



## News Release

February 9, 2017

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Awe Shucks! It's time for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ft. Pierce Oyster Festival**

**Ft. Pierce, FL** – Revelers will find more than just pearls at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival. This tasty 2-day event held April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> along the Ft. Pierce waterfront will feature marine eco exhibits, children's activities at the Manatee Center, including their Annual Great Coconut Float Race, art, music, vendors, cold beer and an array of oysters served both cooked and on the half shell.

The festival, which boasted nearly 10,000 attendees last year, benefits Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. (aka SHIP). The proceeds aid in deploying a large Navy-type vessel as an artificial reef on the Treasure Coast. According to event coordinators, 800 gallons of oyster shells were donated to the St. Lucie County Oyster Reef Restoration Project last year. "If we shuck and serve all of the oysters that we have on order for this event that will be more than 15,000 oysters. That's a lot of shucking," says Andy Brady, president of SHIP. "This is just one way we can give back to our marine environment which we have taken so much from. Encouraging and forging healthy marine habitats is a key component to our mission statement."

"We are pleased to announce that the Ft. Pierce Oyster Festival will be a 2-day event this year and are proud to begin a new partnership with the Pirates of the Treasure Coast," says Brady. "We are very impressed with their organizational abilities and longtime relationship with the Port Salerno Seafood Festival and sincerely believe that their team brings the perfect ingredients to building this event and

allowing the event to grow with our Fort Pierce community. Our vendors and patrons will all be enjoying everything new and some things old at this year's festival."

Opportunities are available for sponsors, vendors and volunteers. More than 100 volunteers are needed for the event, so if you are interested in being a shucker, server or ticket taker, please apply. This is also a great opportunity for high school students to earn hours toward their graduation requirements.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival is open Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 6pm and Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 4pm and is located at the Riverwalk Center/Veteran Memorial Park 600 N. Indian River Dr., Ft. Pierce, FL, 34950

For more information please contact April Price (772) 285-1646 or Kathy Gilbert at POTTTC Events (561) 792-9260 or visit the festival's web site: [www.FtPierceOysterFest.com](http://www.FtPierceOysterFest.com).

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