

2013 Lionfish Tournament Sept 14- Oct 13

Rules

1. Registration includes a team of 2 divers who are a lionfish killing team.
2. Register EARLY and attend the Capt. Meeting Sept. 11 at 7:00 PM Valparaiso City Hall and you will receive a lionfish t-shirt donated by the FWC while supplies last
3. Early registrants (NLT Sept 13) will receive 2 entries for each team member, in the consolation prize drawings. Everyone that turns in lionfish but does not place will be eligible to win one of many AWESOME consolation prizes.
4. Registrants after September 13th will only receive 1 entry per team member for the consolation prize drawings.
5. By paying and registering for this tournament, you agree to abide by all rules of the tournament including releasing the Emerald Coast Reef Association and their Board of Directors (BOD) and, all partners and donors from any and all liability for any injuries to your person or property during your participation in any and all activities associated with this lionfish tournament (Including but not limited to: boating, diving, spearfishing, lionfish handling.)
6. By paying and registering for this tournament, you confirm that you are a certified diver.
7. It is the responsibility of each team to register on the FREE ECRA forum so that they will be kept informed of any turn-in location or time changes and, to have a place to ask questions. Go to: www.ecreef.org click on forum, click on register, follow prompts.
8. If you are under 18 years of age, you are ineligible to participate without a parent or guardian providing a signature agreeing that the parent accepts full responsibility for your safety and the safety of your property and agrees that the parent/guardian alone is responsible and liable for any and all injuries to the minor or his property during any and all tournament related activities.
9. Registrations will be accepted through-out the tournament but you must pay & register prior to turning in lionfish for consideration.
10. Registration fees are non-refundable
11. Lionfish must be kept on ice or frozen to keep them in good eating and research condition prior to turn-in. Rotten, obviously old, or freezer burnt lionfish will not be accepted. Lionfish that are severely damaged by the spearing ARE acceptable.
12. Lionfish not consumed at the awards ceremony will be donated for lionfish research.
13. Lionfish counting and measurements will be verified by a member of the Board of Directors of the Emerald Coast Reef Association or a person appointed by a member of the Board.
14. 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes will be determined by the total number of lionfish turned in regardless of size
15. The Don Gaetz Champion of the fishery award has a minimum requirement for winning of 500 lionfish turned in. In the event more than one team turns in 500 lionfish, the team with the greatest number of lionfish will win. In case there is a tie, both teams will get a Don Gaetz Champion of the Fishery Award Plaque and the Grand Prize and 1st prize will be added together and then divided evenly between the winning teams. If 3 teams tie, the 2 place prize will also be added in and the total of all prizes will be split evenly between all three teams and all three teams will receive a Don Gaetz Champion of the

Fishery Award Plaque. Each member of the winning team/teams will get a “Don Gaetz Champion of the Fishery Award Plaque.

