

# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## 2024-2025 Lionfish Tournament Program

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### 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 funds to encourage lionfish harvest through organized tournaments. Tournament facilitators will receive funding to support lionfish removals through an organized event based on the deliverables listed below. Per this funding process, tournament facilitators will be referred to vendors hereafter. Funds are limited to those allocated in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Funds will be dispersed in the order program request forms are received. This application will be valid July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025; any events within these dates must follow all submission deadlines listed below.

**The amount of funding to be awarded is based primarily on the type of event being held and secondarily on the number of participants:**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| ▪ Tournament 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 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 weigh-in to sign the “Harvest Acknowledgement Form” (page 6).



2. Successfully harvest lionfish within the tournament timeline and submit caught lionfish to the weigh-in.

**Note:** If the tournament organizer anticipates that participants may qualify as #1 (above), then it is the event organizer's responsibility to provide copies of the Harvest Acknowledgment Form (page 6) and ensure those forms are signed and submitted with the Final Report.

Tournament organizers and participants should be aware of all recreational saltwater rules and regulations that may apply. Learn more at <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/>.

### **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](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.
  - c. Provide proof of participation as an e-Verify Employer
    - i. If enrollment is needed: <https://www.e-verify.gov/> Note: Enrolled entities only update quarterly, so please submit the Memorandum of Understanding. This may be accessed upon completed enrollment.
  - d. For further information on above steps, please contact [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com)
2. Complete the request form (pages 4-5). Note: Vendor name in My Florida Marketplace and the Tournament Funding Request Form must MATCH.
3. Include event flier, webpage URL, and a copy of your sponsorship package with this request form. Include how FWC will be represented throughout the event. The event needs to be adequately advertised on multiple social media platforms by the event organizers for at least 30 days prior to the event.



4. To ensure time for review and processing, **request forms need to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the start of the tournament or by May 3rd 2025 (Whichever comes first).**
5. Email all request form materials to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).

### **Final Reporting Requirements**

Funds will be provided to successful vendors upon completion of the tournament and submission of a **Final Report** and **Invoice**. Final Report and Invoice must be submitted within **30 days of tournament execution or June 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 (whichever comes first)**.

#### **The report is to include:**

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

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## 2024-25 Lionfish Tournament Program Funding Request

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### Tournament Information:

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

- Vendor is registered with [https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace)
- Valid W-9 is on file with <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>.
- Vendor is an e-Verify Employer: <https://www.e-verify.gov/>



**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](http://MyFWC.com/license/saltwater/commercial-fishing):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Specify how the funds will be spent:**

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**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:**





# Lionfish Tournament Program

## Harvest Acknowledgement Form

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

