



## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival a Success!**

**Ft. Pierce, FL (May 2, 2013)** — The numbers are in and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival which took place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, is deemed a success by event planners. “We had an increase in the number of attendees, served more oysters, increased the number of local vendors and increased our bottom line by more than 30% over our Inaugural year,” says April Price, the festival coordinator. “We knew we needed to increase our shucking capabilities and we did. We also added three cooked versions of oysters and they were all well received. Some of the best “Shuckers” on the Treasure Coast put in a full day work allowing us to serve 31 more cases of oysters than in 2012,” said Price.

The Indian River Lagoon will also benefit from the festival. More than 600 gallons of oyster shells were collected from the festival and will be used in the St. Lucie County Oyster Reef Restoration Projects, along with the new marine habitat that will be created in the Lagoon with the Ft. Pierce City Marina project. “It’s great when we can give back to the environment,” says Andy Brady, President of Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. (aka SHIP), who owns the festival. “There are plenty of things we do every day that is detrimental to our marine environment, so anything we can do to mitigate our negative impacts, we need to be a part of those efforts.”

SHIP truly appreciates the support of the community who came out to the festival, our vendors, sponsors and volunteers. SHIP would also like to thank our festival partners: the Manatee Observation & Education Center, COSEE Florida, who coordinated our Indian River Lagoon Speaker Series, Capt. Chop Lege’ and his crew from Swampland Tours, City of Ft. Pierce, Ft. Pierce City Marina, Ft. Pierce Yacht Club and the Sunrise Theatre. For more information contact April Price (772) 285-1646 or go to our web site at [www.FtPierceOysterFest.com](http://www.FtPierceOysterFest.com).

*Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 public charity and is dedicated to sinking a large Navy type ship for an Artificial Reef and the enhancement to our artificial reef systems on the Treasure Coast of Florida.*