



13th Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament

14 Sep 2024

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 13th Annual Gulf Coast Reef Hunter Spearfishing Tournament!

The tournament includes an awards banquet 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: 14 SEP (SAT)

T-shirt cutoff date: 17 Aug (Sat)

Captains Meeting (mandatory) at Discovery Dive World: Fri, 13 Sep at 6:00pm

Weigh-ins at LJ Schooners dockside restaurant:

Sat, 14 Sep from 1:00 to 5:00pm {WX BACKUP: 15 SEP (SUN) from 1:00 to 5:00pm}

Award Ceremony Banquet at LJ Schooners: Sat, 14 Sep at 6:00pm

Weather Backup Date: 15 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 14 Sep** (Wx backup date Sun 15 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: 850-500-1234

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 **17 Aug** to be assured of a tournament T-shirt) 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 who is their dive partner during the event.

The fish categories are Snapper, Grouper, Amberjack.

Fish will be measured by weight (gutted).

Additional category for 2022: Lionfish. Lionfish will be measured by weight (collective boat catch).

***Possible* 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 must register either as a free diver or scuba diver. Divers that wish to participate in both categories must complete a separate entry form, waiver and pay an additional entry fee. **Fish that are harvested as a free diver are not eligible to compete in any other category.** No rebreathers are allowed.

THE 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 2nd place in each fish category.

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

The Lionfish category will render one (1) cash prize for the boat that brings in the best haul. (measured by total weight).

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

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

Lionfish CHAMPION	Trophy plus Cash Award
Amberjack CHAMPION	Trophy plus TBD
Amberjack Runner-up	Medal plus TBD
Snapper CHAMPION	Trophy plus TBD
Snapper Runner-up	Medal plus TBD
Grouper CHAMPION	Trophy plus TBD
Grouper Runner-up	Medal plus TBD
Warrior CHAMPION	Trophy plus TBD
Free diving CHAMPION	Trophy plus TBD

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 free divers register in this category. **Freediving is an exclusive registration.** Fish harvested while freediving may not compete in any other category. Any legally harvested species of fish is allowed for weigh-in. Biggest fish (by weight) is the winner of the freediving category.

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 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 **17 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 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.

Contact Bob or Bryan at 850-678-5001.

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 Amberjack categories will be weighed, except for the Warrior and Freediving 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.
- 8) As this is a recreational spearfishing tournament, no fish harvested beyond normal recreational depth limits will be eligible for an award.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Reimbursement of Tournament Fees paid can occur up to, but not within, 30 days prior to the event.

- 12) 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.
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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
(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!