

FLORIDA RESIDENTS
1 MONTH FREE
 ON SELECT ANNUAL PASSES
UP CODE FROM SELECT LUCIA-COLA PRODUCTS REQUIRED. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

UNIVERSAL
 ORLANDO RESORT

Shark Dragging Video Prompts Sarasota Slam Response

Sarasota Slam organizers have called out the “despicable behavior” in a video that appears to show a shark being dragged to its death.

By Sherri Lonon (Patch Staff) - Updated July 26, 2017 3:18 pm ET

0 Like 55 Share



RUNDisney
 CALIFORNIA • FLORIDA • PARIS

9 Themed Race Weekends

LEARN MORE

Popular Video

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT KIDNEY DONATION

SARASOTA, FL — A video that surfaced on social media Monday showing what appears to be men dragging a shark to its death behind a fast-moving boat has drawn outrage from across the country. For organizers of the Sarasota Slam fishing tournament, the footage is especially disconcerting because one of the men is seen wearing a T-shirt from the local event.

“The Sarasota Slam is in no way affiliated with the despicable behavior in the video on social media,” the event’s website banner read on Wednesday. “We do not want to give those individuals any more attention.”

Get the [Patch newsletter and alerts in your inbox.](#)

Slam organizers also took to Facebook and Twitter to express their disdain for the alleged actions depicted in the video. On Facebook, they reported the names of those involved had been turned over to authorities as soon as Slam officials learned about the video.

Sarasota Slam
 @SarasotaSlam

The Sarasota Slam is in NO WAY affiliated with the despicable behavior in the video on social media. We do not...
fb.me/1BocF4ajo

8:47 AM - Jul 25, 2017

6 1 2

Indeed, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is investigating the case. Rob Klepper of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said on Wednesday the agency has determined the identities of the men in the video but the names would not be released at this time.

“It is too early to speculate as to what, if any, violations took place in this incident,” he said. “However, the FWC would like to state that that the lack of respect shown in this video for our precious natural resources is disheartening and disturbing, and is not representative of conservation-minded anglers around the world.”

Miami Beach’s Mark “The Shark” Quartiano, a professional shark hunter, was sent a copy of the video on Monday. He described the footage, that appears to show a power boat dragging a 6-foot black tip shark, as “evil.”

He said the video appears to have been shot in the Bradenton area, and was sent to him through social media, ostensibly for his “blessing” as a prominent shark hunter.

Trump's New Low • Top U.S. School Districts • North Korea's Revenge: Patch Morning Briefing

Also: a Patcher gets a kidney, a sister's tearful goodbye and a fist-bumping toddler.

“I guess when they caught it, they brought it to the boat and they tied a rope around its tail and proceeded to drag it through the ocean,” Quartiano explained. “That’s definitely evil to do that to an innocent creature. It’s one thing killing them humanely like we do. That’s totally disrespect.”

The folks at Sarasota Slam appear to agree with Quartiano’s take. The people involved in the video’s creation “will be banned from our tournament,” Sarasota Slam wrote on its [Facebook page](#). The behavior, the post explains, violates the tournament’s No. 1 rule, which demands “the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants.”

Patch reached out to organizers of the Sarasota Slam on Wednesday, but they were not immediately available for comment.

The 2017 Sarasota Slam is set to take place Aug. 1-5 out of Marina Jack in Sarasota. For more information about the event, [visit the Sarasota Slam website.](#)

Anyone with information about the case can contact the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at [888-404-3922](tel:888-404-3922) or via email at Tip@MyFWC.com. Tipsters can remain anonymous.

marktheshark
 Follow

Patch’s [Paul Scicchitano](#) contributed to this story.

Photo and video used with permission of Mark “The Shark” Quartiano