



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**BALAN RULES ROTA CLIFF FISHING DERBY**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Thirty-eight fishermen from Guam, Saipan and Rota joined last weekend's 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby, an annual signature event of the Northern Mariana Islands organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the municipality of Rota.

Top honors this year in the Biggest category went to Melecio Balan, Jr. of Rota for his 8.01-lb. bluefin trevally. He was followed by Xerxes Camacho with a 5.37-lb. needle fish, Michael Dechaves with a 4.62-lb. blackspot snapper, and Richard Taisacan with a 3.88-lb. bluefin trevally.

Balan also topped the Most Weight Category, bringing in 31.20 lbs. He was followed by Olen Jacob (28.96 lbs.), Reynaldo Castillo (24.47 lbs.), and Camacho (23.37 lbs.).

Jacob also topped the Most Variety category with 27 species, followed by Balan (24), Rio Cayetano (21), and Camacho (19).

“The derby went off without a hitch, and everyone had a good time,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We're extremely grateful to all the sponsors for supporting this year's event.”

The derby was held from Friday (July 27) evening until 12 p.m. on Sunday (July 29) at As Matmos, Malilok, and Pona Point. The event was co-sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office,

Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, and Ambros Inc.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top four finishers in the categories of Biggest Fish and Total Weight (\$600 first place, \$300 second place, \$200 third place, and \$100 fourth place). The top four finishers in the Most Variety category received in-kind donations from Ambros Inc. Organizers are already looking ahead to next year's event and are hoping for an even larger turnout at the next Rota Cliff Fishing Derby, set for July 26-29, 2013.



Melecio Balan, Jr., second from right, won top honors at the 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby for Biggest fish and Most Weight. He received \$1,500 in combined prizes at the awards ceremony on July 29, 2012, at Rota Round House. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas, Acting Director of DL&R Rota Francisco Manglona, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Balan, and Rota Municipal Council Chairman George Hocog.

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 and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from

Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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