



# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament 2017

## INTRODUCTION

*Discovery Dive World is pleased to announce our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament! Please plan to join us for the awards banquet: Dinner served 5:00pm on the evening of the tournament weigh-ins. In addition to category awards, drawings will be held throughout the night for some great door prizes. Friends and family are encouraged to attend. A seafood buffet is included for registered shooters. Dinner is optional for attending guests and is available for only \$15.*

## TOURNAMENT TEAM

Here is our tournament team. Please feel free to call or email them about any questions you may have.

Position	Person	Contact
Tournament Director	Robert Provost support@discoverydiveworld.com	850-678-5001, or 800-224-3483
Tournament Coordinator	Bryan Kennington support@discoverydiveworld.com	850-678-5001, or 800-224-3483

## TOURNAMENT DATES, LOCATION AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A mandatory Captain's Meeting will be held on **Friday September 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM**. The location of the Captain's meeting is at Discovery Dive World, 92 S. John Sims Pkwy, Valparaiso, FL 32580. The Captain's meeting will serve a couple of purposes... a last minute Question & Answer session regarding rules, as well as late registration and a weather update. Last minute rule changes can be instituted at the Captain's meeting.

The tournament will be held **Saturday, September 9, 2017**. Participants can start shooting upon sufficient light. Weigh-ins will be allowed from 1:00pm until 4:30pm. Participants may shoot into the afternoon but their vessel must be in the weigh in area **by 4:30 PM**.

The weigh in location is Ernie's Dockside Café, located in the North Bay (Boggy Bayou), on the north end of the Choctaw Bay, at GPS Coordinates: N 30°30.773', W 086°28.947. The Dockside Cafe street address is 821 Bayshore Dr, Niceville, FL 32578. Ph (850) 678-1241.

Awards and trophy presentations will be conducted shortly after 5:00 PM at the Dockside Cafe. The presentation ceremony is a public event. Bring Friends and Family! There will be plenty of room and plenty of food!

### **TOURNAMENT PACKAGE**

For each person registered, you will be provided a tournament package. It will include your Annual GC Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament T-Shirt (if registered by 19 Aug) and a wrist band entitling you to the dinner buffet. Rules will be available upon request for those who do not have them by then.

### **FORMAT**

The tournament format is an individual competition. All applicants must be over the age of eighteen (18) years old, with the following exception: Juniors 16 years old and above may register for the event only with the signature of a consenting parent whom is their dive partner during the event.

**The fish categories are Snapper, Grouper, Grey Trigger Fish and Lionfish.**

**Fish will be measured by weight (gutted), except Lionfish, which will be counted and weighed whole.**

**Additional categories include Freediving and Warrior competitions, both of which will be opened at the discretion of the tournament director, based on number of registered participants.**

Shooters can participate as a free diver or scuba diver and can even mix the method in which they conduct their underwater hunt. Fish, other than Lionfish, that are harvested as a freediver are not eligible to compete in any other category. No rebreathers are allowed.

### **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION**

Each shooter can have only one fish recorded for each fish category. Shooters will be allowed to weigh in up to two (2) fish per category if they cannot easily predetermine which one weighs more. The heavier of the two fish will be the recorded entry. Biggest fish in each category is the winner of that category. Runner-up will also receive an award for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each fish category.

The Snapper, Grouper, Trigger Fish and Lionfish categories will render two (2) awards each: a champion and a runner-up.

The Freediving and Warrior categories will render one (1) award to the champion.

Juniors must have parent's or legal guardian's signature on the waiver of liability to participate. This signature must be notarized or witnessed by the tournament director or the tournament coordinator.

## **PRIZES AND TROPHIES**

Snapper CHAMPION	Trophy + Sherwood Vision Comp (\$920)
Snapper Runner-up	Medal + Akona Trav Bag and Scope mask (\$290)
Grouper CHAMPION	Trophy + Ranger BCD (\$790)
Grouper Runner-up	Medal + Aqua Lung i300 Computer (\$300)
Trigger CHAMPION	Trophy + Z3 Regulator set (\$550)
Trigger Runner-up	Medal + Sniper 90 Speargun (\$170)
Lionfish CHAMPION	Trophy + \$300 Cash and ZooKeeper (\$435)
Lionfish Runner-up	Medal + \$100 Cash and ZooKeeper (\$235)
Freediving CHAMPION	Trophy + Viper Pro 110 Speargun (\$340)
Warrior CHAMPION	Trophy + Mares Loop Regulator Set (\$380)

**RANDOM DRAWINGS THROUGHOUT THE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SCUBA GIFT PRIZES!**

## **FREEDIVING COMPETITION**

This category will be open for competition if, and only if, three (3) or more freedivers register in this category. Freediving is an exclusive registration. Fish harvested while freediving may not compete in any other category, except Lionfish (see below). The only species of fish allowed for weigh-in are the same species identified in the categories of the main competition. Biggest fish (by weight) is the winner of the freediving category.

## **LIONFISH COMPETITION**

This category is uniquely structured as a point scheme. There will be a winning boat declared and the award will be presented to the boat captain of the winning vessel. One (1) point is earned for each Lionfish, and one (1) additional point is earned for each pound of collective Lionfish from the same boat. The boat with the most point wins. The intent of this structure is to encourage the taking of as many Lionfish as possible and to reward those that harvest larger fish.

## **WARRIOR COMPETITION**

This category is uniquely open only to active duty military personnel. The award will go to the biggest fish OF ANY SPECIES that is legally harvested by spearfishing in accordance with the rules of this tournament. The fish may be harvested either as a free diver or using scuba equipment. Biggest fish among our military brethren is the rule, even if the fish qualified for an award in another category.

