6 PM and the public is encouraged to attend.

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 2018 Citation data with a comparison to prior years. Specifically the Committee will consider modifying Citation qualifying criteria for spadefish but may consider other changes to the Program. Additionally the Virginia Marine Resources Commission made changes to how saltwater fish are measured for regulatory purposes in August 2018. The Committee will consider if the section in the Tournament's Rules that defines how a fish should be measured for Citation purposes needs to be modified and how this may affect release Citation specifications. Also the agency will be moving to Fort Monroe in early 2019, where less space will be available for storage. One change will be the retention of the original Citation forms will be limited to three years rather than five years to conserve storage space at the new location. Additional considerations will need to be made due to space constraints.

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.

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