



November 14, 2015

Governor Rick Scott and the FFWCC Commissioners,

The Lionfish population is exploding off the coast of Pensacola Florida threatening the long term health of our reefs and our native fish. Once or twice a year tournaments are not sufficient to handle this growing crisis. Building a commercial lionfish fishery could take years and during that time, we risk losing our native fishery.

There is a plan that would encourage divers to kill lionfish year round. The Emerald Coast Reef Association has a proposal before the Commission that would remove 25,000 lionfish from the Florida Panhandle and the only thing ECRA is asking for is 500 fish tags from 5 species of native fish to use as a motivator for the divers who would kill the lionfish on their own time, at their own expense and at their own risk.

At MBT, we want divers to dive safely, often and to remove lionfish on every dive. The ECRA plan would achieve all those objectives.

As the owner of MBT Divers, I respectfully request that the FWC Commission support the ECRA pilot program proposal.

Thank you,

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