



# 10TH ANNIVERSARY BUGFEST!

FLORIDA'S BIGGEST LOBSTER MINI-SEASON DIVE PARTY  
LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

## Official Contest Rules

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

**PARTICIPANTS REGULATIONS:** All entrants in the Great Florida Bug Hunt Contest **MUST:**

Be skilled or certified swimmer or diver and at least 18 or older. Divers are also allowed to catch lobsters while snorkeling or on other air sources.

Sign up to participate no later than 5PM on Tuesday, July 26

Possess a current and valid State of Florida saltwater fishing license and lobster stamp

[More information on Florida Recreational Saltwater Licenses & Permits](#)

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 (which is a violation of Florida state lobster regulations).

Agree that all decisions and judgments made by the official contest rules committee shall be final and binding in any manner requiring its action.

**WAIVER:** Entry forms and lobsters submitted 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.

**WEIGH IN:** Lobsters will be weighed using a digital scale. Lobsters must be kept on ice. No frozen lobsters will be accepted.

**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 or snorkeling at all times.

**WEATHER:** The contest does not have weather guidelines. 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.

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

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.

**CASH AND PRIZES:** BugFest reserves the right to revise, add extra, or upgrade contest prizes. Divers who win cash prizes will be mailed a check 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: Debbie Hime (Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea), Steve Gagas (Gold Coast Scuba) and Jeff Torode (So Florida Diving Hdqtrs).