

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Logo attached

Caption for winners: Last year's winners pulled in four tarpon and more than \$11,000.

Save date for fifth annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament

[Sanibel Island—January 2016] A 100 percent purse promises to make the fifth annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament on May 7, 2016, the hottest competition on the water. It pays out 100 percent of the entry fee as tournament awards.

The team fee of \$500 for up to four anglers also includes a Captain’s Dinner the night prior and awards ceremony dinner the evening of the tournament. All events take place at Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille on Fort Myers Beach.

Doc Ford's -- with locations also on Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach -- has again committed to being the title sponsor for the 2016 tournament, along with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). Diversified Yacht Services, Inc., will for the fifth consecutive year offer support at the Presenting Sponsors level. Proceeds benefit wildlife and conservation education at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

“There’s not another tarpon tournament like this in the area,” said Marty Harrity, Doc Ford’s co-owner. “In past years we’ve had fishermen from all over the country. Last year we paid out \$25,375 in awards to five out of 48 participating teams.”

“Doc Ford’s has been a faithful supporter of our efforts at ‘Ding’ Darling, helping greatly to bolster refuge programs and research to balance federal budget shortfalls,” said Birgie Miller, DDWS executive director. “Last year we raised \$50,000 for the refuge as a result of sponsorships, donations, and auction proceeds. We’re so grateful to Doc Ford’s for this huge effort on our behalf.”

For more information on the tournament, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/tarpon-tourney. Anyone interested in becoming a tournament sponsor should contact Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Tournament sponsors include: **Title Sponsor:** Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille; **Presenting Sponsor:** Diversified Yacht Services of Fort Myers Beach

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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