



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, December 7th 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 2017 Citation data with a comparison to prior years and discussion of the "legality," in terms of Citation and state record eligibility, of using power assist gear for day time deep-dropping for swordfish, including some instances where the same reel with power assist would be disengaged and used to fight the fish. A committee member has also requested the Committee consider the possibility of a name change for the Tournament.

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

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