



2021 Florida Keys Lionfish Derby
Reef Environmental Education Foundation
September 9-12, 2021
OFFICIAL DERBY RULES

1. LIONFISH (*Pterois volitans/miles complex*) ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, MAY ONLY BE TAKEN DURING THE DERBY. NO PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OR FROZEN LIONFISH WILL BE ALLOWED. **PLEASE KEEP ALL LIONFISH ON ICE.** REEF reserves the right to keep 15% of lionfish presented at drop-off, for uses including "lionfish tasting," research and market development.
2. Teams can take up to 80% of their catch back after measuring to do what they like with it or donate it to REEF to use for education and outreach opportunities. Teams will need a FWC Salt Water Products license to sell the catch and should organize that and sale of their fish themselves.
3. **CAPTAINS MEETING:** The Captain's Meeting at **6:30PM Thursday, September 9, 2021** at REEF Campus, 98300 Oversees Hwy, Key Largo. Light refreshments will be served. The team captain must attend the Captains meeting and 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 will be reviewed. **IMPORTANT:** This year we are allowing for remote attendance of the Captain's Meeting via ZOOM (details will be emailed out).
4. **PERMITS** - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Florida Fish and Wild Commission have provided special permits for this derby to spear in certain zones. Teams that want to use the special permits provided for the derby **MUST** attend the captains meeting in person or schedule a time to go to REEF HQ to receive instructions, pick up a permit and tournament flag to fish in those special zones and must carry those permits and flag on board their vessel while fishing in those zones. Email lionfish@REEF.org to request a permit.
5. **Borrowed lionfish equipment**, as well as permits and derby shirts can be picked up before the Captain's meeting start at 5:30PM Thursday September 9, 2021.
6. **WAIVERS:** Every team member must sign the Diving Participant Lionfish Understanding of Risk Form Online. If a team member does not sign the form online prior to the Captain's Meeting, the team member will not be considered entered in the Derby, even if registration fees were paid.
7. 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 given to team prior to the Captain's Meeting must be present while participating in this derby.
8. During this two-day (Friday and Saturday) fishing 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.
9. Lionfish may be taken from any waters in the invaded region as long as the collection occurs during Derby hours and the fish are present at the drop-off by **11:00AM Sunday September 12th 2021**. Teams must report location where the lionfish were removed from on their datasheet.
10. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. Laws and regulations will be strictly enforced.
11. Teams will be limited to between 2-4 persons. To qualify for prizes, participants must be registered and show proper identification
12. Non-refundable registration fees are \$100 per team and must be paid by September 9, 2021 6PM (\$75 early bird registration through July 9, 2021 and \$85 through August 9, 2021).
13. 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 or heat pack.
14. **Derby Fishing hours:** Sunrise until Sunset, Friday, September 10, 2021, Sunrise until Sunset, Saturday, September 11, 2021. All fish must be present at drop-off location by **11:00AM Sunday September 12, 2021**
15. Coolers must be properly labelled with captain or team names and must contain enough ice to keep lionfish cold for as long as they are held at drop-off station. Completed datasheet must be dropped at final check-in. If fish are returned to teams before Sunday September 12, 2021 then the pectoral fin will be cut from each fish before returned.

16. Drop Locations & Times

Friday September 10, 2021

REEF Campus, Key Largo, FL – 5PM to 8PM

Mote Marine Lab Summerland Key – 5PM to 8PM

Saturday September 11, 2021

REEF Campus, Key Largo, FL – 5PM to 9PM

Sunday September 12, 2021

Mote Marine Lab, Summerland Key – 8AM to 10:30AM

Postcard Inn Resort & Marina – 9AM to 11AM

17. **AWARD CEREMONY:** Prizes will be awarded in 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for most lionfish, the largest and smallest lionfish at the awards ceremony at Postcard Inn Resort & Marina at **2:30PM Sunday September 12, 2021**. A team member **MUST** be present for teams to win awards.
18. Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in each category (no sweeping of a category).
19. If fewer entries are received in any category compared to prizes the remaining awards will be left as unclaimed.
20. During registration teams must choose to compete in one of two Divisions for the Most Lionfish Category
 - Apex Predators Division (More Competitive Division; Greater Prize Money)
 - Reef Defenders Division (More Casual Division; Lower Prize Money)
21. The Golden Fish Award will be run as a raffle. All officially entered teams are eligible. For each team checking in at the scoring station by **11:00AM on September 11, 2021** (all team members must check in), each team ticket will be issued 1 ticket and then for every additional 50 fish brought in they will receive another ticket, for a \$500 cash drawing occurring at the awards ceremony. A team member must be present at the awards to win.
- 22.

Derby Prize Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Most-Apex Predators Division	\$1200	\$800	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100
Most-Reef Defenders Division	\$600	\$300	\$200	\$100		
Largest Lionfish - All Teams	\$500	\$250	\$150			
Smallest Lionfish - All Teams	\$500	\$250	\$150			

Golden Fish Award - \$500 Raffle

Each team that drops off their datasheet will be entered to win;

Every 50 fish a team catches gets them an additional raffle ticket entry.

23. Final Prize table may change based on registration numbers. If there are not at least three teams registered in each division the two divisions will be combined. All teams will compete together for Largest and Smallest lionfish categories.
24. 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.
25. Any live lionfish at drop-off may be euthanized prior to being measured.
26. All entrants agree to allow Derby officials, REEF, FL DEP and the FKNMS to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
27. The Derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether to venture out.
28. In the event of a tie, prize money will be split between teams.
29. All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check.
30. Winning participants will need submit a prize form and W9 form prior to receiving prize money greater than \$600. The Derby Officials will be available to split the team's purse to their needs as long as they provide a valid W-9 form for each recipient and return the disbursement form. Prize money will be awarded by bank check.
31. The Lionfish Derby is an honor system tournament with the captain being responsible for team compliance with the Rules.
32. 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.
33. Decisions of the derby officials are final.