

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 13-26

Spearfishing for Lionfish in the Upper Keys

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby allows registered participants in the REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) Lionfish Derby to harvest non-native lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) using certain spearing devices from state waters of the Upper Keys, beginning at sunrise and continuing until 5:00 p.m. local time on September 14, 2013. This activity is authorized only as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 379.2425, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and 68B-20, Florida Administrative Code, registered participants in the Ocean Reef Lionfish Derby scheduled to be held on September 14, 2013, may harvest lionfish from state waters of the Upper Keys (beginning at the county line between Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and running south, including all of the keys down to and including Long Key) using a pole spear, Hawaiian sling, or other spearing device specifically designed and marketed exclusively for lionfish. Harvest of lionfish from the Upper Keys using the spearfishing gears described above is allowed only on September 14, 2013, from official sunrise until 5:00 p.m., local time. Any tournament participant using the described spearfishing gears to harvest or attempt to harvest lionfish shall display the tournament pennant in plain sight and abide by all tournament rules. All persons spearfishing pursuant to this executive order shall also obtain the required permits issued by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and/or John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park if fishing within Sanctuary or Park boundaries. A copy of this executive order and all other necessary permits must be carried by any tournament participant using the described gears, or aboard any vessel from which tournament participants are using the described gears, to harvest or attempt to harvest lionfish.
2. The harvest or attempted harvest of any species other than lionfish using spearfishing gear from state waters of the Upper Keys, as described in 379.2425, F.S., shall remain prohibited.
3. All other rules of the Commission relating to lionfish and spearing shall remain in effect.
4. This order shall take effect at sunrise on September 14, 2013 and shall expire at 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 2013

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 21st day of August, 2013.


Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest:
Agency Clerk



