

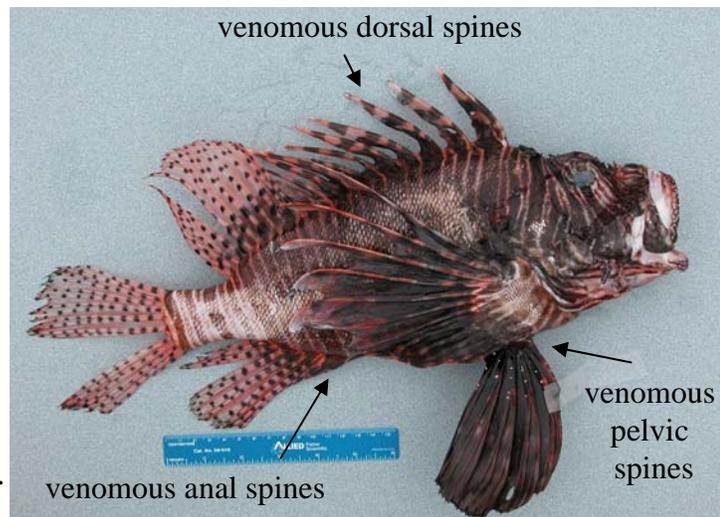
# Divers, Have you seen me?



The venomous Indo-Pacific 'Lionfish' is regularly observed in habitats within the southeast region (Florida to North Carolina) and the Bahamas. These fish are not native to Atlantic waters and may have a negative impact on native fish populations. **All of their spines are venomous and can cause extreme pain!** If stung, immerse wound in hot water and seek medical attention as soon as possible.

## Geographic Location and Habitat:

Lionfish are being reported primarily by Scuba divers from the Bahamas to Cape Hatteras NC in water depths from 5 to 300 ft on hard bottom, coral reef and artificial substrates. Lionfish are expected to eventually be found in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. NOAA requests information about all Lionfish sightings. Location information such as lat/long, depth and type habitat are also encouraged.



**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 and 6-7 anal soft rays. An adult lionfish can grow as large as 18 inches.

**Recommendation:** If you catch a lionfish be extremely careful, do not come in contact with the dorsal, anal or ventral spines. If fish must be handled, thick PVC gloves are recommended. Please do not throw lionfish back in the water! NOAA is interested in all lionfish specimens and reports. Report any lionfish catches to NOAA at (252) 728-8714 or email [reportlionfish@noaa.gov](mailto:reportlionfish@noaa.gov) or report online at <http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/nccos/ccfhr/lionfishreport.aspx>



For more information and to print out additional flyers go to:

<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/education/lionfish.html>

<http://lionfish.eisf.org>

or google "lionfish outreach"