## **REGISTRATION**

**Registration for the tournament includes the following:**

- **Shootout Competition for awards as listed**
- **Registration goody bag**
- **Buffet Dinner provided by Ernie's Dockside Café**
- **Tournament T-shirt (if registered by 19 Aug)**
- **Random prize drawings throughout the evening**

**Individual Competition** registration is \$45.

Registration after 31 Aug is \$50.

**Junior Registration** is \$40.

Registration after 31 Aug is \$45.

Registration Forms and Release and Waiver Forms are available online at [www.discoverydiveworld.com](http://www.discoverydiveworld.com) or at Discovery Dive World.

All participants will need to submit a signed GCRH Release and Waiver Form no later than the close of the Capt's Meeting. Juniors will be required to have the GCRH Release and Waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian. This signature must be notarized or witnessed by the tournament director or tournament coordinator.

Contact Bob Provost or Bryan Kennington at 850-678-5001.

## **WEIGH IN PROCEDURE**

All weigh-ins will take place at the Dockside Café. To get your fish weighed, your boat must be inside the docking area no later than 4:30 PM on the day of the tournament.

The Award Ceremony and Trophy Presentation will follow the Saturday weigh-in at the Dockside Café, Niceville, FL.

When you arrive in the weigh-in area:

- All fish must be gutted and cleaned of debris. Un-gutted fish will not be weighed. There is a filet table at the Dockside Café open to participants. Participants presenting any catch that does not look fresh or appears to have been taken with an explosive device will result in disqualification. Participants weighting fish (lead, ice, rocks, etc.) will also be disqualified.
- Only fish meeting the current state, federal and local saltwater fishing and spearfishing regulations in the Snapper, Grouper and Trigger Fish categories will be weighed, except for the Warrior category, which can be any legal fish that is legally harvested by spearing. Fish will be weighed using OUR measuring device.
- You must select your own fish to be weighed. The weigh-master will not assist you with this decision.
- Measurement of fish for pre-qualification will be based on the current measurement to fork or overall as required by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- The Dockside Café is the only weigh-in location for the tournament. Fish must be weighed during the designated timeframe window on Saturday, 9 Sep (from 1pm to 4:30pm). Fish must be speared during the specified timeframe of the tournament.

#### **ADDITIONAL RULES**

- 1) All adult contestants must be 18 years of age or older, and have signed Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Release and Waiver Form to participate in the tournament. All juniors, ages 16 to 17, must have the Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Release and Waiver Form signed by a supervising parent or legal guardian, notarized or witnessed by the tournament director/coordinator.
- 2) All Florida and Federal rules, size limits, license requirements and bag limits strictly apply.
- 3) No rebreathers are allowed.
- 4) Any contestant possessing or weighing in an undersized (illegal) fish will be disqualified.
- 5) No boat may approach without permission within 150 feet of a boat, anchored or not, flying the "Divers Down Flag" or "Alpha Flag"
- 6) All contestants and boats must possess all proper safety equipment, Coast Guard equipment, First Aid kits and VHF radios as required by state law.
- 7) In order to be eligible, fish must have been caught by the contestant using a spear loaded or propelled by his or her own muscle power. No power heads are allowed.
- 8) By entering this tournament each contestant has given implied and expressed rights and consent for Discovery Dive World and Dockside Café to use his or her name, and or likeness to promote any current and future efforts by Discovery Dive World or Dockside Café, or any other related water-sports events or promotions
- 9) Decisions, interpretations and disputes of all these rules will be discussed and decided upon by the Tournament Directors. Contestants are responsible for knowledge of any and all rules and amendments to the rules, which will be discussed at the Captain's Meeting to be held on Friday September 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Discovery Dive World. The Tournament Directors decisions are final.

- 10) Reimbursement of Tournament Fees paid can occur up to, but not beyond, 45 days prior to the event.
- 11) In the case of inclement weather or excessive sea conditions, the back-up date for the tournament is the following day. All tournament events planned for 9 Sep will be held exactly 1 day later than originally planned. This slip decision is at the discretion of the tournament director and will be announced at the mandatory Captains meeting on 8 Sep. Fees are non-refundable within 45 days of the primary scheduled tournament date.
- 12) If the tournament cancels due to inclement weather on both possible tournament dates, entrants will receive their goody bags and T-shirts at the Capt's meeting in accordance with the stated registration deadlines. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to a local organization that supports our local fisheries.
- 13) Although unlikely, the changing regulations set by the FWC may require the tournament director to declare a different species of fish for one or more categories. The captains meeting will announce any final changes.

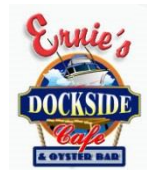
### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

We reserve the right to disqualify individuals for suspect fish, unsportsmanlike conduct, or disruption. If you have a dispute, we will do everything possible to address it. We just ask for courtesy, and your participation in this event means that you will accept the committee's majority decision in a respectful manner, without further recourse.

### **Summary of Important Location and Contact Summary Information:**



**DISCOVERY DIVE WORLD**  
**92 S John Sims Pkwy**  
**Valparaiso, FL 32580**  
**[www.discoverydiveworld.com](http://www.discoverydiveworld.com)**  
 850 678-5001  
 800 224-3483  
 Fax: 407 641-8025



**Ernie's Dockside Café**  
**821 Bayshore Dr**  
**Niceville, FL 32578**  
**[www.mydocksidecafe.com](http://www.mydocksidecafe.com)**  
 850 678-1241  
 Coordinates:  
 N 30°30.773', W 086°28.947

Good Hunting and Good Luck!