



**12th Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter  
Spearfishing Tournament  
16 Sep 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Welcome to our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament!  
The tournament includes an awards dinner that is open to shooters and unlimited guests!  
In addition to category awards, drawings will be held throughout the night for some great door prizes. Friends and family are encouraged to attend.*

**KEY EVENT SUMMARY OF DATES/TIMES:**

**TOURNAMENT DATE:** 16 SEP (SAT)

**T-SHIRT CUTOFF DATE:** 12 AUG (SAT)

**CAPTAINS MEETING (MANDATORY) AT DISCOVERY DIVE WORLD:** FRI, 15 SEP AT 6:00PM

**WEIGH-INS AT LJ SCHOONERS DOCKSIDE RESTAURANT:**

SAT, 16 SEP FROM 1:00 TO 5:00PM

**AWARD CEREMONY BANQUET AT LJ SCHOONERS:** SAT, 16 SEP AT 6:00PM

**WEATHER BACKUP DATE:** 17 SEP (SUN).

**WEIGH-INS (SAME):** 1:00 TO 5:00PM

**AWARDS BANQUET (SAME):** 6:00PM

**TOURNAMENT TEAM**

Please feel free to call or email us 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**

The mandatory Captain's Meeting will be held the night prior to the event **at Discovery Dive World** and will serve as 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 16 September** (Wx backup date Sun, 17 Sep). Participants can start shooting upon sufficient light on Saturday. Participants must have their vessel to the weigh in area by the posted cutoff times above.

**Weigh-In Location:** LJ Schooners dockside restaurant

Address: 290 Yacht Club Dr, Niceville, FL 32578 Phone: 850-897-2821

Dock Coordinates: N 30° 29' 44.31", W 086° 26' 43.43" (Deg, Min, Sec)

Awards and trophy presentations, and the banquet meal will commence at 6:00pm at weigh-in location. 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 (you must register by 12 Aug to be assured of a tournament T-shirt) and a wrist band entitling you to the awards dinner. Rules will be available upon request for those who do not have them in hand by the Captain's Meeting.

## **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 who is their dive partner during the event.

**The fish categories are Snapper, Grouper, Triggerfish.**

**Fish will be measured by weight (gutted). Length measurement will also be taken to help determine tie-breakers.**

**Additional category: Lionfish. Lionfish will be measured by weight (collective boat catch).**

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

No rebreathers are allowed.

## **THE COMPETITION**

The Snapper, Grouper and Triggerfish categories will render two (2) awards each: a champion and a runner-up. 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 Lionfish category will render one (1) cash prize for the boat that brings in the best haul. (measured by total weight).

The Warrior and Tech/Professional categories will each render one (1) award to the champion.

**NEW IN 2023:** The following rules apply for the **Tech/Professional category**.

For the purposes of this tournament, “tech” will be defined as any spearfisherman that dives below 130 feet, and “professional” will be defined as any spearfisherman regularly involved in spearfishing for hire or for commercial purposes. Tech and Professional are a single (combined) category. The Tech/Pro category will be opened at the discretion of the tournament director based on the number of entries. The fish species eligible for a prize are only among the three *major* categories of this tournament (namely, Snapper, Grouper and Triggerfish). No Tech/Pro diver will be eligible to compete in any other award category (including the “open” competition, Lionfish or Warrior categories). **In order to qualify for an award in the Tech/Professional category, the winning fish must surpass the first-place winner in its respective “open” category.** No more than one award will be presented in the Tech/Pro category. In the case where two competitors each weigh-in the largest fish in two separate categories, the singular award will go to the largest of those fish (by weight).

Example 1: Tech/Pro competitors enter fish in both Grouper and Snapper categories. The winning Grouper in the “open” category is 26 pounds, and the winning Snapper in the “open” category is 18 pounds. One Tech/Pro competitor has a 27-pound Grouper. The other has a 19-pound Snapper. The Grouper entry would be declared the winner because it has met BOTH criteria as 1.) surpassing the winning “open” category fish, and 2.) is the largest of the fish in the Tech/Pro category. The 19-pound Snapper would not qualify for an award.

Example 2: No fish entered by a Tech/Pro diver surpasses their respective “open” category 1<sup>st</sup> place winner. In this case, no award will be granted.

**Juniors** must participate in the event as a dive partner with their parent (or legal guardian) and 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**

<b>Lionfish CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus Cash Award</b>
<b>Triggerfish CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus Sherwood Magnum Pro Regulator Set (\$460)</b>
Triggerfish Runner-up	Medal plus Henderson 3mm Shorty Wetsuit (\$200)
<b>Snapper CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus Zeagle Stiletto BCD (\$680)</b>
Snapper Runner-up	Medal plus Aqua Lung i100 Dive Computer (\$310)
<b>Grouper CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus Mares 15X Regulator Set (\$462)</b>
Grouper Runner-up	Medal plus Mares Strike 100 Speargun (\$346)
<b>Warrior CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus Zeagle Envoy II Regulator Set (\$390)</b>
<b>Tech/Pro CHAMPION</b>	<b>Trophy plus TBD</b>

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

## **WARRIOR COMPETITION**

This category is uniquely open only to active-duty military personnel, active members of the USCG or the Guard/Reserve components. 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.

## **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

Registration for the tournament includes the following:

- **Shootout Competition for awards as listed**
- **Registration goody bag**
- **Buffet Dinner provided by LJ Schooners restaurant**
- **Tournament T-shirt (if registered by **12 Aug**).**
- **Random prize drawings throughout the evening**

**Individual Competition** registration is \$100.

**Junior Registration** is \$75

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

**In order to be eligible to participate and compete, all shooters 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.

## **WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE**

All weigh-ins will take place at LJ Schooners at the Bluewater Bay Marina in Niceville. To get your fish weighed, your boat must be inside the docking area no later than the posted cutoff times for the respective days of the tournament.

The Award Ceremony and Trophy Presentation will follow at the same location.

When you arrive in the weigh-in area:

- All fish (except Lionfish) must be gutted and cleaned of debris. Un-gutted fish will not be weighed. There is a filet table 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 Triggerfish categories will be weighed, except for the Warrior category, which can be any 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.
- LJ Schooners (BWB Marina) is the only weigh-in location for the tournament. Fish must be weighed during the designated timeframe. 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 300 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 LJ Schooners to use his or her name, and or likeness to promote any current and future efforts, 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. The Tournament Directors decisions are final.
- 10) Reimbursement of Tournament Fees paid can occur up to, but not within, 30 days of the event.
- 11) In the case of inclement weather or excessive sea conditions on either day of the tournament weigh-ins, the weigh-ins for that day will be cancelled. If both days encounter prohibitive boating conditions, the dinner banquet will still be planned for Sunday evening.
- 12) If both days of the tournament cancel due to inclement weather, entrants will receive their goody bags and T-shirts at the Capt's meeting in accordance with the stated registration deadlines. Dinner will be served at LJ Schooners on Sunday.
- 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



**LJ SCHOONERS RESTAURANT AND DOCKSIDE BAR**  
**290 Yacht Club Drive**  
**Niceville, FL 32578**  
**Dock Coordinates:**  
 N 30° 29' 44.31", W 086° 26' 43.43"  
 (850) 897-2821

**GOOD HUNTING AND GOOD LUCK!**