



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

8461 Ft. Smallwood Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122 | 410-255-5535 | www.mssa.net

2014 Champion Takes Home \$63,000

48 Pound Rockfish Wins 31st Annual Championship on the Chesapeake

May 10, 2014

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) - The world's largest striped bass tournament, the 31st annual *Championship on the Chesapeake*, concluded May 4th with 470 boats and nearly 3,000 anglers. The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association's (MSSA) annual event lures in anglers from all over the Mid Atlantic to compete for their share of the nearly \$200,000 in cash and prizes.

This year's *Champion* is Gene Walker of Westminster, Maryland. Walker and longtime tournament angler Jesse McGuinness teamed up and checked in a magnificent striped bass on the first day of the tournament measuring 49 inches and weighing 48.8 pounds. Walker wisely entered every tournament within the tournament (TWT's) taking first place in all, earning him \$62,338.

Second place went to Brad Emerson of Hanover, Pennsylvania with his 47.65 pound striped bass. Emerson and his crew also placed in several skill levels bringing his total winnings to \$6,106.

Third place went to Andrew Wendell of Gibson Island, Maryland for catching a 47.15 pound striped bass. Wendell and his crew placed 2nd and 3rd in numerous TWT's bringing his total winnings to \$26,830.

Gary McQuitty took home \$12,435 for his 4th place finish and placing in multiple TWT's. McQuitty weighed in a beautiful 46.95 pound striped bass on the second day of the tournament.

The Championship is considered to be the "people's" tournament as it is designed to be convenient and enjoyable for recreational anglers. The MSSA and its volunteers man 11 weigh stations throughout the bay, both Eastern and Western shores; from Sandy Point State Park to Point Lookout State Park, and everywhere in between. Many of the boats fish south where Solomon's Island and the surrounding area is consumed by Sportfishing enthusiasts looking to catch a Trophy striped bass and some cash.

"Not only does this tournament provide our anglers with a chance at some great prizes, it gives an economic boom to many of the local bay communities. So it's a win win for everyone", said Dave Smith the MSSA Executive Director.

New to this year's tournament was the Kayak Division. This division is unique as it is a Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) tournament. Anglers fishing from a kayak were issued official MSSA rulers to measure and photograph their fish on to be eligible for the \$3,500 in cash. Anglers had to catch, measure, and photograph their catch on the water. Once back home they were to email



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the picture to the MSSA main office before 6:00 P.M. each night. Winners were determined by the aggregate of their two longest fish.

This year's winner was Shane Majewski of Pasadena, Maryland. Shane had a combined length of 58 inches earning him \$2,000. Second place went to Mike Rosa, owner of Snaggedline.com, an online kayak fishing forum. Rosa had a combined length of 55 inches earning him 1,000. And in third place with a combined length of 46.25 inches was Matt Baden. Baden won \$500 for his efforts.

The MSSA used the tournament as means to continue to recruit new demographics to the recreational fishing. This year's tournament again reserved prizes for Youth and Lady Anglers. The Youth Division hosted kids under 16 and a Ladies Division awarded prizes to the winning catches for any female over 16. Both divisions have become very popular in the tournament over the past two years.

The Youth Division was won by Ryan Linetty of Smithsburg, Maryland. Ryan and his sister Alexis weighed in a 34 striped bass and took home a \$100 gift certificate from Alltackle.com. The Youth Division had 10 places with all of the youth anglers receiving gift certificates from Alltackle.com.

The Ladies Division had more than 50 female anglers compete. This year's winner was Donna Nicholson of Linthicum, Maryland as she weighed in a 43.4 pound striped bass, taking home \$500 cash. The Ladies Division also awarded 10 places.

Also included in The Championship are the professionals. The Pro Division consists of Maryland's Charter Boat Captains and is as competitive as any tournament on the Bay. This year's 1st place prize went to Captain David Bailey. Bailey and his crew checked in a 42 pound striped bass securing first place and \$5,050.

Second place went to Derrick Thrappas with his 41.8 pound striped bass earning him \$3,502. Cole Langley placed third with his 40.4 pound fish and earning him \$1,680.

The Championship will return to the Chesapeake Bay in 2015 on May 1-3.

For a complete listing of winners and their prizes you can visit www.mssa.net/standings-results