

## **Sand Dollar & Bonaire Dive & Adventure Host the First Annual Fish ID Challenge**

For many years, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort and Bonaire Dive & Adventure have actively supported education and conservation programs designed to contribute to the preservation of Bonaire's magnificent underwater Marine Park. Join them this summer for their latest endeavor, the First Annual Fish ID Challenge from August 9 - 16 or August 16 - August 23, 2008 in conjunction with Fish ID experts Patti & Scott Chandler of [ReefNet, Inc.](#) Well known for their work in marine life identification and documentation, the Chandlers have spent the last 17 years documenting fish species, behaviors and creatures for future study and identification.

Participants will enjoy multimedia Fish ID seminars targeting novice to advanced fish watchers during their stay. Attendees will receive a Bonaire specific, custom printed Fish ID guide of the top 100 most commonly sighted fish found in Bonaire's waters as well as a H2YO Noisemaker (underwater signaling devise designed by ReefNet, Inc.) plus one Reef Fish Interactive DVD per couple. During the week, Patti and Scott along with Bonaire Dive & Adventure Naturalist Jerry Ligon, will lead guided shore dives on Bari Reef. Several evenings each week, Patti and Scott will share raw, uncut video of these and other dives with participants discussing fish ID and swapping the days "fish stories." One of Scott's specialties is shooting in Hi-Def macro, capturing on tape, interesting fishes and creatures too small to be noticed by the naked eye and fish behavior not normally seen by most divers.

Divers will learn how to contribute to REEF's (the [Reef Environmental Education Foundation](#)) fish database through the use of roving surveys. Information gathered in the surveys will be entered into REEF's public-accessible database and made available to divers, marine researchers, and other interested parties. Current Reef database statistics site Bonaire as having 7 of the top 10 Reefs in the Caribbean in terms of species richness, with Sand Dollar's Bari Reef boasting the top position with a remarkable 368 species recorded.

Participants will be further challenged with the goal of locating a "fish du jour" which will be posted on a daily "Wanted Poster." At week's end, prizes will be awarded for the guest(s) who accumulate the most points for daily fish sightings. Guests will be encouraged to participate in a cumulative weekly fish sighting tally that will be updated daily to illustrate the vast representation of fish that can be found in Bonaire's calm waters.

Advanced registration for the **Fish ID Challenge** is required prior to June 15, 2008 at a fee of \$100 per person per week for Sand Dollar guests and \$150 per person per week for Bonaire visitors staying elsewhere.

For reservations please contact your favorite Dive Travel professional or contact Sand Dollar Condominium Resort at 1-800-288-4773 or via Email at [usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com](mailto:usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com)  
<http://www.sanddollarbonaire.com/>