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MAST Academy PTSA Fishing Tournament Winners

The 30 anglers and 14 boats that braved heavy wind and rain to participate in the MAST Academy PTSA's second annual Fishing Tournament hauled in 112 fish on Saturday, April 2.

Trophies for heaviest fish went to David Pearl for a 20-pound kingfish (offshore category), Carlos Garcia for a half-pound mangrove snapper (inshore category) and Brian Garcia for a 9.5-pound snook (land/bridge/no-motor category).

The winning team, based on points awarded for various species caught and released, was Marine 5 (Carlos, Gabriela and Daniel Garcia, Patricia Jimenez and Adam Schertz). Robert McBride took the top prize for MAST staff, Carlos Garcia for adults; Abie Raymond for students and Jason Schmidt for youth. The MAST Class of 2006 won the class trophy and bragging rights for the year.

The Big Fish Story trophy went to Dan Casale for his tale of a broken-down boat in the Keys backcountry. Contestants told fish stories at the poolside awards barbecue following the tournament.

The most fish of any species to be caught were grunts (35), closely followed by snapper (30). The Trail Blazer team (Garcia, Joe Blazejack and Magnus Sodamin) caught six legal-sized snook from the canal bank along the Tamiami Trail in the Everglades. Misael Sabugo caught a sailfish.

Proceeds from the fishing tournament go to MAST Marine Expeditions, a new program in which students will board vessels to perform marine research and learn to navigate and manage a boat.

For more information, or to donate to the new program, call Suzanne Levinson at 305-376-4676.