

DERBY GIVES KIDS A FUN EDUCATION

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Competitors enjoyed equal parts fun and education during the Fishing Derby for Kids 2015 held at the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Asan on Saturday.

The derby, open to kids ages 7-12, had champions for most fish caught, longest fish and longest triggerfish. The derby was for rod-and-reel fishing. The children had two hours to catch as many fish from the shore as they could.

"It's a fun-filled day but we also incorporate skills and education," Matthew Sablan, acting director of the Department of Agriculture, said. "There's two phases: the ability to learn the fishing techniques like casting the line, reeling in the reel; the other part is the education part of it — catch and release."

The derby was held in a protected area so anything in the 37 competitors caught, they unhooked, measured and threw back. The triggerfish was selected as the catch of the day because it's plentiful in the waters and helps with conservation.

Alana Lizama, 9, said that was the best part of the day. "Letting the fish go was because it's saving the island," she said.

Lizama, an incoming fifth-grader at Marcial Sablan Elementary School, caught seven



Top finishers in the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Guam Kids' Fishing Derby 2015 received rods, reels and carved trophies after the contest at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Asan on Saturday.

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fish total and won first prize in the triggerfish division by reeling in a 7.2-inch catch.

Top-three finishers in all the divisions were presented with prizes, including a wooden trophy and brand new rod and reel. Lizama also won a tackle box and other prizes. She only started fishing last month and said

she's already gone out 11 times. She got her first fishing pole Friday night to use in Saturday's contest.

Competitors who placed in the top three in more than one division were awarded prizes for their highest finish. Jerico Padilla took first in the most fish division by reeling

in nine. Chloe Lobaton caught seven and Haley Salas caught three.

Roland Manibusan caught the longest fish of the day at 8 inches. Jamias Anderson caught a 7.9-inch fish and Abraham Guerrero II caught one that was 6.2 inches. Lizama finished ahead of



Photos Online

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Cyle Sarmiento, 6.4 inches, and Chelsea Cruz, 6 inches, in the longest triggerfish category.

The derby has been held annually for about 20 years and is split across two days. Saturday was the first part of the 2015 contest. Part two will be Aug. 29.

The derby is hosted by the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.

Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Fishing Derby for Kids 2015

Most Fish

1. Jerico Padilla, 9
2. Chloe Lobaton, 7
3. Haley Salas, 5

Longest Fish

1. Roland Manibusan, 8.0 inches
2. Jamias Anderson, 7.9 inches
3. Abraham Guerrero II, 6.2 inches

Longest triggerfish

1. Alana Lizama, 7.2 inches
2. Cyle Sarmiento, 6.4 inches
3. Chelsea Cruz, 6.0 inches