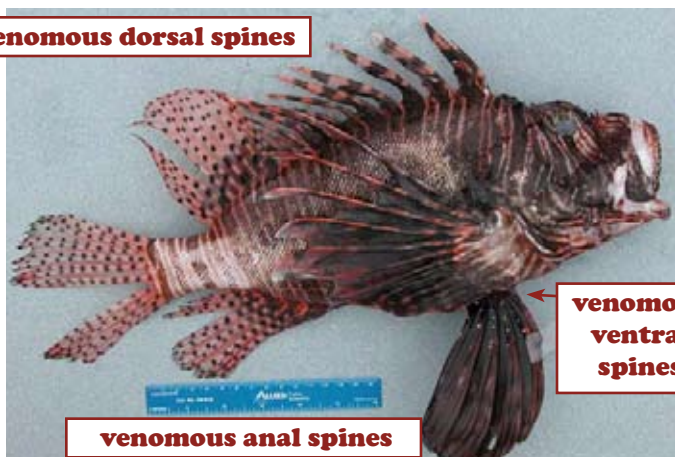


# Have You Seen Me?

venomous dorsal spines



venomous ventral spines

venomous anal spines

## Identification:

- Lionfish have distinctive red, maroon, and white vertical stripes;
- Fleshy tentacles above eyes and below mouth;
- Fan-like pectoral fins;
- 13 long separated dorsal spines;
- 10-11 dorsal soft rays;
- 3 anal spines;
- and 6-7 anal soft rays;
- An adult lionfish can grow as large as 18"



Lionfish underwater

The venomous Indo-Pacific 'Lionfish' is now regularly observed in habitats within the southeast US region (Florida to North Carolina) the Bahamas, Bermuda and as far south as the northern Caribbean (Cuba, Cayman Islands). These fish are not native to Atlantic waters and may have a negative impact on marine life. **All of their spines are venomous and can cause extreme pain!** (See treatment recommendations below).

## Geographic Location and Habitat:

Lionfish are being reported primarily by Scuba divers in water depths from 1 to 100 meters on rocky outcrops, coral reef and artificial substrates. If lionfish continue to spread, they will eventually be found throughout the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. You can help by reporting all lionfish sightings to NOAA (details below). Location information such as lat/long, depth and type of habitat is also encouraged.

## Recommendation:

Stings from lionfish can be serious, and should not be taken lightly. If stung, immerse wound in hot water (100-110 degrees F or 38-43 degrees C) for 15-20 minutes. Do not burn skin and seek medical attention as soon as possible. It is recommended that you call the Aquatic Toxins Hotline at the Florida Poison Information Center in Miami, where medical experts will advise you immediately. This Hotline is available 24/7, and the number is (outside US 011, not toll-free) 888-232-8635

**To report a lionfish: Call NOAA (if outside the US 011) (252) 728-8714**

Email [reportlionfish@noaa.gov](mailto:reportlionfish@noaa.gov)

To report online: <http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/nccos/ccfhr/lionfishreport.aspx>

For more information and to print out additional flyers go to:

<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/education/lionfish.html>

<http://lionfish.eisf.org>