16. Lionfish for the largest and smallest category will be measured on a measuring device provided by ECRA to insure consistency. Pictures will be taken of the fish and the measurement with the team # assigned by ECRA to provide an indisputable record of size information for the largest and smallest lionfish. In the event of a tie on the largest lionfish, the fish will be gutted and weighed with the heaviest fish the winner. In the event of a tie with the smallest lionfish, they will be weighed ungutted and the lightest one will be considered the winner. If there is still a tie, the prize monies will be split evenly between the winners. The decision of the ECRA BOD Member will be final.
17. All catch counts must be verified by an ECRA representative.
18. Your picture will be taken with your fish at the turn-in and, research information will be recorded.
19. You agree to allow ECRA rights to use pictures of you and your catch to help further their educational mission. You agree to allow ECRA to use your picture in literature, presentations, on our website, etc.
20. **Only the registered team members may help in the lionfish killing and bagging.** Both team members are allowed to spear and bag at the same time or you may have one spearing while the other helps bag. It is your preference.
21. Only fish speared and bagged by registered members of a team may be entered in the competition.
22. NON-team member divers are NOT allowed to help in the underwater collection of lionfish in any way, including holding the catch bag or your spear. Only registered team members, registered on the same team, can help each other in the killing and bagging activities.
23. Team members must bring their catch to the surface without other divers assistance. Team members may send their catch to the surface via a lift bag or other means of their choice, as long as non team members do not assist.
24. Deckhands **may** lift your catch into the boat when you surface to assist a safe water exit. Deck hands may also hand you your gear when you enter the water prior to your decent. Once you begin your decent, only your registered team mate may provide assistance.
25. To keep the competition fair for all divers, the use of re-breathers during this tournament is prohibited. However, ECRA supports removing the regulation that prohibits the use of re-breathers while spearing in State Waters because, people on re-breathers can stay down longer and kill more lionfish! Please support that regulation change!
26. If you are under 18 years of age, you **MUST** have a parent or guardian sign the registration form. Any underage registrants who fail to have parental or legal guardian signature on registration are NOT considered a participant in this tournament and any fish turned in by his/her team will be disqualified.
27. For Research Purposes, the following information will be collected when you turn in your catch:
 1. Team Members Names and Team Registration Number
 2. Date of Turn-in
 3. Team member's Name of the Person checking-in the catch
 4. Dates of Catch
 5. Total # of lionfish turned in (Picture of the team member/s will be taken after count)
 6. Largest and Smallest fish (Pictures will be taken while fish is on a measuring device, to keep measurements consistent and to have proof of the size at the awards ceremony.)
 7. # of dives completed
 8. Water Depths of dives
 9. Maximum wave height on day of the dive/dives
 10. Were you able to kill all the lionfish you saw off the reefs you dived? Yes / No

11. Approximate # of gallons of Fuel used for dive trip or cost of Dive Charter
12. Lionfish removed from State or Federal Waters ____ # State / ____ # Federal
- 13. At least 1 team member's signature verifying their team killed and bagged all lionfish turned in during the contest period**
14. Signature of the ECRA representative checking in the fish

28. Un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be allowed. Warnings will be given once and if unsportsman like behavior continues, the team will be disqualified. The decision the Tournament Chairperson will be final in all disputes.

29. You are responsible to deliver the fish to an approved collection location during the times posted on the ECRA forum. ECRA will make every effort to make sure that you can unload your fish as quickly as possible but **you must be on time. Collections are run by volunteers so we need to respect their time and treat them right!**

30. ECRA reserves the right to add or change any rules that are deemed necessary. Rule changes will require a majority vote of the ECRA BOD. (This has never happened before and is highly unlikely to happen but, it is impossible to foresee all situations that may need to be addressed.)

Turning in the LIONFISH after you kill them

You will need to register on ECRA's **FREE** fishing and diving forum so that you will be allowed to post. Go to www.ecreef.org, click on forum then click on register and follow the prompts. During the month long tournament, if we need to make turn-in times or location changes, the forum is where we will make those announcements. **You can ask questions here, post about your progress, find other divers to share fuel expenses, challenge other teams and, just have fun! Make sure when you register that you allow e-mails from the administrator, this is how you will be notified of any important tournament related information.**

- Lionfish Turn-In location and times will be listed on the ECRA forum under Tournaments and contests under the title of "Lionfish Turn-in info".
- Make sure to keep your fish well iced until you can turn them in to keep them fresh.
- Lionfish will be counted and measured by ECRA's appointed person in-front of at least one of the registered team members.
- **Separate out your largest and smallest fish for measuring, prior to the turn-in count, to help speed the check in process.**
- **Be careful reaching into a cooler holding lionfish: lionfish spines remain venomous on ice!**

Most spearfishers have never hunted lionfish before. They have venomous spines that can sting you. They are really easy to kill but, you might want to learn some tricks for hunting, bagging, and just in case you do get stung, some first aid advice.

For first time lionfish hunters or if you just want to improve your chances of winning, it is highly recommended that you attend ECRA's FREE Lionfish Educational Workshop Sept. 12th 6:30 – 8:00pm at Discovery Dive World in Valparaiso! You can also find safety and hunting tips on the ECRA website. Go to www.ecreef.org and click on the lionfish information link on the left hand side of the page.