Mr. Boyd,

Attached, please find a copy of a recent order published by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding Lionfish Harvest and exemptions to licensing laws. I encourage the Council to take or support similar action at the Federal level to reduce or eliminate restrictions on lionfish harvesting in Federal waters.

In particular, I hope the Council will take steps to allow commercial charter vessels currently lacking Federal reef and pelagic permits to carry paying customers, and gear as specified in the attached order, into Federal waters to hunt and harvest lionfish.

I appreciate you attention to this request, and look forward to positive action. I am happy to share any information or discuss the matter with you, in support of the request.

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 12-12

Lionfish Harvest

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby allows for harvest of invasive non-native lionfish without a fishing license under the following conditions:

1. A Florida recreational fishing license is not required for fishing for lionfish provided harvest is only with the following gear:
   a. Pole spear
   b. Hawaiian Sling
   c. Other spearing device specifically designed and marketed exclusively for lionfish
   d. Hand held net.

2. The harvest of lionfish with hook and line or as bycatch in other legal gear is permissible for commercial and recreational licensed or license-exempt persons.

3. Possession of more than 100 pounds of lionfish shall not be considered a commercial quantity as defined in s. 379.361(2)(i)1., F.S. There shall be no limit for recreational or commercial harvest for lionfish.

4. This order does not allow for spearing in areas where spearing is prohibited.

5. This order shall go into effect upon execution and remain in effect for one year.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and 120.81(5), Florida Statutes
Effective Date: Upon execution.

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
On this ___ day of August 2012.

[Signature]
Nick Wiley, Executive Director

Attest: 
Agency Clerk