



## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Come out for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin County Reef Builders Tournament and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lionfish Round-Up**

**Stuart, FL – (July 3, 2014)** — The MCAC Reef Fund will be hosting the 8th Annual Reef Builders Tournament along with the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lionfish Round-Up on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This tournament helps fund the artificial reef program and brings awareness to the Lionfish education programs in Martin County.

This is the tournament that funded the deployment for the Hailey Glasrud Reef on April 24<sup>th</sup>. With the focus on creating fish habitat, the Hailey Glasrud Reef creates 224' of new habitat. The tournament targets the species that these reefs are created to attract. This year the tournament will award first, second and third place cash prizes for the top Cobia, Dolphin, Grouper, Snapper, Kingfish and Wahoo.

“We have also included a Lionfish Round-Up which includes the dive community,” says John Burke, president of the MCAC Reef Fund. Lionfish are an invasive species that

have been increasing in population on reef systems throughout the Caribbean and have been rapidly making their way up the northeast coast of the United States. Divers will be given instructions on how to handle the spiny fish at the mandatory Captains / Divers briefing on Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at the new Twisted Tuna Restaurant in Port Salerno. Anglers and divers will be required to log the location and the time each fish is caught. This information helps to provide much needed data for the Reef Fund.

“New this year we have added a “Lionfish Reward” which will pay \$1 for every lionfish collected by a diver or team. Currently this award maxes out at \$250, but the committee is working hard to bring on additional sponsors so the reward can be extended,” said Burke.

In 2011 and 2012, Martin County deployed reefs in memory of Kyle Conrad, a popular Jensen Beach resident, an avid fisherman and diver, whose young life was cut short in 2010. The Top Boat in the fishing tournament receives the Kyle Conrad Trophy. Also, professional Captain’s will vie for Top Charter Boat honors.

For more information on Martin County’s Artificial Reefs and this year’s Reef Builder Tournament and Lionfish Round-Up, please call, 772-223-1685, email; [info@mcacreefs.org](mailto:info@mcacreefs.org) or visit the web site [www.mcacreefs.org](http://www.mcacreefs.org) .

***The MCAC Reef Fund is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) established to enhance the artificial reef program of Martin County, Florida.***