

29th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

DOVER (June 12, 2015) – Warm breezes and sun after a light morning shower greeted 175 young anglers and their families who gathered Saturday, June 6 at three Delaware ponds for DNREC’s 29th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament. All fish caught in the tournament were weighed and released, as young anglers got a first-hand lesson in conservation.

The New Castle County location, Lums Pond in Bear, drew 81 children and young teens casting lines, while at Kent County’s Wyoming Pond, 23 youngsters turned out. Sussex County reeled in 71 young anglers at Ingrams Pond in Millsboro. Fish species caught included catfish, white perch, yellow perch, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, carp, golden shiner and pumpkinseed.

When the day was done, 13-year-old Kelly Phillips of Frankford came out as overall statewide winner, as well as the Sussex County winner, with fish weighing in at a total of 4.08 pounds.

The biggest fish of the day – all of them largemouth bass – were caught by: Shelly Mutschler, age 9, of Seaford, 2.5 pounds; Katrina Wigmore, age 10, of Smyrna, 1.41 pounds; and Anthony Sylvestro, age 11, of Pennsville, N.J., 2.34 pounds.

The smallest fish of the day were caught by: Jonathan Pollock, age 7, of Middletown, 0.019-pound sunfish; Steven Swann, age 15, of Dover, 0.02-pound bluegill; and Autumn Tice, age 14, of Milford, 0.03-pound mummichog.

The winners received fishing rods and tackle boxes as well as trophies, and all participants received prizes. This year’s county winners and the overall statewide winner will be invited to a special trophy presentation by Delaware Governor Jack Markell on Governor’s Day, Thursday, July 30 at the 2015 Delaware State Fair in Harrington.

New Castle County

At Lums Pond in New Castle County, Elise Britton, age 11, of Middletown, was the day’s overall winner with a total of 3.07 pounds of fish. Other New Castle County winners, by age group and total weight of fish caught, were:

Ages 4 through 7

First place – Jonathan Pollock, age 7, of Middletown, 1.74 pounds

Second place – Tyler Trzonkowski, age 6, of Middletown, 1.43 pounds

Third place – Olivia Nunez, age 7, of Elkton, Md., 1.25 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Ava Britton, age 11, of Middletown, 3.06 pounds

Second place – Anthony Silvestro, age 11, of Pennsville, N.J., 2.54 pounds

Third place – Sophia Douglas, age 9, of Bear, 2.39 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Tohn Borgigin, age 13, of Middletown, 2.78 pounds

Second place – Kaliyah Weldin, age 14, of Bear, 2.52 pounds

Third place – Laurel Hossler, age 15, of Smyrna, 2.38 pounds

Kent County

At Wyoming Pond in Kent County, 10-year-old Katrina Wigmore of Smyrna caught the biggest fish of the day as well as finishing as the overall county winner with 1.41 pounds of fish. Other Kent County winners, by age group and total weight of fish caught, were:

Ages 4 through 7

First place – Carly Clevens, age 4, of Middletown, 1.36 pounds

Second place – Mary DiBona, age 4, of Clayton, 0.52 pounds

Third place – Addie DiBona, age 5, of Clayton, 0.30 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Ethan Couch, age 9, of Laurel, 1.21 pounds

Second place – M.J. Greco, age 10, of Dover, 0.86 pounds

Third place – Peyton Timmons, age 10, of Dover, 1.04 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Jordan Brown, age 12, of Delmar, 1.22 pounds

Second place – Steven Swann, age 15, of Dover, 0.20 pounds

Third place - no entrants

Sussex County

In addition to Sussex County and statewide winner Kelly Phillips, other Sussex County winners at Ingrams Pond, by age group and total weight of fish caught, were:

Ages 4 through 7

First place – Luke Hitchens, age 7, of Dagsboro, 1.54 pounds

Second place – Kylie Henry, age 5, of Chadds Ford, Pa., 1.04 pounds

Third place - no entrants

Honorable mention – Brayden Stewart, age 2, of Georgetown, 1.66 pounds

Ages 8 through 11

First place – Camrin Croney, age 9, of Ocean View, 2.54 pounds

Second place – Shelly Mutschler, age 9, of Seaford, 2.52 pounds

Third place – Andrew Wertz, age 8, of Lewes, 2.16 pounds

Ages 12 through 15

First place – Dylan Fodi, age 14, of Millsboro, 1.89 pounds

Second place – Jamin DePasquale, age 14, of Millsboro, 1.30 pounds

Third place – Robert Thompson, age 13, of Millsboro, 1.15 pounds

The Youth Fishing Tournament was established to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and to teach the catch-and-release approach to conservation. The free tournament, held annually in June, is open to youth ages 4 through 15. For more information on the Youth Fishing Tournament, please call 302-739-9913.

This program is part of Delaware's Children in Nature Initiative, a statewide effort to improve environmental literacy in Delaware, create opportunities for children to participate in enriching outdoor experiences, combat childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles. Delaware's multi-agency initiative, which partners state and federal agencies with community organizations, is part of the national No Child Left Inside program.