



## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Join Us for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin County Reef Builders Tournament and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lionfish Round-Up**

**Stuart, FL – (June 18, 2013)** — The Martin County Artificial Reef Fund Committee will be hosting the 7th Annual Reef Builders Tournament along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lionfish Round-Up on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. These tournaments help fund the artificial reef program in Martin County.

With the focus on creating fish habitat, this tournament targets the species that these reefs are created to attract. This year the tournament will award first, second and third place cash prizes for the top Cobia, Dolphin, Grouper, Snapper, Kingfish and Wahoo. “We have also included a Lionfish Round-Up which will include the dive community,” says John Burke, who is one of the tournament coordinators. Lionfish are an invasive species and have been increasing in population on reef systems throughout the Caribbean and they have been rapidly making their way up the north east coast of the

United States. Divers will be given instructions on how to handle the spiny fish at the mandatory Captains / Divers briefing on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at The Reef Waterfront Restaurant in Port Salerno. Anglers and divers will be required to log the location and the time each fish is caught. This information helps to provide much needed data for the Reef Builders.

“New this year we have added a “Team Division” which will award the dive team who has collected the most lionfish,” said Burke. Divers check in via phone or text message, allowing them to depart from anywhere along the Treasure Coast.

In 2011 and 2012, Martin County deployed reefs in memory of Kyle Conrad, a popular Jensen Beach resident, an avid fisherman and diver, who’s young life was cut short in 2010. The Top Boat in the fishing tournament receives the Kyle Conrad Trophy. New this year, professional Captain’s will vie for Top Charter Boat honors.

For more information on Martin County’s Artificial Reefs and this year’s Reef Builder Tournament and Lionfish Round-Up, please contact Betty, 772-223-1685, email; [info@mcacreefs.org](mailto:info@mcacreefs.org) or visit the web site [www.mccacreefs.org](http://www.mccacreefs.org) .

***The MCAC Reef Fund is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) established to enhance the artificial reef program of Martin County, Florida.***