

KEYSWEEKLY

IN PICTURES: KEY COLONY BEACH HOSTS 18TH ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DERBY

By **Alex Rickert** - June 26, 2025



Andrew Worthington

The Marathon Lady filled the decks with grinning kids and their catch on June 18 for the Key Colony Beach and Marathon Ron Sutton Memorial Kids Fishing Derby.

The 18th annual contest challenged three age divisions of Middle Keys youngsters to bring the largest fish of any species over the rail, chasing winners' trophies taller than many of the contestants.

After the free day of fishing, contestants, parents and volunteers retired to the Key Colony Inn for an afterparty and awards ceremony led by derby co-organizers Joey Raspe and Kris DiGiovanni – complete with the smorgasbord of prizes and giveaways that have become a hallmark of the friendly competition.

Photos by JUSTICE LEE ISOM/Keys Weekly









Trending

KEY WEST BACK IN THE DAY: TALES FROM THE AFTERDECK

And the winners are..

6-8 years old

1st place: Richey Worthington

2nd place: Melody Franco

3rd place: Elliana Koeller

9-11 years old

1st place: Lorelei Klein

2nd place: Kayson Young

3rd place: Jayden Arencibia

12-14 years old

1st place: Melanie Olivio

2nd place: Francisco Garcia

3rd place: Adrian Felix

ALEX RICKERT

Alex Rickert made the perfectly natural career progression from dolphin trainer to newspaper editor in 2021 after freelancing for Keys Weekly while working full time at Dolphin Research Center. A resident of Marathon since 2015, he fell in love with the Florida Keys community by helping multiple organizations and friends rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Irma. An avid runner, actor, and spearfisherman, he spends as much of his time outside of work on or under the sea having civil disagreements with sharks.