

2024 Emerald Coast Reef Association Lobster and Lionfish Tournament Rules

Rules are subject to change. All changes to the rules and final instructions will be posted on the [Emerald Coast Reef Association \(ECRA\) Facebook](#) and [Tournament website](#) before Wednesday, October 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The tournament shall take place regardless of weather conditions. Captains make their own decisions about whether to venture out. All participants are responsible for their own safety.

Tournament Dates and Times

October 18 and 19, 2024: Diving begins at sunrise and ends at sunset.

October 20, 2024: Weigh Station opens at 11:00 am and closes at 1:00 pm CST.

Awards ceremony and raffle – Approximately 2:00pm CST

****NO LOBSTER OR LIONFISH MAY BE HARVESTED ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 2024****

Eligible Species and Harvest Guidelines

- A. Three species are eligible for entry:
 - a. Slipper Lobster (*Scyllarides* sp.);
 - b. Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*); and
 - c. Lionfish (*Pterois* sp.)
- B. Lobster and Lionfish eligible for entry may only be taken during the tournament hours.
- C. The ECRA Lobster and Lionfish Tournament is an individual event. Individually caught Lobster and Lionfish may not be shared.
- D. All waters are eligible for tournament harvest.
- E. No previously caught, store purchased, or frozen Lobster or Lionfish will be allowed, however, please keep all submissions on ice.
- F. All Lobster must be harvested in accordance with Federal, State and Local laws.
- G. Only legal means of capture in areas allowing use of those gear types will be allowed. All existing federal, state, and local laws must be followed. Specific and additional guidelines include:
 - a. No spear caught lobster (including Slipper Lobster).
 - b. No egg bearing lobsters. Evidence of manual egg removal will result in disqualification.
- H. All lionfish and Lobster must be in whole condition (no missing heads or tails).
- I. Only Lobster and Lionfish caught by the individual submitting to the score station will count. No sharing entries.
- J. Largest lobsters will be determined by individual weight (0.01pounds).
- K. Largest lionfish will be determined by total length (millimeter).

- L. Protective gloves should be worn when handling lionfish. Participants are encouraged to carry appropriate first aid kits specific for Lionfish stings.

Scoring Station Hours and Procedures

- A. Lobster and Lionfish harvested during tournament hours must be present at the scoring station between 11:00am and 1:00pm CST on October 20, 2024.
- B. Scoring station will be located at The Deck at the Destin Brewery (110 Melvin St, Destin, FL 32541).
- C. Individual divers must deliver the eligible Lobster and Lionfish to the designated scoring station and check in with the scoring station staff
- D. Tournament staff will verify the size of Lobster (total weight, 0.1 pounds) and Lionfish (total length, millimeters).
- E. In the event of a tie the winning individual will be determined by the earliest check-in of their entries at the scoring station.
- F. If there are any perceived discrepancy the participant should bring it to the weighmaster immediately while the Lobster and Lionfish are still at the scoring station.
- G. Decisions of the weighmaster and tournament committee are final.

Tournament Awards

- A. Cash awards will be presented to individuals according to the following schedule:

	Heaviest Spiny Lobster	Heaviest Slipper Lobster	Longest Lionfish
1 st	\$600	\$600	\$600
2 nd	\$300	\$300	\$300
3 rd	\$100	\$100	\$100

- B. Individuals may only place once per category.
- C. All cash prizes will be awarded by bank check following the completion of IRS w9 form.
- D. Individuals receive payment of all cash awards. For winners of cash awards, a single check will be written to the individual for the total of tournament cash awards
- E. Checks will be issued at the time of award.

Adherence to Tournament Rules and Promotion

- A. This event is an honor system tournament with all registrants being responsible for compliance with the rules.
- B. Any violation of these rules resulting in disqualification will result in forfeiture of entry fees, prizes and cash awards, and at the sole discretion of the tournament officials and prohibited from entry in any future tournaments.
- C. If non-compliance with tournament rules are suspected, the tournament committee reserves the right to conduct a polygraph.
- D. Poor sportsmanship will be grounds for disqualification from this tournament.

- E. All entrants agree to allow tournament officials and ECRA Lobster and Lionfish Tournament to use participant's name, awards, and photos for any media and promotional purposes.
- F. ALL DECISIONS OF THE SCORE MASTER AND TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ARE FINAL