

**DEC. 3, 2011
TOWN MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA DIVER BREAKS THE WORLD'S
RECORD FOR THE LONGEST DIVE IN SALTWATER**



**Allen Sherrod talks with the media after setting a
new world's record for the longest scuba dive Saturday.**

Florida diver **Allen Sherrod** set a new world's record today (12-3-11) in **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** for the longest scuba dive in saltwater: 48 hours and 13 minutes.

The old record for the longest saltwater dive was held by William Gordon, a United Kingdom diver who set it in January 2010 in Lombok, Indonesia. Gordon's record was **48 hours, 8 minutes and 7 seconds**.

Sherrod started his dive in front of the **Windjammer Resort** at **10:12AM** on **Thursday, Dec. 1**. He surfaced at **10:25 AM** on **Saturday**, breaking the current world record by just under 5 minutes.

A crowd of supporters and members of his dive safety team applauded when Sherrod emerged from the pounding surf this morning. Divers helped

Sherrod walk up to the beach, where Volunteer Fire Department Beach Patrol members and paramedics were waiting to transport him to his Windjammer hotel room.

Once there, paramedics with American Medical Response checked his blood pressure and other vital signs.

The back of Sherrod's knees were bruised from the world record ordeal. His hands were also visibly puffed up from two days of exposure underwater. As he emerged from the ocean, he also needed assistance walking.

He spoke to the media and thanked his dive safety team and Gold Coast Scuba, a Lauderdale-By-The-Sea dive shop which supported his efforts.

"I was glad I was able to break the record in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, the Shore Dive Capital of South Florida," he said.

The seas were calm when Sherrod entered the ocean Thursday, but conditions worsened on Friday and Saturday. He had planned to break the record by 24 hours, but scaled back that goal twice. Sherrod wanted to stay in the water until noon Saturday, but then decided to even cut that goal short.

Divers with his safety team were pounded by the surf and sea conditions overnight as they carried fresh air tanks out to him. Some divers lost gear; others returning to shore were swept far south of the Windjammer by strong currents.

Sherrod first attempted to break the record on Oct. 25. He cut short the effort after just 12 hours, when worsening sea conditions posed a threat to his safety divers.

A resident of Groveland, Fla., Sherrod set up his temporary ocean residence in about **15 feet of water** near the Town's newest artificial reef, which stimulates coral growth by using a low-level electric current fed by solar panels.

The buoys housing the panels are being repaired after they were damaged by rough seas earlier this year. The artificial reef is about 250 yards offshore and just south of the Windjammer Resort, 4244 El Mar Drive.

A NAUI diving instructor for 11 years, Sherrod chose the Town's coral reefs because they are close to the beach.

A popular spot for beach divers because of its near-shore coral reefs, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was declared the "Shore Dive Capital of South Florida" by the Broward County Commission in September 1997.

Nicknamed “the grouper” by Windjammer Resort General Manager John Boutin, Sherrod recently set a world record for the longest freshwater scuba dive in Central Florida (five days). During the attempt, he said he lost six pounds.

During the dive Sherrod limited his food intake Gatorade and chocolate Ensure. He also slept, but not for very long.

Here are three cell phone numbers if you wish to contact Sherrod or his safety team:

Allen Sherrod: 352-702-8676

Debby Sherrod: (wife): 352-702-8648

Jose Mijares: (dive safety team leader): 352-552-1923.