

# **DELAWARE DUD**

**Submitted by: Nick Angiulo**

The Delaware River's reputation for bass fishing is dubious, at best, especially during the summer months. However, based on the surprisingly good results from a recent major bass tour event held there, the New Jersey Bass Federation anglers who fished in the fourth event of the season held there on August 17, 2014 were undoubtedly cautiously optimistic. Unfortunately, that optimism did not translate into biting fish as most of the fish on the River were unwilling to cooperate due to having sore mouths from the prior event, the time of the season or some other reason. Regardless, while most anglers struggled under the pleasant summer conditions, some did find enough bites to catapult them to the top of the standings.

## **Boater Division**

Winning his second event of the season in the Boater Division was Dave Piscopo, who hails from Morrisville, Pennsylvania. However, this victory was much different than his earlier season victory at the Susquehanna Flats where he posted an over 18 pound limit of fish. In this event, Piscopo, a member of the Limiters, did not find a limit of fish, but his four fish totaling 8.90 pounds was enough to win the event by over two pounds. Piscopo also posted the Boater Division lunker, a 3.94 pound largemouth. Piscopo's victory also placed him in a solid position to make the 2015 New Jersey State Team as he now sits in 6<sup>TH</sup> place, only one point from 5<sup>TH</sup> place and a Team spot with one event to go. For his Boater Division victory, Piscopo received \$630 as well as an additional \$105 for his Boater Division lunker.

Finishing a distant second with the only five fish limit of the event was Mike Keller. Keller, from Newton, New Jersey and a member of the Blazin Bass, brought 6.80 pounds to the scales. Importantly, his second place finish currently has him sitting in 4<sup>TH</sup> place in the overall yearly standings. For his second place Boater Division finish, Keller received \$462. Third place went to the ever-consistent Darren Pincus. Pincus, who is from Flemington, New Jersey and a member of the Blazin Bass managed three chunky fish weighing 6.21 pounds. He received \$315 for his third place Boater Division finish. Currently, Pincus leads the Angler of the Year standings but is only four points ahead of the second place angler.

## **Co-Angler Division**

The Co-Angler Division proved to be a battle of attrition as most Co-Anglers struggled to post any keeper-sized bass. Winning the event by a mere two ounces was Chris Ferry. Ferry, from Frenchtown, New Jersey and a member of the South Jersey Hawg Hunters managed two hefty Delaware River bass weighing 4.81 pounds, including a 3.43 pounder, which just barely missed taking the Co-Angler lunker prize. For his Co-Angler Division victory, Ferry collected \$570.

Second place was taken by the Federation's Environmental Director, P.J. Bartolotto. Bartolotto, from Bridgewater, New Jersey and a member of the Over the Ridge Bassers, brought two fish weighing 4.69 pounds to the scales. While just

missing out on the top prize, Bartolotto did weigh in a 3.48 pound largemouth which captured the Co-Angler Division lunger prize. He received the \$418 second place Co-Angler Division check and an addition \$100 for his lunger. The third place finisher in the Co-Angler Division showed a glimpse of the potential future of New Jersey bass fishing as 17 year old Kevin Szczech brought two fish to the scales weighing 3.82 pounds. Szczech, from Cranford, New Jersey and a member of the Riggin-N-Jiggin Junior Bassmasters cashed for the first time in a Federation point event and received \$285 for his efforts.

### Miscellaneous Notes

1. Only one angler brought a five fish limit to the scales and only 45 fish totaling just under 82 pounds were weighed in. All but one fish was released alive.
2. Hutchinson Cabinets has graciously sponsored this season's points tournaments where in each event, the Boater and Co-Angler not in the top three with the next highest weights in their Division who **are present at the awards presentation at the end of the weigh-in**, each will receive \$50. In this event, the \$50 was awarded to Mike Hart in the Boater Division and Joe Sodora in the Co-Angler Division.
3. By virtue of being the highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner in the event, Darren Pincus will receive \$120 in Ranger Cup bonus money. The second highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner, Mike Hart, will receive \$100 in Ranger Cup bonus money.
4. All anglers who fish in all five point events will have the opportunity to win bonus money at the fifth and last event of the year, to be held on the Hudson River on October 19. In that regard, in the Boater Division, the first, second and third highest placing finishers in that event who have fished all five events will be eligible to win, in addition to any regular prize money, an additional **\$1,250; \$750 and \$500**, respectively. In the Co-Angler Division, the first, second and third highest placing finishers in that event who have fished all five events will be eligible to win, in addition to any regular prize money, an additional **\$750; \$500 and \$250**, respectively. **Please note that all anglers must have fished all five events exclusively in their respective Divisions to be eligible.**

The listings below are the eligible anglers, by Division:

#### BOATER DIVISION

Nick Angiulo	Dan Ardin	Ronald Bassani
Jim Beatty	Brian Calloway	John Carpenter
Brian Christy	Dave Frost	Bob Gilbert
Daniel Goykhman	Mike Hart	George Hutchinson
Mike Keller	Sean Loll	Derick Olson
Doug Peabody	Darren Pincus	Dave Piscopo
Frank White		

CO-ANGLER DIVISION

Ken Bertles

Mark Donio

Larry Kantrowitz

Daniel Schoneveld

Kevin Szczech

Michael Bingham

Michael Ferise

Armando Lugo

Joe Sodora

Richard White

Steve Brinster

Chris Ferry

Akira Okuyama

Bill Spindler

Mike Wotanowski

5. With one event to go, the overall yearly standings are exceedingly tight. The top five finishers in the overall standings get a spot on the 2015 State Team. Additionally, the top Co-Angler not already in the top five in the overall standings also gets a State Team Spot.