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Contact: John Bell
johnebell@bellsouth.net
954-766-2794

Big Game Divers at Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina To Host “Great Hammerhead Weeks” Dive Encounters

ALICE TOWN, BIMINI, BAHAMAS—SEPTEMBER 8, 2015— The Bimini Big Game Club Divers is designating four weeks—from December to March—as “Great Hammerhead Weeks” for divers to have a bucket list opportunity to get up close and personal with these elegant creatures.

The endangered and elusive Great Hammerhead—the second largest predatory shark in the ocean— will be returning to the sand banks off the tiny Bahamas out-island of Bimini starting in December 2015.

Great Hammerhead encounters are considered the pinnacle of shark diving in the Bahamas, and Bimini is one of only two places in the world where you will find a congregation of these elusive animals, which can grow to 20 feet or more.

“It’s an opportunity of a lifetime,” said Corey Wood, Operations Manager at Big Game Divers. “These weeks are excellent for underwater photographers, videographers, and GoPro enthusiasts to get exceptional photos and video of these amazing animals.”

Bimini Big Game Divers will operate two Great Hammerhead dives daily for designated weeks of December 11-18, 2015, and January 1-8, February 5-12 and March 8-18, 2016. For reservations and booking information contact the Big Game Dive Shop at dive@biggameclubbimini.com.

Considered “shark diving central”, Bimini has more species of sharks closer to the docks than anywhere else in the Bahamas. According to the Bimini Biological Field Station, the Great Hammerhead Shark joins 12 other species of sharks found in the shallow water off Bimini. These species include Lemon, Caribbean Reef, Tiger, Blacktip, Nurse, Bull, Blacknose, Atlantic/Caribbean Sharpnose, Mako, Spiny Dogfish and Bigeye Thresher and Smooth Hound.

Less than 50 miles from South Florida, Bimini is one of the best places in the world where divers can encounter the fabled *Sphyrna mokarran*, a species that is easily recognized by its unusual and distinctive head, which is flattened and extended into a “hammer” shape. A favorite food is spotted eagle rays in the shallows near the island. The rays, according to divers, will often jump high into the air in an attempt to escape the Great Hammerheads Sharks.

Despite its size, the Great Hammerhead Shark rarely attack humans and is inquisitive with divers. As a result of being overfished for its large fins (shark fin

soup), the species has been assessed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Bahamas, a collection of 700 islands sweeping across 240,000 square miles of territorial waters, is one of the world's premier shark-watching destinations for divers, reeling in \$800 million over the past 20 years for the Bahamian national economy. Sharks in the Bahamas are big business and certainly worth more alive than dead. Globally, sharks are under attack with estimates of up to 90 million harvested annually commercially for their fins, considered a delicacy in certain areas of the world.

About Big Game Divers

Big Game Divers visits a virtual treasure trove of dive sites and theme dives reached aboard *Bimini Blue*, a glass bottom, double-decker dive boat that can comfortably accommodate up to 30 divers with all their gear. Big Game Divers, which runs three dives per day, also offers a wide variety of services, including PADI certification courses and equipment rentals.

In addition to the shark dives and snorkeling trips for dolphin encounters, featured dives include wrecks (The Sapona and Bimini Barge), reefs, Atlantis Road and Three Sisters, Turtle Rocks and Continental Shelf.

About the Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina

Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina, in Alice Town, Bimini, The Bahamas, is a popular, internationally-regarded boutique Out Island resort less than 50 miles from South Florida. The property features 51 guest rooms & suites, a 75 slip full service marina, a dive center with daily dives, rental equipment and a variety of scuba diving lessons and specialty training courses and a fresh water swimming pool. The Big Game Bar & Grill is the most popular restaurant in Bimini serving American and Bahamian cuisine with all day dining from a second floor vantage point overlooking the marina and bonefish flats of Alice Town. Bimini is known for world class beaches, fishing and diving and is a family-friendly destination with many on-the-water activities, including kayaking, paddle boarding, snorkeling and boating. The resort is managed by the Horizon Hotel Group. For more information on Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina go to www.biggameclubbimini.com.