



REEF 7th Annual WINTER LIONFISH DERBY
SHARKEY'S PUB & GALLEY, KEY LARGO, FL
March 30th 2019

OFFICIAL DERBY RULES

1. LIONFISH (*Pterois volitans/miles*) ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, MAY ONLY BE TAKEN DURING THE DERBY. NO PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OR FROZEN LIONFISH WILL BE ALLOWED. HOWEVER, **PLEASE KEEP ALL LIONFISH ON ICE**. REEF reserves the right to keep all lionfish presented at scoring station, for uses including "lionfish tasting," research and market development.
2. **CAPTAINS MEETING:** The Captain's Meeting at 6:30PM March 29th 2019 is mandatory for the team captains, and all team members are encouraged to attend. The team captain must be one of the four participants in the derby, but does not need to be the captain of the boat. Safe collecting and handling techniques and derby rules and permits will be reviewed. **IMPORTANT:** This year we are allowing for remote attendance of the Captain's Meeting via Go To Meeting (details will be emailed out). Remote attendance of the captains meeting **IS NOT** allowed for teams that will be fishing in the areas that fall under the FKNMS, FWC, and Pennekamp derby permits. To get approval to attend the captains meeting remotely a member of the team must call REEF Headquarters and speak with Alli Candelmo 305 856 0030***
3. **WAIVERS:** Every team member must sign the Legal Waiver Form and the Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form. If a team member does not sign the forms and fails to bring the forms to the Captain's Meeting, the team member will not be considered entered in the Derby, even if registration fees were paid.
4. Only legal means of capture in areas allowing use of those gear types will be allowed. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. State and Federal laws will be strictly enforced. All permits issued at the Captain's Meeting must be present while participating in this derby.
5. During this single day event only lionfish may be taken by pole spear with paralyzer tip, hand net or hook and line. No chemicals, traps or other collecting mechanisms are allowed.
6. During this single day event, permits from the FL FWC, FKNMS and Pennekamp State Park will allow the use of pole spears with paralyzer tips to collect lionfish in the existing no-spearfishing zones on the Atlantic side of the Upper and Middle Keys from Broad Creek south to the north end of Long Key Bridge and offshore to Tennessee Reef as well as the Looe Key FKNMS Existing Management Area.
7. As a "local" derby lionfish may only be taken out of Monroe County water for the derby.
<https://myfwc.com/media/1340/atlanticgulfboundarymapus1.pdf>
8. Waters within Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) and Research Only Areas within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) are off limits. All other existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. Laws and regulations will be strictly enforced.
9. Teams will be limited to 4 persons. To qualify for prizes, participants must be registered and show proper identification. All participants must sign a Legal Waiver Form and a Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form to be considered registered in the Derby.
10. Non-refundable registration fees are \$120 per team, with up to four people participating in each team.



11. Protective gloves should be worn when handling lionfish. Participants are encouraged to carry a thermos bottle on the boat containing hot, but not scalding, water for first aid purposes.
12. Derby hours: Sunrise until 6:00 pm March 30th, 2019. All fish must be present at Scoring Station (Sharkey's Pub & Galley Dock) by 6:00pm to qualify for prizes.
13. Lionfish may be taken in Monroe County waters (except FKNMS no-take zones, research areas & SPA's) as long as the collection occurs during Derby hours and the fish are present at the Scoring Station by 6:00 pm. Prizes will be awarded in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for most lionfish; and for the largest and smallest lionfish. The amount of the prize depends on the number of registered participants. (Cash prizes come from the entry fees.) Prize amounts will be announced at the Captain's Meeting.
14. Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in each category (no sweeping of a category).
15. If fewer than 3 entries are received in any category, the remaining awards will be left as unclaimed.
16. All lionfish must be in whole condition (no missing heads or tails). Largest and smallest fish will be determined by total length of the fish, in millimeters, measuring from tip of snout to tip of tail.
17. Any live lionfish at Scoring Station may be euthanized prior to being measured.
18. All entrants agree to allow Derby officials, REEF, FL DEP and the FKNMS to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
19. The Derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether to venture out.
20. In the event of a tie, the winning team will be determined by the earliest check in of its lionfish at the Scoring Station.
21. All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check or cash.
22. The Lionfish Derby is an honor system tournament with the captain being responsible for team compliance with the Rules.
23. Anyone found violating Derby Rules by the Derby Officials will be disqualified from receiving any Derby prizes and prohibited from entry in any future derbies.
24. Decisions of the derby officials are final.

Awards for the 2019 REEF Winter Lionfish Derby will be determined by the number of teams entered and additional prizes and raffles will be supplemented by Sponsors In-Kind Donations.