



PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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New MSSA Director Will Focus on Kids' Fishing

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(PASADENA, MD) - September marks the official retirement of longtime Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association's (MSSA) Executive Director Rich Novotny. The organization, geared towards protecting the rights of recreational fishermen in the state, will now be headed up by David Smith of Towson, MD. Smith has been with the MSSA as Associate Executive Director since March of 2008 and shares Novotny's commitment and passion for the organization and its goals.

Smith came to the MSSA with a strong political background that previously housed him in Washington D.C. and an appreciation of the outdoors. He immediately put his talents to work for the MSSA as he sits on the Fisheries Task Force, attends all Sport Fish Advisory meetings, and makes himself visible in the halls of Annapolis and other fisheries management venues.

The MSSA's goals, values, and objectives are steadfast and will always be at the core of everything the MSSA does, according to Smith. There is however, always room for growth he says. Smith intends to explore ideas that will take the organization to new heights.

Smith says he is passionate about the MSSA's goal to educate younger generations and build interest in recreational fishing. Most MSSA Chapters currently hold kids' fishing events and in fact the MSSA hosts the most kids fishing events in the state. Smith hopes to find ways to provide those chapters more support to grow their events. "If we don't get the kids involved in recreational fishing, the sport has a grim future," he said.

The MSSA has a long history of representing and fighting for the recreational and sport fishermen of Maryland. Smith intends to provide an even stronger voice for the members of MSSA and increase membership over the next few years. "We are a strong and passionate group of individuals and if you are a fishermen or are interested in protecting our fisheries, you must become a MSSA member", Smith says.

MSSA hosts monthly chapter meetings throughout the state where members and non-members can share their stories and learn from top professionals. These meetings provide Smith with first-hand knowledge of the issues and concerns of fishermen here in Maryland.

For more information on the MSSA visit www.mssa.net or call the main office at 410-255-5535