

# DIVE LOCKER

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To: Governor Scott and the Commissioners of the FWC,

November 13, 2015

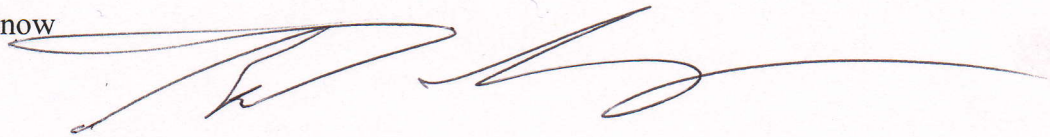
I am writing to you today to request that the FWC Commission support the Emerald Coast Reef Association Lionfish Population Control Proposal.

This proposal would remove tens of thousands of lionfish from our coastal waters very quickly. From reading the FWC lionfish page on your website, lionfish removals are the most effective way to protect our native fish from this prolific invader. Massive lionfish removals is the only way to cut down on unsustainable predation by the lionfish and begin to reduce the population. We must get breeding fish out of the water.

The ECRA plan would encourage divers to go after the lionfish with a new found urgency. Currently, divers only seem to have an interest in focusing on the lionfish, when there is a derby. The rest of the time only a few divers will focus their time and energy going after this fish that can sting them, causing great pain and discomfort. ECRA's plan would encourage more people to go after lionfish every time they dive, lengthen the dive season and, encourage new people to learn to dive to participate in this program. This change of mindset is going to give our fishery the best chance of survive and thrive.

As a dive shop owner, I really appreciate that this plan would not be dependent on continuous donations to motivate the divers. I support the ECRA plan and I hope that you will too.

Tony Snow



Owner, Dive Locker

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