

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

04.18.19



## Record Setting 19,167 Lionfish Removed During Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Tournament

**Destin** - The most successful lionfish event in history concluded in Destin this weekend with a record shattering 14,119 removed in a two-day period. This is in addition to the 5,048 lionfish removed during the pre-tournament competition that started February 1<sup>st</sup> and ended at the main event. A total of 19,167 lionfish were removed.

Lionfish hunters from across the United States and Caribbean descended on Okaloosa County, Florida for the Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Tournament hosted by Emerald Coast Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 189 individual hunters competed for over \$48,000 in cash prizes and \$15,000 in gear prizes. The event was headquartered at AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar along the famed Harbor Boardwalk in Destin Florida.

The winning Team, **Florida Man**, on Destin based dive charter, Dreadknot brought in an astounding 2,241 in just 2 days and won the \$10,000 top prize for Most Lionfish. Only 189 fish separated the second place, **Fear the Spear**. The Largest Lionfish prize of \$5000 was awarded to team **Killer Bee's** who brought in a lionfish that was 440 mm, or 17.32 inches. The smallest lionfish, which also commanded a \$5,000 prize, was 75mm, or just under 3 inches caught by Team **Diamond Divers**.

Standings:

MOST LIONFISH	
Florida Man	2,241
Fear the Spear	2,059
Diamond Diver	1,674
Reef Rapper	1,463
Making the Gulf Great Again	1,372
Deepwater Mafia #1	518

Largest Lionfish		
	Millimeters	Inches
Killer Bee's	440mm	17.32in
Reef Rapper	439mm	17.28in
Jen Speara Day	427mm	16.81in
Full Stringer	427mm	16.81in
Florida Man	422mm	16.61in
6-8 Divers	421mm	16.57in

Smallest Lionfish		
	Millimeters	Inches
Diamond Diver	75mm	2.95in
Fear the Spear	81mm	3.19in
Florida Man	85mm	3.35in
Deepwater Mafia #4	88mm	3.46in
Reef Rapper	92mm	3.62in
Lion and Weight	92mm	3.62in

For more information, visit [EmeraldCoastOpen.com](http://EmeraldCoastOpen.com) or  
[Facebook.com/EmeraldCoastOpen](https://www.facebook.com/EmeraldCoastOpen)

For information about Lionfish Removal And Awareness Day, visit  
[FWCReefRangers.com](http://FWCReefRangers.com)

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