

# THE GREAT FLORIDA BUG HUNT CONTEST!



## Official Contest Rules!

The success of the **Great Florida Bug Hunt** depends on the honesty of all the scuba divers participating. Fair play among all the participants is critical and essential. The following contest rules must be followed at all times.

**PARTICIPANTS:** All participants in the Great Florida Bug Hunt Contest **MUST** be certified scuba divers at least 18 or older. You will be required to show your scuba certification card. You **MUST** also possess a current and valid **State of Florida** saltwater fishing license and lobster stamp in order to take part in the contest. Divers are also allowed to catch lobsters while snorkeling.

**WAIVER:** Entry forms will not be considered complete **UNTIL** a diver completes and signs a legal waiver.

**BOUNDARIES:** The contest is restricted to spiny lobsters caught off Broward, Palm Beach or Miami-Dade counties.

**SPECIES:** The contest is limited to Florida (Caribbean) spiny lobsters (*Panulirus argus*).

**REGULATIONS:** Divers must adhere to **ALL** Florida regulations and state laws regarding lobster mini-season, boating, diving and displaying the **Divers Down Flag**. Spiny lobsters must be caught legally with a snare or a tickle stick and net. Lobsters cannot be speared, a violation of state lobster regulations. Again, lobsters must be caught legally and you must adhere to applicable Florida regulations and laws.

**RESPECT:** Please respect the ocean and coral reef. Do not damage the reef while catching a lobster.

**SAFETY:** Divers must agree to follow all accepted safety procedures when scuba diving at all times.

**WEIGH-INS:** Lobsters will be weighed using a digital scale. You can submit your contest entry on either Wednesday or Thursday. Lobsters must be kept on ice. No frozen lobsters will be accepted. Spiny lobster entries can be rejected on the grounds that the lobster's weight was artificially altered or caught in violation of the official contest rules. Divers can also weigh in their lobster entries at the Sands Marina Resort dock in Pompano Beach on Wednesday and Thursday.

**WEATHER:** The contest does not have a weather committee. It is up to each diver or boat captain to determine if weather conditions are safe enough to dive. All participants, including beach divers, are advised to be familiar with local weather conditions and weather forecasts from NOAA to determine if the conditions permit the safe departure and return of the boat, crew, divers and guests.

**CASH AND PRIZES:** BugFest reserves the right to add extra prizes or to upgrade contest prizes. Divers who win cash prizes will be mailed checked by the Town in August.

**PROTEST:** Any protest must be made verbally at the time of the incident at the weigh-in station. Any disputes will be addressed by the Great Florida Bug Hunt Rules Committee: Steve d'Oliveira (Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea), Steve Gagas (Gold Coast Scuba) and Glenn McCormick.

**PARTICIPANTS:** All participants entering the contest agree that all decisions and judgments made by the official contest rules committee shall be final and binding in any manner requiring its action.