

NEWS RELEASE

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March 12, 2008
Press Release 2008-6

Ready Brothers, Owners of Portland-Based Ready Seafood, Win SBA's National Young Entrepreneur Award

BOSTON - John and Brendan Ready, co-owners of Portland-based Ready Seafood, have been named the U.S. Small Business Administration's **National** 2008 Young Entrepreneur Award winners.

John and Brendan will be honored along with the SBA's other national small business and champion award winners, at a reception ceremony in Washington, D.C., on April 23 during the SBA's National Small Business Week and locally at the Maine Small Business Week awards luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston on May 16, 2008.

"The SBA takes great pride in honoring young entrepreneurs like John and Brendan Ready," said SBA Administrator Steve Preston. "Big dreams, new ideas, perseverance and the willingness to take risks are some of the reasons that these young brothers were selected for this award. They and others like them are not only the future of Maine, but of our country as well."

The Ready brothers were first named the 2008 Maine Young Entrepreneur award winners. They went on to win the New England competition for this award as well, before being named the SBA's National 2008 Young Entrepreneur Award winners by an expert panel of judges.

The SBA presents the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award annually to an individual or individuals who are under the age of 30 and own and operate a small business with a three-year track record. John is 27 and Brendan is 25. Nominations are evaluated on the following criteria: (1) Evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.

(2) Increased employment opportunities created by the nominee's business. (3) Development and/or utilization of innovative or creative business methods and (4) Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth. Stephen R. Edmondson, chapter chair, Portland SCORE nominated John and Brendan for this award.

Ready Seafood, a wholesale marketer of seafood, principally locally-caught lobster, was formed in 2004. The company ships their product to customers throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. John and Brendan recently branched out with "Catch a Piece of Maine" where they sell rights to a designated trap for \$2,995 per year. Customers who have purchased traps receive all the catch from it and can check their status online throughout the season. Go to www.catchapieceofmaine.com.

"Ready Seafood is an amazing success story," said SBA New England Regional Administrator Sandy Blitz. "The Ready brothers are the epitome of entrepreneurs who take risks everyday. We value our partnership with SCORE and are happy that John and Brendan chose the Portland, Maine SCORE chapter to guide them and put them into a position to succeed."