



Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest Winners Announced

All Committed to Preserving their Waterways for Future Generations

Catching big fish was the theme of the September winners of the Focus On Fish Health photo contest. Sam Barill of Mars, PA; Brian Crockett of Terre Haute, IN; and Lori Poole of Coatesville, PA, won in three categories.

Focus On Fish Health is a public awareness project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) targeting recreational fishing and boating enthusiasts with information to prevent the spread diseases in wild fish. The photos will be featured on the www.FocusOnFishHealth.org website where all of the summer winners can be viewed along with their stories.

Sam Barill's 6 pound, 26 inch large mouth bass was the biggest he'd caught in his lifetime, he said. Fishing in his lightweight kayak on the Glade Run Lakes near Mars, the strong fish spun him and his boat around the water for a few hilarious minutes before Barill was able to reel him in. "Two ladies on the shore were watching me and laughing," he recalled. "They shot the photo for me." His gleeful display of the bass won in the *Happiest Boater on the Lake* category

Brian Crockett with his 8 year old son, Ryland proudly displayed a huge 50 pound blue catfish caught from their new jon boat on the Wabash River in Indiana. It was the second fish of that size he and his family caught this summer. "We just got the boat in the spring and we think it has a lot to do with our success this year," he said. The photo, snapped by Brian's dad, Jim Crockett, won in the *Most Impressive Catch* category. The Crocketts, who live in Terre Haute, are avid hunters and fishermen.

Pretty little RaShae Poole of Coatesville, PA, proudly displays the big trout she reeled in this summer. Photographed with her mother, Lori Poole, the little lady "caught it all by herself," her mom says. The snapshot won in the *Family Fun Boating or Fishing* category

All said they were interested in the USDA sponsored Focus On Fish Health campaign because they are concerned about preserving and protecting the environment where they enjoy their sport. They are carefully to buy live bait only from certified dealers, none would ever transfer fish or plants from one body of water to another and all wash their boats and equipment after use.

The Focus On Fish Health photo contest will resume in May of 2011 and run through August 2011. Contestants can submit photos at www.FocusOnFishHealth.org to enter. Winners will receive a Focus On Fish Health duffle bag and their photos will be displayed on www.FocusonFishHealth.org.

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