

The Maryland Department Of Natural Resources
and
The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

Annual Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award



2023 Recipient
Captain Monty Hawkins



Josh Kurtz

Secretary

Department of Natural Resources

Lynn Waller Fegley

Director

Department of Natural Resources,
Fishing and Boating Services

David Sikorski

Chairperson

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

2023 Award Presentation

September 22, 2023

Captain Monty Hawkins,

nominated by

Scott Lenox and CL Marshall

Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award

2023 Recipient

Captain Monty Hawkins



Nominated by Scott Lenox (first of two nominations)

Monty Hawkins is captain of the party boat Morning Star in Ocean City, MD. Captain Monty is also the president of the Ocean City Reef Foundation which is dedicated to the sustained improvement of recreational fishing and diving in Maryland's coastal waters through habitat management, public education and conservation of natural resources. Captain Monty was instrumental in forming the foundation in 1997 and since then has worked tirelessly to enhance the ocean floor off of Maryland's coast, creating reef and wreck systems that thousands of recreational fishermen and divers have come to enjoy. Captain Monty takes material out on every trip and to date has dropped more than 38,000 concrete blocks off the stern of the his Morning Star. Captain Monty is also very vocal and involved with fisheries management challenges and has worked closely with members of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He has incredible knowledge of Maryland's coastal fishing and coastal marine systems and is a valuable steward of fisheries. Captain Monty is admired and respected in the local fishing community and is an ally to fishermen, divers, fisheries managers, elected and appointed officials and most importantly fish.

Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award

2023 Recipient

Captain Monty Hawkins

Nominated by CL Marshall (second of two nominations)

In the Maryland Fishing scene, few have made contributions that approach those that Monty Hawkins of Morning Star Fishing have made. It is impossible to separate his charter business from his ongoing activities in habitat creation, countless volunteer hours with the Ocean City Reef Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Maryland Artificial Reef Foundation, and many more activities which contribute to the overall well-being of Maryland's fishery initiatives.

As a charter captain his approach to natural, shipwrecks, artificial structure, and live bottom is a model of consistency. While fishing with him, it's clear that he operates with the best interest of the fishery at the forefront of his business model as evidenced by his consistent reef building activities and strong ideals toward stewardship of the resources. He serves not only as a charter captain, but an educator to all who crosses his path on the benefits of habitat creation on the overall fishery.

On the conservation side his constant monitoring of catch reports from all across the Mid-Atlantic serve only to keep Maryland's fisheries strong and viable. His constant vigil on all aspects of the bottom fishing scene and overall health of our oceans is refreshing.

These qualities are those which reflect constant achievement over a career, but also will serve as a model for those that tread the same path. For these reasons Monty Hawkins should be this year's recipient of the Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award.

Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award

Past Recipients

2020 - Dr. Kenneth Lewis

2020 - Benard 'Lefty' Kreh (posthumous)

2021 - Robert Wall

2021 - Joseph W. Brooks (posthumous)

2022 - Captain Bruno Vasta

2022 - James 'Jim' Gracie (posthumous)

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

The commission was established to advise the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on matters referred to the commission by the department. The commission is comprised of individuals from across the State who represent the interests of various constituencies in recreational fisheries (and one member represents the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission).

The Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award was established in 2019 by the commission for Maryland-related recreational fisheries. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have provided sustained efforts in habitat management, conservation, education, research, and / or other meaningful contributions that benefit fish and recreational fishing in Maryland. The award is a celebration of conservation, education, and sportsmanship. Thank you to all in attendance today and thank you to all nominators for submitting nominations representing individuals from around the State.



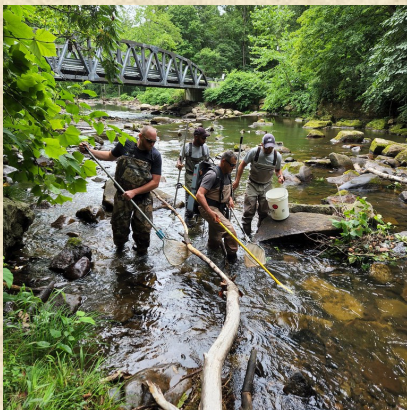
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources

In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and our economy are dependent on the health of our environment. Therefore, we choose to act both collectively and individually to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance our environment for this and future generations.

The Department of Natural Resources leads Maryland in securing a sustainable future for our environment, society, and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources.

Objectives

- Sustainable Populations of Living Resources and Aquatic Habitat
- Healthy Maryland Watershed Lands, Streams and Non-Tidal Rivers
- Natural Resources Stewardship Opportunities for Maryland's Urban and Rural Citizens
- Conserved and Managed Statewide Network of Ecologically Valuable Private and Public Lands
- Diverse Outdoor Recreation Opportunities for Maryland Citizens and Visitors
- Diverse Workforce and Efficient Operations



The Maryland Department Of Natural Resources
and
The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

Annual Maryland Sport Fisheries Achievement Award

