



For Immediate Release

## Lauren Alvarez Wins Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest *In “Most Impressive Catch” Category*

At age 22, Lutz, Florida resident Lauren Alvarez is already a seasoned tarpon fisherwoman. She’s enjoyed the sport since she was five years old when her dad first took her out. Now she fishes in the Boca Grande-based Professional Tarpon Tournament Series.

Recently, she caught a big one with fishing buddies Alan Carter and A. J. Helenek and sent in a photo of herself and her team and the huge tarpon to the Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS).

“I read about the contest online and thought I’d try to win,” she says. “We caught this fish with a rod and reel using pinfish bait.” Her photo took the prize in the category of Most Impressive Catch and will be featured on the [www.FocusonFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusonFishHealth.org) website until mid July when the June winners will go up.

The USDA/APHIS-sponsored Focus on Fish Health campaign, which targets recreational boaters and fishermen with information about preventing the spread of fish diseases and invasive species, is of particular significance to Alvarez. She is an avid supporter of protecting the fish and water environment where she enjoys her sport. “I always rinse down my boat with fresh water after I take it out of the water. I’ve even found a biodegradable sunscreen that I use and recommend to friends.”

Contestants can enter the competition all summer long by submitting their photos to [www.FocusonFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusonFishHealth.org). New winners are announced every month.