



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

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8th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby set for April 14

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Saipan Fishermen's Association (SFA) is pleased to inform the general public that the 8th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby will set sail on Saturday (April 14), from Smiling Cove Marina. The derby will start promptly at 6 a.m. and will conclude at 5 p.m. the same day.

Organizers expect between 30 to 40 boats and over 100 anglers from Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam to participate in the annual event. Trolling will be employed for the event, where top prizes in five different categories are at stake. First to fifth place finishers will be recognized in the Mahi category.

The registration fee is \$100 for one captain and three crewmen, with \$25 assessed for each additional angler. Pre-registration is set for Friday (April 13) from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station. Derby officials from the SFA will briefly explain the rules and regulations of the competition.

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at approximately 4 p.m. on Saturday. Event organizers are reminding participants that no catch will be weighed in and entered after the 5 p.m. deadline. The awards party will immediately take place after the derby at Smiling Cove Marina from 6-9 p.m.

At last year's derby, the Carmelita made away with the \$1,000 first place purse after beating out runner-up Gizelle, which reeled in a mahi tipping the scales at 26.40 lbs. Skipper Ig Sang Kwon and anglers Henry Hofschneider and Frank Diaz pocketed \$600 for their effort. Boat San Juan III, with skipper Antonio Maestro and lone crewman John San Nicolas, weighed in a 25.40-lb fish, landing them third place and \$400. Placing in fourth was vessel Nikita Ann, which lured in a 22.80-lb mahi for skipper Jess Taitano and anglers Merylyn Taitano and Jess Taitano, Jr. The team went home with \$300. Landing in fifth place was The Marianas skippered by Jess Muna with anglers Isidro Sablan and Pete Guerrero. Their 21.25-lb mahi won them \$200.

Interested applicants may pick up the 8th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby registration forms, rules & regulations and schedule of events at the Marianas Visitors Authority office, Best Fishing, and the Fishing Tackle. This year's derby is also supported by MARPAC, Mobil Oil, Docomo Pacific, the National Park Service, and the Dept. of Public Safety.

For more information about the 8th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby, you can visit the website at www.sfacnmi.com or contact Frank Tudela at MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01 or via e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com. A fact sheet is also downloadable on the Marianas Visitors Authority Calendar of Events at www.mymarianas.com.

SFA is also planning for the 28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, set for July 14-15, 2012.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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