

Patch

Boston, MA

Mimi Huckins | August 18, 2021

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From left to right: Front Row: Qalid Hassan of South Boston and Jason Rundle of Allston. Back Row: Danny Nguyen of Dorchester, Aidan Hanev of Holbrook, Mary Kate Hart of South Boston, Treyvon Morning of South Boston, Julian Naggy of Dorchester, McRae Weiderer of South Boston, and Kasey Corra of West Roxbury.

On Tuesday, August 10, 34 teens from Save the Harbor's Youth Environmental Education Programs spent the morning fishing for (and catching!) striped bass in the cool, clean waters of Boston Harbor at the 10th Annual Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Youth Fishing Derby at Fan Pier Marina in South Boston's Seaport District.

"This event is one of the highlights of the summer for the Boston area high school students we employ to help lead our free youth and beach programs each year," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini. "They work hard to help us share Boston's spectacular harbor all summer long. Today is a chance for them to enjoy it for themselves."

"This event is about more than just fishing," said tournament host Ann

Lagasse of Fan Pier Marina. "It is about actually catching fish on one of the cleanest harbors in the nation. It is great to see so many young winners on the dock at Fan Pier."

According to Save the Harbor's Director of Strategy & Communications Bruce Berman, who organized the tournament from his boat "Verandah", recent changes to regulations designed to protect the larger spawning age female fish, which can carry half a million eggs, made this year's tournament better for the fish and for the anglers.

"Rather than targeting big striped bass as we have in the past" said Berman, "this year we focused on safely releasing bigger fish and catching fish in the new slot limit, bigger than 28 inches but smaller than 35 inches in length overall. Though we couldn't keep any "trophy fish" this year there

were plenty of fish for everyone. It is an important first step towards making this iconic fishery sustainable for future generations."

Each of the captains who donated their boats for the tournament received gift packages of wasabi, soy sauce and ponzu to make sashimi, as well as garlic, lime and sriracha hot sauce to make a spicy ceviche at the start of the tournament, and a case of Harpoon Beer when they returned to the dock for lunch and an award ceremony at Fan Pier.

"Salt water, sunshine and fishing are the perfect recipe for a great day on the water," said Berman. Thanks to everyone who took part and helped make this great event a success."