

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 15-16

Special Lionfish Removal Opportunity

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 authorizes divers who harvest 10 or more lionfish per day during the 2015 lobster sport season to harvest one spiny lobster in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit during the sport season, July 29-30. This opportunity is hereby created as a means to encourage members of the diving community who would not otherwise participate in lionfish removal to harvest lionfish while they are diving. The authorized recreational harvest of spiny lobster during the 2015 sport season is as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-24.004, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), a diver who harvests 10 or more lionfish per day is allowed to harvest no more than one spiny lobster by diving in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit. All other persons are subject to the recreational bag and possession limits as specified in 68B-24.004, FAC.
2. For persons who harvest 10 or more lionfish:
 - a. Except in Monroe County and in Biscayne National Park, during the first day of the two-day sport season, no recreational harvester shall harvest more than 13 spiny lobster, or possess more than 13 spiny lobster whether on or off the waters of the state. During the second day of the two-day sport season, no recreational harvester shall harvest or possess while in or on state waters more than 13 spiny lobster or possess more than 26 spiny lobster once such harvester has landed and departed state waters.
 - b. In Monroe County and in Biscayne National Park, during the first day of the two-day sport season, no recreational harvester shall harvest more than 7 spiny lobster, or possess more than 7 spiny lobster whether on or off the waters of the state. During the second day of the two-day sport season, no recreational harvester shall harvest or possess while in or on state waters more than 7 spiny lobster or possess more than 14 spiny lobster once such harvester has landed and departed state waters.
3. Each harvester possessing a spiny lobster in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit specified in 68B-24, FAC, must harvest 10 or more lionfish.
 - a. Qualifying lionfish must be harvested by the diver who harvests the spiny lobster.
 - b. Qualifying lionfish must be harvested on the same day as the spiny lobster.

- c. Qualifying lionfish must be harvested prior to harvest of a spiny lobster in addition to that allowed under the recreational bag limit specified in 68B-24.004, FAC.
 - d. Qualifying lionfish must be retained in the whole condition by the harvester while on the water and in possession of a spiny lobster in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit specified in 68B-24, FAC.
 - e. While off the water and in possession of spiny lobster in excess that allowed by the recreational possession limits specified in 68B-24, FAC, the harvester of the spiny lobster must either retain the qualifying lionfish in the whole condition or possess a photograph of him or herself with the qualifying lionfish to verify lionfish harvest.
4. This order does not allow for spearing in areas where spearing is prohibited.
 5. All other rules of the Commission relating to the lobster sport season (68B-24, FAC), harvest of marine species using spearing gear (68B-20, FAC), and lionfish (68B-5.006, FAC) shall remain in effect.
 6. This order shall take effect at 12:01 A.M. on July 29, 2015 and expire at 12:01 A.M. on July 31, 2015.

Specific Authority:

Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

Law Implemented:

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

Effective Date:

12:01 A.M. EDT, July 29, 2015



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 25th day of June, 2015.

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest: _____

Agency Clerk