



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: April Price
Phone: 772-285-1646
E-mail: aprinceassoc@aol.com

10th Annual Martin County Lionfish Round-Up is wrap!

Stuart, FL – (July 11, 2021) — After a year-long reprieve due to Covid 19, the 10th Annual Martin County Lionfish Round-Up is officially in the books. This year's results concluded with 20 divers removing 151 of these pesky fish from our local reefs.

“This is in no way a record number of divers or fish for this tournament, but support for the effort and observations after missing a year are encouraging,” says April Price, the event's coordinator. “Our sponsors all stayed in place with their financial support. For this we are extremely grateful. Our week-long, self-reporting portion of the tournament went off without a hitch. Diver's who dove that part of the event all came away with more money than their entry fees and some great prizes to boot. The final day with the live event hosted by Blue Pointe Bar and Grill was a fun day for our vendors, divers and all who came out to learn about the importance of removing these critters from our waters. Observations from all of the divers reported seeing fewer lionfish on the shallow water reefs. The fish in the deeper waters seem to still be thriving, but the easier to maintain areas are being managed quite well. Everyone embraced the fact that together we are making a difference and the collaboration is enjoyable.”

Additionally, the new benefiting charity, Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR), enjoyed the day and the opportunity to reach out to the divers in the northern sector of their territory. “It was a beautiful day for diving and holding an outdoor event, said Melissa

Sathe, President of the organization. "Getting to interact with sponsors, divers and the general public here in Martin County has a different feel than in the Miami-Dade region. It's a little more relaxed and we plan to be back next year. Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you to all who helped make our first Lionfish Round-up a success."

For information regarding the 2022 Martin County Lionfish Round-Up , contact April Price, (772) 285-1646, or visit; www.McLionfish.com

Congratulations to our 2021 winners!

Saturday, June 19th:

1st Place:

**Most Lionfish: Christine Raininger / 36 fish
Largest Lionfish: Stephen Tobovich / 15 7/8"
Smallest Lionfish: Todd Schoppe / 4 5/16"**

2nd Place:

**Most Lionfish: Stuart Montgomery / 31 fish
Largest Lionfish: Christine Raininger / 15 1/8"
Smallest Lionfish: Christine Raininger / 4 3/8"**

3rd Place:

**Most Lionfish: Todd Schoppe / 26 fish
Largest Lionfish: Todd Schoppe / 14 3/4"
Smallest Lionfish: Stuart Montgomery / 4 9/16"**

**Friday, June 18th - Todd Schoppe / 12 fish
Thursday, June 17th - Stuart Montgomery / 15 fish
Wednesday, June 16th - Christine Raininger / 1 fish
Tuesday, June 15th - Christine Raininger / 1 fish
Monday, June 14th - Christine Raininger / 1 fish**

Friends of Our Florida Reefs, Inc., is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit citizen support organization dedicated to conserving and protecting over 100 miles of vital coral reefs (directly offshore SE Florida between Miami-Dade and Martin Counties) by enhancing and complementing the critical efforts, programs and activities of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's [Coral Reef Conservation Program](http://www.Florida Reef.org).
www.Florida Reef.org

