



# Lionfish Harvest Charter Program

## Requirements & Application



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## Background

Lionfish are a non-native, invasive species to Florida that have the potential to significantly alter the native marine habitat and impact the recreational and commercial fishing and overall economy of Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages the removal of all sizes of lionfish from Florida's waters. The current most-effective method to remove lionfish are by divers using polespears and other lionfish-specific spearfishing equipment. Localized removal efforts, such as lionfish tournaments, have been shown to be effective in reducing lionfish populations and the FWC has also created several incentive programs to encourage recreational divers to harvest lionfish. The commercial market has provided incentive for divers to harvest lionfish and sell their fish to licensed wholesale dealers. Despite the increase in recreational and commercial harvest of lionfish, existing populations and recruitment to Florida's reefs remain high.

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## Program Overview

Goal: The FWC Lionfish Control Team is asking for assistance from Florida's divers and dive charter businesses to increase lionfish harvesting efforts. The program aims to incentivize dive charters to conduct lionfish-specific harvesting trips in an effort to increase the number of lionfish removed from Florida waters.

The program works in the following ways:

1. Charters conduct a lionfish-specific harvest trip and will be eligible for reimbursement if the total lionfish harvest is equal to 8 lionfish x total number of divers.
    - a. The qualifying total harvest is achievable for divers removing lionfish from areas of the state that vary in population density. It also allows for more-experienced harvesters to compensate for those that are less experienced.
  2. Charters will be reimbursed for \$50/diver upon valid submission of a harvest report (details outlined below in "Reporting Requirements").
  3. Charters will receive reimbursement for qualifying lionfish-specific harvest trips from July 1, 2018 through June 15, 2019.
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### Payment Information

To be paid by the FWC, the organization must be a registered vendor in the state of Florida purchasing system with a valid W-9 on file. If you have already done so, proceed to step #3, otherwise follow steps #1 and #2 below:

1. Register as a vendor with the state of Florida at <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>.
2. Complete a separate registration (from step #1) and upload an active W-9 at <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>. Note: It usually takes 3-5 days for system processing.
3. **Before conducting a lionfish harvesting trip, vendors must send the completed application (page 3) to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).**
4. A purchase order for \$2,499.99 will be issued and upon approval, you will receive an email notification with an order number, then *lionfish harvesting trips may begin!*
5. Additional applications may be submitted for additional purchase orders.

### Reporting Requirements

At the end of each month, please submit a **single invoice for all trips** and a **report for each trip** to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).

- Invoice MUST include:
    - Invoice number
    - Invoice date
    - Vendor name and address
    - FWC name and address (FWC Lionfish, 2590 Executive Center Circle East, Tallahassee, FL 32301)
    - Order number (included in notification email of the approved purchase order)
  - Reports for **each trip** MUST include:
    - Trip date, number of divers and total number of lionfish harvested
    - Name and contact information of each diver
    - Proof of lionfish-specific harvest: Photo of clearly countable lionfish and include dive computer or phone with date
    - Photo of all divers with lionfish harvest
  - All invoices and final reports must be received no later than June 15, 2019.
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### Applicant Information

<b>Organization Name</b>	
<b>Organization Address</b>	
<b>Contact Name</b>	
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

- Organization is registered with <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>.
- Valid W-9 is on file with <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>.

### Terms & Conditions

FWC reserves the right to deny payment if the vendor fails to fulfill the requirements for harvest verification. FWC is not liable for any incidences that occur during the charter trips. The registered vendor has sole responsibility for the divers and associated entities. The program is intended for lionfish-specific charter trips and must not include the harvest of other species.

I acknowledge that I have read the requirements for this program and have reviewed the terms and conditions.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed application to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).**  
 Please direct all questions regarding the program to Hanna Tillotson  
 ([Hanna.Tillotson@MyFWC.com](mailto:Hanna.Tillotson@MyFWC.com)).