



**Official Rules: Key Largo Lionfish Derby**  
**John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**  
September 14, 2013

- 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) Only lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) may be taken during the derby. Any other marine life on board the vessel or in possession by the teams, will be cause for immediate disqualification and potential citation by FWC.
- 3) Derby teams must attend the Captain’s meeting on September 13, 2013, to participate in the derby. The captain **MUST** be present, and all team members are encouraged to attend. 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, the team will not be considered entered in the derby, regardless of whether or not registration fees were paid.
- 4) During this single day event only lionfish may be taken by hook and line, hand held net, pole spear, Hawaiian sling, or other spearing device specifically designed and marketed exclusively for lionfish. No chemicals, traps or other collecting mechanisms are allowed.
- 5) 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 of the Upper and Middle Keys.
- 6) Research Areas within John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (JPCRSP) and Sanctuary Protected Areas (SPAs) 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.
- 7) Teams will be limited to 4 persons. To qualify for prizes, participants must register and show proper identification.
- 8) Non-refundable registration fees are \$120 per boat, with up to four people participating. Each registered boat captain checking in at the Captain’s Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> will receive: one pair of HexArmor protective gloves per team and an official derby t-shirt for each team member.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Official lionfish pennants must be flown by all teams while collecting during the derby. Any team found collecting without prominent display of their lionfish pennant will be disqualified and subject to citation.
- 11) Derby hours: Sunrise until 5:00 pm September 14, 2013. All fish must be present at Scoring Station by 5:00pm to qualify for prizes.
- 12) Prizes will be awarded in first, second, and third places for largest lionfish, and smallest lionfish, and first through tenth place for most lionfish. Other categories may be added as decided by derby officials.
- 13) Only one winning entry per team will be allowed in each category (no sweeping of a category).
- 14) If fewer than 3 entries are received in any category, the remaining awards will be left as unclaimed.
- 15) 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.
- 16) Any live lionfish at Scoring Station may be euthanized prior to being measured.

- 17) All entrants agree to allow derby officials and REEF to take and use photos for media and promotional purposes.
- 18) All parties participate at their own discretion and risk. The derby takes place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decision about whether or not to venture out.
- 19) In the event of a tie, the winning team will be determined by the earliest check in at the Scoring Station.
- 20) All cash prizes will be awarded to Team Captain by bank check or cash.
- 21) The derby is an honor system tournament. The captain is responsible for team compliance with the rules.
- 22) 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.
- 23) Decisions of the derby officials are final.

Awards for 2013 Key Largo Lionfish Derby

	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Most</b>	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	Divers Direct Gift Certificates
<b>Largest</b>	\$500	\$250	\$150	
<b>Smallest</b>	\$500	\$250	\$150	

A special tagged fish reward will be included this year. Each tagged lionfish brought in during the derby will receive a \$25 cash reward and be entered into a special prize drawing. To be eligible for tagged fish award you must provide location information. Details will be covered at the Captains Meeting on September 13th.