



Recreational Lionfish Harvest Program

Requirements & Application



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 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.

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 recreational 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 15 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. Qualifying lionfish harvest trips must be completed between the date of the approved Purchase Order and June 15, 2022. Reimbursements **cannot** be made for trips completed before approval of a Purchase Order.
 4. The last day to open a new Purchase Order is September 30, 2021. After this date, no Purchase Orders will be opened. Depending on funding availability, there may be potential to begin opening Purchase Orders again later in the year at FWC Staff discretion.
 5. Participants who hold a valid and current FWC issued Saltwater Products License and plan to sell their lionfish harvests commercially are not eligible for the Recreational Lionfish Harvest Program.
 6. Participants in the Recreational Lionfish Harvest Program are not eligible for the Commercial Lionfish Harvest Program.
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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://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace.
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.**
4. A purchase order for \$1,000.00 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 Monthly Invoice Summary, Individual Trip Invoices, and a video** for the month of trips and send to Lionfish@MyFWC.com.

- MUST use FWC Invoice template and include:
 - Invoice number and date
 - Vendor name and address
 - FWC name and address (FWC Lionfish, 1875 Orange Ave East, Tallahassee, FL 32311)
 - Order number (included in notification email of the approved purchase order)
- In addition to the Monthly Invoice Summary, reports for **each trip** MUST include:
 - An Individual Trip Invoice for **each** trip.
 - At least 2 photos for each trip included **both** in the invoice and as a separate attachment to the email:
 - A photo including the date displayed on a phone or dive computer and the fish in the background
 - A photo with all lionfish in rows of 5 with all participating divers in background
 - One **10 second video** of divers, timekeeping device (phone or dive computer) that displays the date, and lionfish. Once your purchase order is approved, you will receive a request for information from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Check Spam folder). Follow the link and upload your video using this format: **Vendor Name_Your Last Name_Month_Day of Trip.**
- Invoices for reimbursement must be received **within 30 days of the end of the harvest month**. Invoices after the 30 days will not be accepted for reimbursement.



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Applicant Information

Vendor Name *Must match vendor name in My Florida Market Place*	
Vendor Address	
Federal Employer Identification number (FEIN) *Required	
Contact Name	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Vendor is registered with https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace.

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.

Under penalty of perjury, I swear or affirm by signing below that the information I provided on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Section 837.06, Florida Statutes, provides that whoever knowingly makes a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his or her official duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

When this application is received by a state agency, the information contained therein becomes public record subject to inspection under the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Send completed application to Lionfish@MyFWC.com.
Please direct all questions regarding the program to Sarah Peirce
(Sarah.Peirce@MyFWC.com).

Directions: Fill out all required information in red

Dates of Service: Cannot begin before the approval of your purchase order or go beyond the date you submit your trip

***Incomplete or incorrect invoices will not be submitted for processing and will be returned to participant**

Recreational Harvest Monthly Invoice Summary (Complete one invoice summary per month)

INVOICE MONTH: **ENTER MONTH**

DATE: **MM/DD/YYYY**

VENDOR NAME: **NAME**

ADDRESS: **ADDRESS**

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP: **CITY, STATE, AND ZIP**

PHONE: **PHONE**

EMAIL: **EMAIL**

BILL TO

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Lionfish Outreach and Control Program
1875 Orange Ave East
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Purchase Order Number

DATES OF SERVICE

Mm/dd/yyyy

To

mm/dd/yyyy

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF LIONFISH	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
# of Divers Divers	Reimbursement for lionfish recreational harvest trips. Date of Trip: Click to enter a date.	# of Lionfish Removed Lionfish Removed	\$50 Each	\$ (Total)
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# of Divers Divers	Reimbursement for lionfish recreational harvest trips. Date of Trip: Click to enter a date.	# of Lionfish Removed Lionfish Removed	\$50 Each	\$ (Total)
# of Divers Divers	Reimbursement for lionfish recreational harvest trips. Date of Trip: Click to enter a date.	# of Lionfish Removed Lionfish Removed	\$50 Each	\$ (Total)

SUBTOTAL **\$(AMOUNT)**

TOTAL: **\$(Amount)**

**Recreational Harvest
Individual Trip Invoice**
Complete one for each trip

DIVER CONTACT INFORMATION

DATE: **MM/DD/YYYY**

Divers: (Add more lines if needed)

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email
Diver Name	Diver Address	Diver Phone #	Diver Email

Photo Submission:

(Please embed **and separately attach to the submission email at least two photos**: one of all divers and the date displayed on a watch or dive computer, another of all lionfish in neat rows of 5, clearly visible and countable in the photo. Jpeg format is recommended)

***In addition to this invoice**, please submit a short (10 second) video of all lionfish and divers with a phone or dive computer to verify the date. When a purchase order is confirmed, you will receive a Florida Fish and Wildlife request for files from Dropbox (check your spam folder). Follow the link and upload your video in this format: **Vendor Name_Your Last Name_Month_Day of Trip**.

Completed uploading video to DropBox



