



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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MSSA Captains of the Year

(PASADENA, MD) - With the 2008 Tournament Series coming to an end the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) would like to announce the winners in each of the "Captain of the Year" categories; Bluewater Captain, Bay Captain, and Overall Captain.

This year was marked with big fish and even bigger payouts. The 25th Spring Rockfish tournament generated the most prize money in MSSA history and once again secured the tournament as one of the best tournaments in the country.

This year was interesting as the "Overall Captain of the Year" and the "Bay Captain of the Year" was neck and neck up until the Chesapeake Bay Fall Tournament. Dale Dirks took 1st place in "Overall Captain of the Year" with 1533.1 points just beating out George Wendling with 1507.55 points. With this win, Dale will earn a free entry into all of the 2009 MSSA tournaments. Third place went to Lee Slagle (1484.31) and fourth place went to James Barbey (1449.8).

"Bay Captain of the Year" showed us that good fishermen that never give up always have a chance. T. J. Pekin came out of nowhere to win the "Bay Captain of the Year" as he pulled in 1098.6 points to capture first place. Pekin will have a free entry into both of the Spring and Fall tournaments next year. Pekin wasn't even in the top 20 after fishing the Spring tournament with 477 points, but determined to win he fished the Fall tournament and added another 621.6 points to take the trophy. Second place went to Bob Harris with 1085.25 points who never gave up and was 13 points from taking the title. Third place went to Chris Linetty with 1069.1 points.

The "Bluewater Captain of the Year" was also a close race as Kevin McMenemy and Lee Slagle battled it out in the Tuna-Ment and Mar-Va tournaments. As little as 8 points separated these two as the numbers were finalized. Kevin McMenemy took first place with 495.1 points and Lee Slagle finished with 487.4 securing second place. Kevin will be awarded free entries into both the Tuna-Ment" and the 1st Annual Inshore Beach N' Boat tournament held in Ocean City, MD.

The MSSA would like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in any of the four tournaments and hope to see you next year as the race for Captain of the Year begins May 1st, 2009.

2008 OVERALL CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR					
Captain	Spring	Tuna-Ment	Mar-Va	Fall	Total
Dale Dirks	470.30	393.30	153.30	516.20	1533.10
George Wendling	462.75	293.40	164.40	587.00	1507.55
Lee Slagle	478.01	317.60	169.80	518.90	1484.31
James Barbey	493.30	237.60	233.90	485.00	1449.80

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2008 BAY CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR			
Captain	Spring	Fall	Total
T. J. Pekin	477.00	621.60	1098.60
Robert Harris	487.15	598.10	1085.25
Christopher Linetty	494.10	575.00	1069.10
Mark Bystery	454.70	613.40	1068.10

2008 BLUEWATER CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR			
Captain	Tuna-Ment	Mar-Va	Total
Kevin McMenamin	305.40	189.70	495.10
Lee Slagle	317.60	169.80	487.40
James Barbey	237.60	233.90	471.50
George Wendling	293.40	164.40	457.80

2008 FALL TOURNAMENT - TOP TEN	
Captain	Points
Steve Scrivener	668.70
John Kier	632.20
Andrew Turner	631.10
Joseph Kapral	626.30
Mike Schmidt	622.30
T. J. Pekin	621.60
Mark Bystery	613.40
Tom Bryne	610.40
Gary Kaetzel	605.20
Robert Harris	598.00

Sincerely,
 Dave Smith
 Associate Executive Director
 Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association