

USOA 2023 Spearfishing Annual Report

2023 USOA Spearfishing Nationals was held June 15 in Kona, Hawaii. Kona Coast Spearfishing Club hosted and it was one of the top 3 largest Nationals (if not the largest) in the last 25 years. There were over 100 participants. The tournament was well run, there were no issues or drama, the banquet was incredible, and everyone had a great time. It was the 1st year the new Master's Division was included. It only had 2 teams in it but hopefully in the future, interest in the new division will grow.

The 2024 USOA Spearfishing Nationals are tentatively scheduled to be held in the Florida Keys July 17 & 18. Joe Fernandez, who is the current Captain of the USA Women's Team, is planning to start a new club called Triton Freedivers and host the Nationals through this new club.

Two new USOA Spearfishing clubs were started in 2023 and both clubs sent teams to the Nationals. The Oahu Gatherers from Hawaii and the Orange County Spearos from California were the 2 new clubs. There was a 3rd club that had been inactive since 2004 called Hawaiian Island Freediving, which became active again in 2023 and sent teams to the Nationals. There will be at least one new USOA club formed for 2024 (Triton Freedivers).

2023 is a CMAS Spearfishing World Championship year. The Worlds will be held September 9 & 10 in Laredo, Spain. USOA has both a Women's Team and Men's Team in Spain scouting right now for the tournament. Both Teams have some excellent athletes on them. The Women's Team has a serious chance of fielding an individual Champion and/or being Team Champion again. The men have two athletes who could end up in the top 10 individual.

The Churchill Trophy repair was completed and the diver responsible for the damage was re-instated into USOA and competed in the 2023 Spearfishing Nationals