

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2022-2023 Lionfish Tournament Assistance Program

Overview

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages removal of invasive lionfish from Florida waters. Localized removal efforts, such as lionfish tournaments, have been shown to be effective in reducing lionfish populations. The FWC seeks to increase participation in lionfish removals through outreach efforts and support of lionfish tournaments.

To supplement these efforts, the FWC has allocated assistance funds to encourage lionfish harvest through organized tournaments. Eligible applicants will receive funding assistance to support lionfish removals through an organized tournament. **The amount of funding to be awarded is based primarily on the type of tournament being held and secondarily on the number of participants:**

▪ Tournaments with a lionfish category	\$500
▪ Lionfish-specific tournaments with <i>less than 20</i> participants	\$1,000
▪ Lionfish-specific tournaments with <i>20 to 39</i> participants	\$1,500
▪ Lionfish-specific tournaments with <i>40 or more</i> participants	\$2,400

All tournaments must have a minimum of 10 participants to be granted assistance funding. Participants are defined as divers or saltwater anglers who are registered for the specified tournament and qualify as one of the following:

1. Attempt to harvest lionfish within the tournament timeline and attend the tournament weigh-in to sign the “Harvest Acknowledgement Form” (page 6).
2. Successfully harvest lionfish within the tournament timeline and submit their caught lionfish to the tournament weigh-in.

Note: If the tournament organizer anticipates that participants may qualify as #1 (above), then it is the tournament organizer’s responsibility to provide copies of the Harvest



Acknowledgment Form (page 6) and ensure those forms are signed and submitted with the Final Tournament Report.

Tournament organizers and participants should be aware of all recreational saltwater rules and regulations that may apply. Learn more at [MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater](https://myfwc.com/Fishing/Saltwater).

Instructions for Submission

1. Complete the following steps to be eligible for payment by the state of Florida:
 - a. Register as a vendor with the state of Florida at:
https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace.
 - b. Complete a separate registration (from step 1a) and upload an active W-9 at:
<https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>. Note: It usually takes 3-5 days for system processing.
2. Complete the application (pages 4-5). Note: Vendor name in My Florida Marketplace and the Tournament Assistance Application must MATCH.
3. Include event flier, webpage URL, and a copy of your sponsorship package with this application. Include how FWC will be represented throughout the tournament. The event needs to be adequately advertised on multiple social media platforms by the tournament organizers for at least 30 days prior to the event.
4. To ensure time for review and processing, **applications need to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the start of the tournament or by June 1st 2023 (Which ever comes first).**
5. Email all application materials to Lionfish@MyFWC.com.

Final Reporting Requirements

Funds will be provided to successful applicants upon completion of the tournament and submission of a **Final Tournament Report** and **Invoice**. Final Tournament Report and Invoice must be submitted within **30 days of tournament execution**.

The report is to include:

1. Results from the tournament (total number of lionfish, largest and smallest lionfish)
2. Itemized list of assistance fund spending



3. Participant names and contact information (either phone number or email address)
4. Harvest Acknowledgement Form(s), if applicable

The invoice is to include:

1. Vendor name and address
2. FWC name and address (1875 Orange Avenue East, Tallahassee, FL 32311)
3. Invoice number and date
4. Purchase order number (combination of 6 letters and numbers, sent via email)
5. Dates of service (tournament dates)
6. Brief description of service
7. Total invoice amount

Questions? Call the Division of Marine Fisheries Management at (850) 487-0554.



2022-23 Lionfish Tournament Assistance Program Application

Tournament Information:

Tournament Name	
Tournament Date(s)	
Tournament Location	
Vendor Name	
Vendor FEIN: *Required	
Vendor Address	
Contact Name	
Phone	
Email Address	

☐

Vendor is registered with

https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamar ketplace

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Valid W-9 is on file with <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>.



Indicate how the lionfish will be used after submitted to the tournament weigh-in (select all that apply):

- ☐ Returned to tournament participants
- ☐ Donated for research purposes (please indicate which institution):

- ☐ Prepared for consumption at the event. Please indicate if any fees will be charged and ensure proper licensing. FWC commercial license requirements can be found at MyFWC.com/license/saltwater/commercial-fishing:

- ☐ Other (please explain): _____

Specify how the assistance funds will be spent:

Objectives of the FWC Lionfish Program:

To minimize the adverse impacts of invasive lionfish in Florida through increased awareness and participation in education, outreach, and control efforts.

Provide an explanation of how your tournament supports the objectives of the FWC Lionfish Program:



I acknowledge that I have read the requirements for submitting this application and have reviewed all rules and regulations applicable to this tournament. FWC reserves the right to deny payment if the vendor fails to fulfill the requirements for the Lionfish Tournament Assistance Program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____



Lionfish Tournament Assistance Program

Harvest Acknowledgement Form

PARTICIPANT 1:

I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I registered and
(*participant name*)
participated in the _____
(*tournament name*)
tournament and by signing below have verified my attendance at the weigh-in.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARTICIPANT 2:

I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I registered and
(*participant name*)
participated in the _____
(*tournament name*)
tournament and by signing below have verified my attendance at the weigh-in.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARTICIPANT 3:

I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I registered and
(*participant name*)
participated in the _____
(*tournament name*)
tournament and by signing below have verified my attendance at the weigh-in.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARTICIPANT 4:

I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I registered and
(*participant name*)
participated in the _____
(*tournament name*)
tournament and by signing below have verified my attendance at the weigh-in.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

