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Tournament Anglers Helping Local Charity

MSSA and the Light House Team-Up During the 31st Championship on the Chesapeake

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) – The world’s largest striped bass tournament, hosted by the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA), is partnering with a non-profit in Annapolis to fight hunger while educating its clients in the culinary arts. The Light House organization provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, food, clothing and related support services to the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.

The MSSA is the largest Sportfishing organization in the Mid-Atlantic region with over 7,000 members and is known statewide as Maryland’s Sportfishing Advocates. The 31st annual *Championship on the Chesapeake*, the world’s largest striped bass tournament, regularly draws over 500 boats and nearly 3,000 anglers. From Maine to Florida, anglers from the Atlantic states descend on Maryland to test their skills on the Chesapeake Bay and have a chance at winning some big money. Winners of *The Championship* regularly take home over \$50,000 in cash.

This year the MSSA and Light House will be working together to take advantage of recreational anglers natural generosity and provide fresh fish for the homeless and less fortunate. Not only will the fish provide much needed meals, but it will also be used as a training tool for its Culinary Art students looking to gain full time employment in restaurants around the state.

“MSSA has a long history of working in communities throughout Maryland on several levels using fishing as a vehicle to help others. This seemed like a natural fit and we are excited about the The Light House’s involvement”, said Executive Director Dave Smith.

The MSSA has 11 weigh stations located throughout the Chesapeake Bay and will rely on its members and weigh station staff to collect fish and transport it to the Light House facility located in Annapolis.

Pam Siemer, Director of Development said, “We are grateful to MSSA for choosing The Light House as a partner. Our goal is to end the cycle of homelessness. Our Culinary Arts program trains people who are homeless or risk at becoming homeless so they can gain sustainable employment and ultimately permanent housing. Additionally, The Light House provides 95,000 meals annually to those in our community who are in need. MSSA’s donation will go a long way to help.”

For more information and to donate to Light House visit www.annapolislighthouse.org or contact Pam Siemer
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MSSA Mission: Protecting and Preserving the Rights, Traditions, and Future of Recreational Fishing