

Kennebec Benefit Pro - Am Tournament

Catch-and-Release Tournament Raises over \$7,000 For Kennebec River Striped Bass Research

For Further Information:
Contact Dave Pecci at
207 442-4851 or
dave@obsessioncharters.com

For Immediate Release

The second annual Kennebec Benefit Pro-Am Striped Bass Tournament, held on Saturday September 15, raised more than \$7,000 to be used exclusively for striped bass research in the Kennebec River.

A total of 41 fly fishermen from Maine to Florida, grouped into 14 teams guided by local captains, caught and released 193 striped bass during the seven-hour tournament. Team Obsession, captained by Dave Pecci of Bath who was also the tournament chairman, won the competition for the largest striper with a 28-inch fish, while Team Orestis, with Jay McGowan of Orr's Island at the helm, took the prize for most stripers with 25 fish.

The smallest fish taken measured just 6.5 inches but was judged to be the most important catch because a striped bass of that size is considered a native fish spawned in the Kennebec River. The juvenile fish was caught and released by Oliver Dominick of Phippsburg, who was a member of Team Gillies & Fallon II.

“The money raised by this event will be used to purchase radio tags that scientists from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) will implant in striped bass in the Kennebec River,” says Dave Pecci. “The striper tagging program will allow the scientists to study the movements of fish in the river system and help us learn more about the Kennebec’s native stock of striped bass.”

The proceeds from this year’s event and last year’s inaugural total nearly \$12,000. “That’s a real commitment by everyone involved to a healthy striped bass population in the Kennebec River,” said Pat Keliher, the director of the DMR’s Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat, who fished in the event. “DMR hears you loud and clear and is most grateful for your support.”

In addition to the fishing, the tournament featured a casting competition as well as raffles and drawings. Prizes and goods sold were donated by local and national businesses and by individual sponsors. The tournament concluded with a riverside cookout and fund raiser. The 3rd annual Kennebec Benefit Pro-Am will be held on September 12 and 13, 2008.

