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TradeOnlyToday > Industry News > NMMA > ABC 2015: Bill Shedd receives Eddie Smith award

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## ABC 2015: Bill Shedd receives Eddie Smith award

Written by Chris Landry



WASHINGTON — Bill Shedd, president and CEO of AFTCO, the American Fish and Tackle Co., on Tuesday captured the Eddie Smith Manufacturer of the Year Award, which is presented by the Center for Coastal Conservation to leaders in conservation advocacy.

a pioneer and advocate for marine conservation. Shedd was honored at a luncheon at the American Boating Congress.

fishing communities are united like they have never been before in a commitment to influence policy-makers on issues," Shedd told Trade Only after his nine-minute acceptance speech.

"I have been doing this for 40 years and I think the boating and

"There is misperception here in Washington, D.C., as to just who our community is," Shedd said. "In many ways we are looked at as the takers of the resource — the negative guys toward the resource — and the environmental community is

"Major fisheries conservation efforts can be traced back to the boating and fishing communities, including gill net bans that revived fish stocks, the building of saltwater hatcheries and tens of thousands of artificial reefs, the striped bass conservation effort and the more than \$1 billion that the fishing and boating community spends every year through our excise taxes and license fees that goes to states that help their fishery resource issues," Shedd said. "All [this] was done by the boating and fishing community. None of [it] was done by the

"We have worked for it; we have paid for it; we deserve it," he said. "And with better identification of that title we will be much more effective in our efforts, not just here in Washington, D.C., but in the states, as well."

boating associations — Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association; and Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association for stepping up the cooperation between the two groups.

staffs. "I think it is unique; it is awesome," he said. "All the good that

involved in these battles, we see it; we know it. I would like for us to thank not only the leadership of Mike and Tom, but collectively their staffs for all they are doing for us." Shedd also thanked Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Coastal Conservation. "Jeff's group ... is really the tip of the

Shedd is the son of Milton Shedd, founder of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute and SeaWorld San Diego. Shedd is chairman of its board of directors; a member of the International Game Fish Association's board of trustees, a board member of the Center for Coastal Conservation and the California Artificial Reef Enhancement program; and the winner of the 2014

In 1974, Bill Shedd joined AFTCO, and in 1989 he started the AFTCO Clothing Division. In 2004, Guy Harvey partnered with AFTCO for the manufacture and distribution of all Guy Harvey sportswear.





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leading conservationists.

Shedd gave credit to the leaders of the major fishing and

Shedd cited the challenge of successfully coordinating the

has come from their leadership and their staffs — their staffs have improved tremendously in the past few years. Those of us

spear to present critical messages to folks here in D.C.," Shedd said, citing the many associations that are members, such as ASA, NMMA, IGFA, CCA and the Billfish Foundation. "I have been doing this for 40 years, and this is the most important thing in my mind for our community - to deliver our message. So I would like to thank Jeff for his vision."

Shedd spends more than 500 hours a year providing leadership for the sportfishing community and ocean conservation efforts.

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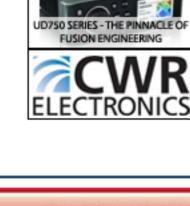
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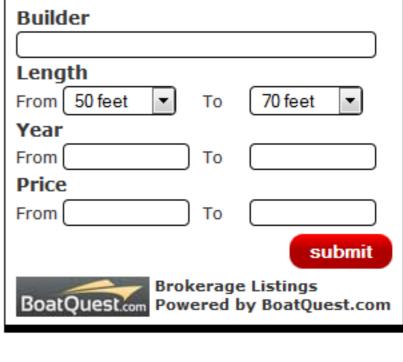
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# Posted on May 13th, 2015

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Eddie Smith Jr. is the longtime owner of Grady-White Boats and

It was brief, but Shedd said a lot in those nine minutes, strongly confirming the boating and fishing industries' growing cooperation and calling for both to take their rightful place as

looked at as the givers of the resource, and they are looked at as the true conservationists. The truth is that is just not accurate."

environmental community." Shedd challenged the boating and fishing communities to "take" back our rightful title."

marine fisheries efforts of separate associations with separate

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May 13, 2015 at 11:46 am

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