

# REEF INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM 2023 SCHEDULE

## COLLECTING & HANDLING WORKSHOPS

Classroom workshops & free lionfish charter dives will be offered as part of an Earth Day Celebration in April & the Florida Keys Derby in September to increase the local community participation in invasive removal efforts.

## JEWELRY WORKSHOPS

Lionfish fin jewelry making workshops will be held quarterly throughout the year at Amoray Cay Resort & at REEF campus to promote the marketability of invasive lionfish & provide incentives for removals.

## CULINARY EVENTS

A Lionfish Food and Wine event will be hosted at a local Florida Keys restaurant in April to promote invasive lionfish as an eco-friendly culinary delicacy. Public lionfish tasting & cooking demonstrations will also be offered at Mote's OceanFest (April) & Florida Keys Festival (September).

## FLORIDA KEYS LIONFISH SWEEP

Divers will be encouraged to remove lionfish between April through June & drop them off at REEF campus for a chance to be entered in raffles and win cash prizes. Lionfish will be used in education activities & tasting events.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

More than 30 classroom, virtual & outreach activities will reach hundreds of students (grades K-12 & university) & community members throughout the year. Participants will learn about the threat of lionfish & other invasive species & the role they can play in prevention & management.

## EXOTIC SPECIES SIGHTINGS PROGRAM

REEF's Exotic Species Sightings Program will be promoted to the public and during all outreach and education programs. All nonnative sightings will be shared with partners and stakeholders including Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, USGS & Frost Science Museum & removals will be implemented when possible.

## DEEP WATER LIONFISH TRAPPING RESEARCH

REEF's research team will continue to work on testing the efficacy of managing high densities of deep water lionfish populations off the Florida Keys with traps designed specifically to target lionfish with limited bycatch.

## FLORIDA KEYS LIONFISH DERBY & FESTIVAL

The 2023 Florida Keys Lionfish Derby & Festival will promote large scale local removal of lionfish. The festival will include 25 environmentally-minded vendors, live music & lionfish demonstrations & tastings at the picturesque Postcard Inn Resort & Marina in Islamorada, FL September 8-10, 2023.

All program events will be promoted through REEF's social media platforms, website updates, REEF's eNews letters to our 70,000 members & local community emails. Advertising & promotion is supported through Monroe County Tourism Development Council Destination Event grant & the TDC Cultural Umbrella Grant.



SCHEDULE



Invasive Species Program