

<http://www.fwbsailfishclub.org>

Date: November 16, 2015

From: John Dyer, President Fort Walton Beach Sailfish Club

To: FWC Commissioners and Governor Rick Scott

Subject: Support for the ECRA Lionfish Population Control Proposal Pilot Program

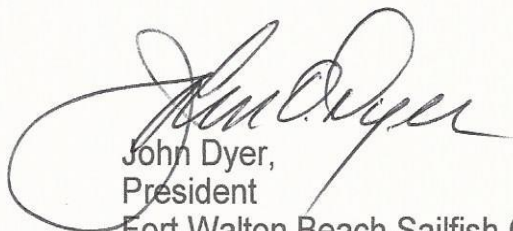
The Fort Walton Beach Sailfish Club was established 42 years ago, in 1972. The Club consists of 80 members and their families whose purpose is to promote safe boating, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. The conservation of game fish is paramount among our members who do their best to tag and release when possible.

We are aware that an invasive species, the lionfish, has invaded the Gulf of Mexico threatening the sustainability of our native fishery. While we believe that public awareness is important, we know that the only true hope we have of saving our native fish from predation by the lionfish is to get lionfish out of the water.

Our membership consists mainly of hook & line fishermen who will not be able to remove lionfish. Because conservation of the fishery is important to our mission, we support the Emerald Coast Reef Assoc. plan that will promote active removals by divers.

We ask that the FWC Commission join us in this support and take action quickly to reduce the population of lionfish in the Gulf of Mexico.

Thank you for your support,



John Dyer,
President
Fort Walton Beach Sailfish Club
Playground Area Boat Club
23 Meigs Drive
Shalimar, Fl. 32579
1-636-359-6569