

# 2024 Florida Keys Bluewater Spearfishing Championship

## Schedule of Events

### Friday March 22, 2024\*

6:00pm – Meet and greet, open bar before Captain's Meeting.

7:00pm – Mandatory Competitor's Captains Meeting.

Location: Killshot Spearguns – 81902 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL.

**Meeting attendance is MANDATORY for ALL Competitors.**

### Saturday March 23, 2024\*

7:03am – ½ hour before Sunrise, divers may enter the water

7:01am – Official dive time begins.

7:35pm – ½ hour after sunset, diving ends, divers out of the water.

### Sunday March 24, 2024\*

10:00am – Weigh-in begins.

12:00am – Award Ceremony and banquet begins.

Location: Overseas Angler-Bass Pro Shops - 81576 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FL.

\*In the event of foul weather, the tournament will shifted two weeks and will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

#### Entry Fees:

The entry fee is \$200 per competitor if you register by March 10<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee is \$250 from March 10<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>. No registration will be allowed/accepted after March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Prize money will be divided into two categories: Teams and Individual.**

## Spearfishing Zone

Spearfishing zone is bounded on the North and East by Molasses Reef Buoy C and to the South and West by the Tennessee Reef Light.

## Awards and Prize Money

### Individual Heaviest Stringer

Cash and prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> heaviest total stringer (eligible fish species listed below). The cash for these prizes will come out of the entry fees.

## Wahoo Calcutta Buy-in

WAHOO BUY-IN – Every competitor may opt to “buy-in” to the Wahoo pool for \$100 each. The largest 3 wahoo will be awarded prize money as follows; Largest wahoo takes 60%, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest takes 25%, and 3<sup>rd</sup> takes 15%. 95% of the purse from the “buy-in” will be used to fund the Wahoo prize money and will be distributed amongst the winners as stated above; 5% will go toward tournament overhead costs.

## Awards Banquet

The awards banquet will be held in the Zane Grey lounge on Sunday afternoon immediately after the weigh-in. All participants’ entry fee includes the cost of the open bar and banquet lunch. Guests of participants may attend the banquet but must purchase a ticket at the low, low cost of \$45 per person. Please purchase guest tickets in advance, if possible so we can better gauge food and drink requirements.

## Rules

1. Spearfishing ONLY. No hook and line fish may be weighed or entered.
2. The captain does not have to dive but must attend the Captains Meeting.
3. All fish landed must be photographed with the “mystery” item and submitted via text message when landed. Any fish not photographed with the “mystery” item will not be eligible for weigh-in. Fish may only be submitted during tournament hours (6:51am – 7:35pm Saturday). No photo, no fish...any fish presented without a phot will not be weighed.
4. Safety first...all divers must have another diver present when diving and spearfishing.
5. Every diver must possess a State of Florida Saltwater fishing license.
6. Fish appearing not fresh or improperly handled will be disqualified. Fish must be whole and intact; no cutting them up to fit them in the cooler. Sharked fish still count but must comply with State/Federal minimum size lengths.
7. Fish may not be upgraded. Once a fish is on the boat, it stays on the boat!
8. Team members may help each other land fish.
9. Fish species eligible for weigh-in are as follows:
  - a. Wahoo – 2 per person
  - b. African Pompano – 1 per person, 2 max per boat
  - c. Yellow Jack – 4 max per person
  - d. Kingfish – 3 max per person
  - e. Blackfin Tuna - 2 max per person
10. If the total count of any species is exceeded, the largest fish in that category will be disallowed until the maximum number is met.
11. All legal RECREATIONAL possession limits and size limits must be adhered to. Any violation of State or Federal law will result in automatic disqualification of the diver and/or team.
12. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and is grounds for the immediate disqualification of a diver or entire team.
13. The tournament organizers reserve the right to reject any application or participant to maintain good order and discipline. Unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. If unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct is observed, bring it to the protest committee for resolution. Simply put, if you are a dick, you will be ejected.

### Protest:

In the event of a protest, protester must submit protest in writing within ½ hour of completion of weigh-in (preferably earlier!) along with \$50.00. The \$50 protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The protest committee will be identified at the captain's meeting and will be present during the weigh-in. Any decision reached by the protest committee is final.

### Eligibility:

Competitors must be at least 16 years old.

We wish all the divers the best of luck! Dive Safe