



For Immediate Release

July 12, 2011

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### **Palm Beach County Annual Lionfish Derby!**

Lionfish Derby/REEF is holding the first Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby on Saturday, August 13, 2011. The event will be held at Sailfish Marina on Singer Island.

First through Third place cash prizes totaling more than \$3,000.00 will be awarded for Most lionfish, Smallest Lionfish and Largest lionfish caught between sunrise and 4:00pm during the derby on August 13th. In addition to the prize money, there will be award plaques for First place winners, and special gifts donated by local businesses. Randy Jordan, of Emerald Charters, is co-chairing the event, which is being co-sponsored by the Sailfish Marina.

A mandatory Captain's Meeting will be held between 4:30-6:30 PM at Sailfish Marina on Friday, August 12, 2011. A short, but captivating, presentation on the state of the lionfish invasion, both locally and throughout the region will be provided as well as techniques for capture and safe handling of lionfish. Derby procedures and rules, check-in times, and scoring methodology will also be reviewed. A pair of protective gloves will be provided to all registered teams. Special door prizes will be awarded at the Captain's Meeting, and there will be an opportunity for late registration as well. The Derby runs from sunrise to 4:00 pm on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. All registered teams must have their catch at the scoring station at Sailfish Marina by 4:00pm. A lionfish tasting will follow the scoring and cleaning and will be open to the contestants, their guests and the public. An awards banquet for the contestants and their guests will follow at the Sailfish Marina at 7:00 PM.

Derby founder, Bobbie Lindsay, from Palm Beach, Florida, said, "Unfortunately, the lionfish numbers in Palm Beach County have risen quite dramatically over the past 12-15 months, prompting us to bring the Derby home. In the Abacos, Bahamas, where the Derby was born and the Third Annual Lionfish Derby was recently held in Green Turtle Cay, more than 4,300 lionfish were removed between the derbies held in Green Turtle and Marsh Harbour in May and June 2011."

According to Lad Akins, at REEF, "While we can't stop the lionfish invasion, we can put them on the menu and help reduce populations in specific areas where the economy depends on fishing and/or tourism. We've been really successful getting the diving community involved with the Derbies in the Florida Keys over the past year and a half, and we hope to support Derbies all over Florida where there is an active diving community."

For more information visit <http://www.reef.org/lionfish> and <http://www.lionfishderby.com/> or call (561) 248-8332 or 305 852-0030.