

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Order No. EO 17-29**

**2017 Lionfish Challenge**

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 registered participants in the 2017 Lionfish Challenge who have harvested, and verified their harvest via an FWC-approved method, at least 25 recreationally-harvested lionfish or 25 pounds of commercially-harvested lionfish during the qualifying period to harvest one spiny lobster in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit each day during the 2017 sport season, July 26-27. The qualifying period is May 20, 2017, through July 25, 2017. FWC-approved methods of verifying harvest include submitting a photo of lionfish harvested recreationally or a photo of commercial trip ticket(s) documenting lionfish harvest, including all required information, or submitting harvest documentation at an FWC-approved check point or FWC-attended tournament. Requirements for photo and check point submissions and a list of FWC-approved check points can be located on the Commission's website at the following link: <http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lionfish/challenge/>. FWC will issue each harvester that qualifies for this opportunity a commemorative 2017 Lionfish Challenge coin confirming their qualifying lionfish harvest. This opportunity is hereby created to encourage public involvement in lionfish removal and reward successful lionfish harvesters around the state. The authorized recreational harvest of spiny lobster during the 2017 two-day sport season is as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-24.004, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), a registered participant in the 2017 Lionfish Challenge who harvests and reports at least 25 recreationally-harvested lionfish or 25 pounds of commercially-harvested lionfish between May 20, 2017, and July 25, 2017, is allowed to harvest no more than one spiny lobster per day in addition to that allowed by the recreational bag limit during the 2017 two-day sport season, July 26-27, 2017. All other persons are subject to the recreational bag and possession limits as specified in 68B-24.004, FAC.
2. For registered participants who harvest and report 25 or more recreationally-harvested lionfish or at least 25 pounds of commercially-harvested lionfish during the qualifying period:
  - 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 in possession of spiny lobster, either on or off the water, in excess of that allowed by the recreational bag limit specified in 68B-24, FAC, must also be in possession of a 2017 Lionfish Challenge coin demonstrating qualifying lionfish harvest.
  - a. Qualifying lionfish must be harvested and reported prior to harvest of a spiny lobster in addition to that allowed under the recreational bag limit specified in 68B-24.004, FAC.
  - b. A 2017 Lionfish Challenge coin may be used to harvest a single lobster in addition to that allowed under the recreational bag limit per day.
4. All other rules of the Commission relating to the lobster sport season (68B-24, FAC) and lionfish (68B-5.006, FAC) shall remain in effect.
5. This order shall take effect at 12:01 A.M. on July 26, 2017 and expire at 12:01 A.M. on July 28, 2017.

Specific Authority:  
Law Implemented:

Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution  
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 19 day of July, 2017.

Nick Wiley  
Executive Director

Attest:

  
Agency Clerk