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As seen on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* on Food Network!!

Episode: "Succulent Sandwiches" DV2407H

In Key Largo, Florida, a seafood staple servin' up a sandwich that's become a local legend.

13 Seagate Blvd., Key Largo, MM 99.6, 305-451-3142
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The Legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster

confirmed the mammoth whale-of-a-tale was true, and in fact Charlie said there were about four Goliath Groupers in there, all 800 pounds and over.

I then called Sylvia Murphy, our Monroe County Commissioner, and explained it to her. Commissioner Murphy gasped. She knew a lot more about Goliath Groupers than I do, and she was shocked. She said she wanted to speak to Dr. Tom immediately and explained to me that "If a goliath grouper opens its mouth near a swimmer it can suck in their whole arm!"

Murphy called in Assistant County Administrator Kevin Wilson and within 48 hours, new signs were posted around the basin of the property, "Absolutely No Swimming!"

This happened a few weeks ago, before the tragedy at Disney World where a small child was killed by an alligator where no warning signs were posted.

Thank you, Sylvia Murphy and Kevin Wilson of Monroe County for your quick response!

As of this writing they were waiting for Captain Spencer Slate and his dive team to explore the basin with special equipment. Perhaps he may be able to photograph the Key Largo Sea Monster. It is a darn shame people won't be able to swim there as long as those gargantuan groupers are there.

Just for the halibut I suggested we catch them and have a big fish fry party for the whole county but Goliath Groupers are "protected" even tho they are not on the endangered list so they didn't flounder, they filleted the heck out of that idea.

Maybe we should glass in the basin and turn it into an aquarium? Call Gunko of Keys Crane Service and have him haul them out? Then get Captain Mark of Tow Boat US to tow them out to sea? Perhaps one of our readers can come up with a more so-fish-ticated idea.

Charlie Rowell said that

ABSOLUTELY
NO SWIMMING
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Goliath Grouper: Epinephelus itajara



County Commissioner Sylvia Murphy & Asst. County Administrator Kevin Wilson.

The new sign is posted prominently at Rowell's Waterfront Park.

to research the Goliath Grouper gives sharks a run for their money. They are territorial and defend their territory. They have 2 sets of sharp teeth and generally reach the size of a motorcycle. The largest caught on a rod and reel was 680 lbs! The oldest recorded from analyzing bone rings was 37 years old. Their growth rate slows as they age, but they only stop growing when they die.

In 1895 the New York Times reported that a fisherman caught a 1,500-lb. one in the Gulf of Mexico and in the 1950s, 2 children jumped off a bridge in the Keys and one was eaten by a Goliath Grouper. The legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster lives on.

Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home, stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



Goliath Grouper attack in Jupiter, FL.