

Have You Seen Me?



Identification: Lionfish have distinctive red, maroon, and white vertical stripes; Fleshy tentacles above eyes and below mouth; Fan-like pectoral fins; 13 long separated dorsal spines; 10-11 dorsal soft rays; 3 anal spines, 6-7 anal soft rays; An adult lionfish can grow as large as 18”

NOAA IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF LIONFISH SPECIMENS FROM THE **NORTHERN GULF IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INSIGHTS FOR DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO STOP THIS INVADER!!!**

If you spot a lionfish, you are encouraged to take note of the **location**. Trained divers may attempt to capture or kill the fish, but are asked to report the sighting and location. Anglers should be careful if they catch a lionfish. If it becomes hooked, the line should be cut releasing the fish into a cooler. No attempt should be made to remove the hook itself since the venomous spines of the lionfish release a toxin that can be extremely painful. If accidentally stung, immerse the wound in hot water and seek immediate medical attention. The 24-hour Aquatic Toxins Hotline at the Florida Poison Information Center in Miami has medical experts on hand and can be reached by calling 1-888-232-8635.

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