

*United by true passion*



## **EFFFA at Fly Casting World Championship 2024**

The seventh edition of the Fly Casting World Championships took place from the 20 to the 24th of August, on Åhus beach, overlooking the Baltic Sea in Sweden.

The Italian national team consisted of ten athletes, four of whom were EFFFA instructors: Michael Menardo, Luca Prono, Valerio Santagostino, and Gigi Rizzo.

The World Championship disciplines included Trout Distance, Sea-Trout Distance, Salmon Distance, Accuracy, Spey 15.1, and Spey 16-18. Additionally, there were various combined categories, i.e. the sum of the best results in the different disciplines, obtained in the qualifications and multiplied by coefficients.

The location, being on the sea, required modular and adjustable pontoons anchored to the beach for the Distance and Accuracy tests. The Spey 15.1 competition took place from a position with knee-deep water, while the Spey 16-18 competition took place on a special aluminum platform.



Valerio Santagostino in the Spey 16-18 final

The weather during the five days of the race was fairly lenient, with a democratic alternation of rain, clouds, and sun. The wind, a constant factor at those latitudes, was managed by orienting the piers to avoid the most unfavorable gusts. The jury only temporarily suspended the tests when the conditions were prohibitive.

Athletes from nine nations (Sweden, Norway, Estonia, USA, Italy, Japan, Spain, UK, and Canada) participated, comprising 40 "senior" men, 12 "veteran" men, 11 women, and two "veteran" ladies.

Our EFFA instructors achieved notable results: a bronze in the Trout distance "veteran" with Luca Prono, a gold in the Spey 15.1 "veteran", a gold in the Spey 16-18 "veteran", a gold in the combo 5-6 "veteran", a silver in the "veteran" Accuracy and two more silver "veteran" combo with Valerio Santagostino.



Luca Prono and his bronze medal in Trout distance



The podium of Spey 15.



Our Master Valerio Santagostino and his six medals