



Caribbean Oceanic Restoration and Education Foundation

The CORE Foundation
2608 Fish Bay, St. John, VI 00830

INTRODUCTION:

Be advised that this is a waiver, which means you will be giving up all legal rights concerning any course of action against St. Croix Lionfish Derby (SCLD), CORE Foundation, CRABBS – their agents, volunteers, corporate representatives and all individuals affiliated with SCLD by signing this document. If you do not understand your legal position by signing this document, you should consult with an attorney. Your signature at the bottom indicates agreement with all of the items. If you do not agree with all of the items (paragraphs), do not sign the bottom. Participation in the SCLD Lionfish Tournament is conditioned upon your execution of this waiver. If you do not sign this waiver, you are not a participant in the St. Croix Lionfish Derby.

DEFINITIONS:

1. St. Croix Lionfish Derby: Although the tournament is run by CORE Foundation, in the context of this document, St. Croix Lionfish Derby shall mean the directors, members, volunteers, officers, advisors of SCLD, and all owners of property where the tournament is headquartered, where the official counting occurs, and all related acts.
2. Diving: In the context of this document, diving shall mean free diving, snorkel diving, scuba diving, spear fishing, netting (or otherwise using any methods allowed under the rules) to harvest Lionfish while in or on the water.
3. In the context of this document, the word "I" shall mean me, my heirs, survivors, assigns, representatives, estate, legal guardian, attorneys in fact, or anyone else who may be empowered to act on my behalf. Or, if I am signing as the legal guardian of a registrant, then it shall mean my ward, me, my ward's heirs, survivors, assigns, representatives, estate, attorneys in fact, legal guardian, and anyone else who may act on behalf of my ward, principal, or minor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I understand the inherent risks associated with diving. When harvesting fish, I understand that the risk of injury or death is even greater. I have read the tournament rules and agree to comply with them completely and waive my rights as to this activity against SCLD.

I understand that weather conditions may change rapidly, and that SCLD is not responsible for my decision to participate in this event. St. Croix Lionfish Derby's decision to NOT cancel the tournament does not act as an endorsement of good weather or marine conditions. I will determine these conditions myself and assume all risks inherent with weather conditions.

I acknowledge that Lionfish have venomous spines that can inflict a serious sting and/or cause serious injury or death. I will wear protective gloves when handling Lionfish, and make every effort not to touch the spines, even after the fish are dead. I accept full responsibility for my handling of Lionfish and for all risks associated with this inherently dangerous activity.

I hereby acknowledge that SCLD is in no way directing my activities, or otherwise acting as an advisor or principal. I assume all risks, not only associated with diving and harvesting Lionfish, but also boating and traveling.

I hereby acknowledge that not only can injuries and/or death occur from the risks of diving, but that diving is physically exerting. I agree that I am responsible for making decisions about my own physical condition in conducting these activities.

I hereby agree to waive my right to sue St. Croix Lionfish Derby affiliates, venue sponsors, assigned associates, or sponsors by participating in the SCLD, for any injuries, death, emotional distress, pain and suffering, and all other forms of economic and noneconomic damages and all claims and causes of action. I waive any and all claims. I will hold SCLD, CORE Foundation and CRABBS harmless from any US Virgin Islands law. Further acknowledge that in any event of a dispute, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs as awarded by any US Virgin Islands court.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

I hereby acknowledge that the official counting and awards setting is at Leatherback Brewery on St. Croix, and that there may be dangers or other hazards associated with this setting, as well as with a tournament that involves spear fishing and harvesting of Lionfish. I will watch my children, if applicable, and understand all hazards and take full responsibility for my children. I agree to read and follow all of the published rules of the tournament.

I hereby acknowledge that SCLD is not a reseller of any prizes donated to the Derby. SCLD and CORE Foundation is merely a temporary custodian of said prizes and is not responsible for any grievance or claim I may have with respect to a prize. There are no refunds of fees or purchases.

Participants are responsible for any taxable responsibilities that may arise from prize awards.

LIONFISH BIOLOGY AND VENEMOLOGY UNDERSTANDING OF RISK OVERVIEW:

Lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) are members of the scorpionfish family native to the Indo-Pacific. They are now also found in the waters throughout the Western Atlantic from Rhode Island through the Bahamas, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. Lionfish are predators reaching a size of more than 470 mm (18.8 inches) and reproducing year-round in the southern portion of their Atlantic range. They also possess venomous, spines and potentially represent both ecological and human health risks. Significant study, public education/outreach and control efforts are now being planned and implemented throughout the region.

NEED FOR SPECIMENS:

In order to predict the spread and impact of this invasive species, data is needed to determine populations and distribution, age and growth, reproduction, predation, larval disbursement, recruitment, mortality, genetics and changes to native fish communities. SCLD, CORE Foundation and CRABBS are working with U.S. state, federal, and university researchers in addition to Caribbean nations to obtain the necessary samples as well as educate the public and key government officials about the lionfish issue. As part of this effort, we are also collaborating with the dive community to gather samples and data from their regularly dived sites.

VENOMOLOGY:

Lionfish spines, like those of many other scorpion fish, contain venom. Spines located within the dorsal, ventral, and anal fins contain venomous tissue along the length of the spine. A sheath or skin covers the spine and glandular tissue which, when exposed in the act of puncture, releases venom into the wound. Severities and reactions to stings can vary however lionfish stings are not known to be lethal. Reactions to venom typically include localized, moderate to severe, pain and swelling, which normally subsides within hours and with first-aid treatment. Complications or increased severity of reactions could result from allergic reactions or severe punctures. Heat and time reduce the effect of this venom. As with any wound, cleaning and sterilization of the affected area is important to prevent infection.

PARTICIPATION:

While the likelihood of coming in contact with a lionfish in the water or on the vessel is extremely small for those wanting to avoid contact, there nevertheless exists the possibility of being stung. No participants wishing to avoid collection, dissection or any other physical contact with lionfish will be asked to handle or in any other way physically engage themselves with any lionfish. All contact with lionfish, direct or otherwise, is voluntary in nature as is participation in this project, knowing the venomous nature of the subject.

I understand these risks and am willing to take part in this project anyway.

I also agree that I have received and read the rules for this tournament and agree to abide by the rules for participation in this event.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Team Name: _____