



## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lionfish Round-Up in Martin County looks to break records**

**Stuart, FL – (April 12, 2018)** — With 7 years of lionfish removal and education under its belt, this year's Lionfish Round-Up in Martin County will again benefit Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. (aka, SHIP) and looks to exceed last year's record breaking totals. SHIP is a 501.c.3 public charity on the Treasure Coast and is dedicated to creating reef projects that will provide a sustainable fishing and diving destination, as well as support endless marine research opportunities. This year's event will take place June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> at the beautiful Jupiter Pointe Marina.

"Last summer the event was challenged by bad weather which caused the tournament to be rescheduled three weeks later. Then we lost a dear friend, colleague, board member and tournament founder Kerry Dillon. His sudden passing just a week before the Round-ups reschedule date added to our challenges," said Kathy FitzPatrick, Martin County's Coastal Engineer. "Nevertheless, we had tremendous community, diver and sponsor support that resulted in 78 divers removing 941 Lionfish. We look forward to another event at the beautiful Jupiter Pointe Marina. If diver's have clear conditions and Mother Nature cooperates, we could see record breaking Lionfish this year. We are hearing reports that they have been plentiful on the reefs and the Round-Up is needed."

Diver's will be eligible for thousands of dollars in cash prizes and best of all the reward of

knowing that they are contributing to the health of our reef systems. If you are not a diver, you can assist by becoming a sponsor or just come out and enjoy the party. Folks can see the fish that the divers bring, have some tasty samples, visit with our vendors, enjoy live entertainment & libations poolside and if you are feeling lucky, participate in our raffle and silent auction. Proceeds will help to fund the **“Kerry Dillon Tugboat Reef”** which will be deployed this summer approximately midway between Ft. Pierce and St. Lucie inlets.

For more information, contact April Price, (772) 285-1646, or visit; [www.McLionfish.com](http://www.McLionfish.com)

***Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 public charity and is dedicated to deploying a large military type ship for an Artificial Reef and the enhancement to our artificial reef systems on the Treasure Coast of Florida.***