



**Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association**  
8461 Ft. Smallwood Rd, Suite C, Pasadena, MD 21122 - 410-255-5535 - [www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)

## **MSSA Fall Classic Rockfish Tournament Lures Anglers to Bay**

*Tippet Wins \$45,466 for 41.35 Pound Rockfish*

Anglers from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region tested their skills on the Chesapeake Bay as the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Classic, the largest fall rockfish tournament on the Bay, November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 2012.

More than 800 anglers on 220 boats attempted to catch a citation striper that would take home a share of almost \$80,000 in prize money and possibly bragging rights as the 2012 MSSA Captain of the Year. During the two day tournament participants were able to fish their favorite hot spots throughout the Bay and its tributaries as the MSSA and its volunteers had 8 weigh stations set up from Sandy Point to Point Lookout.

“This tournament, like the others in our Series, lures anglers from Maryland and other states on the East Coast to the Bay and gives our local communities a little boost, and of course gives our members one last chance to participate in this great fishery before the season ends,” said Dave Smith, Executive Director of the MSSA.

Lee Tippet, captain of the Fin Finder II, Andrew Turner & crew took home more than \$45,000 with their 41.35 pound rockfish. Fishing out of Solomons, Lee and crew caught the tournament winner near the Hooper’s Island Light (72B Buoy) late morning on the first day of the tournament.

Second place went to Jeff Probst, Mike Turner & Bill Turner with their 40.90 pound rockfish caught at Bloody Point in 70 feet of water on a chartreus umbrella rig at 7:30 AM on Saturday & checked-in at Chesapeake Beach. The three anglers all from Stevensville, Maryland and fishing at Bloody point will split \$14,640 in prize money.

Third place went to Rick Heck fishing at the 78 Buoy and catching a 40.60 pound striper on a white bucktail in 45 feet of water also around 7:30 AM on Saturday. Rick and his crew will split \$9,760 for their third place finish.

Other prize winners included Bob Blasetti & Reggie Forgan who won \$5,452 with their 35.75 pound rockfish caught on Sunday which took fourth place overall and second place in the \$150 & \$200 Tournaments Within A Tournament (TWTs).

Sam Fisher, 2011 MSSA Captain of the Year, won more than \$3,500 with his 35.10 pound striper caught in the Potomac on a white parachute rig at 11:00 AM on Sunday that placed fifth in the overall tournament and third place in the \$150 & \$200 TWTs.



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John Weber of Bushwood, Maryland and Kevin McMenamin of Annapolis, Maryland each won \$500 for the daily "All MSSA Crew Bonus" prizes. John & his all MSSA member crew of John Weber, Jr., Austin Davis & Kyle Weber caught a 25.20 pound rockfish winning Saturday's bonus. Kevin and his son Drew took ninth place in the overall tournament with their 33.30 pound striper which won them Sunday's bonus.

This was the final event in the 2012 MSSA Tournament Series which also consists of the Championship on the Chesapeake spring rockfish tournament, which is the largest rockfish tournament in the country, as well as, the offshore Tuna-Ment and new Beach & Boat flounder tournament both held during the summer.