



Cancun Lionfish Strategy Workshop

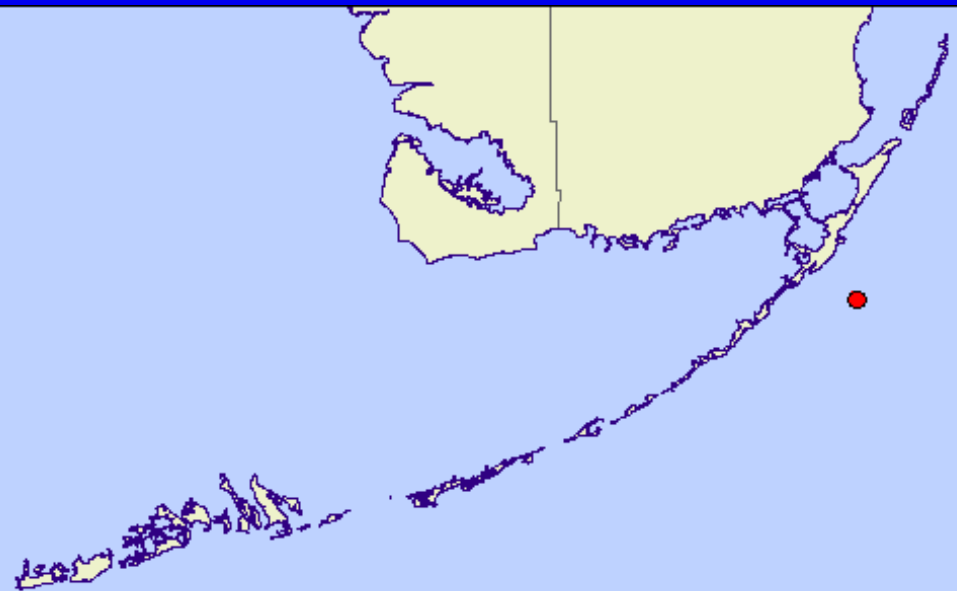
Florida Keys update



Lad Akins
Director of Operations, REEF

Current status of FL Keys Lionfish

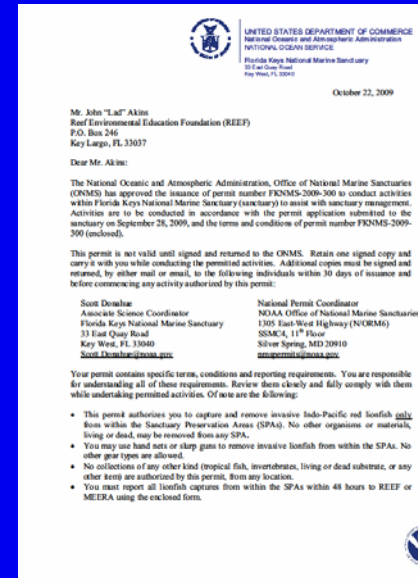
- First report – Jan 2009



January 2009

Strategies/Plan

- **Early detection/rapid response plan**
 - **Phase 1 – initial invasion**
 - Outreach/awareness
 - Permitting on the water professionals
 - Training for permitted groups
 - Centralized reporting
 - **Phase 2 – full invasion**
 - Increased outreach
 - Encouraging widespread removals
 - Developing incentives (events, markets)
 - Identifying funding
- **Strong partnerships**



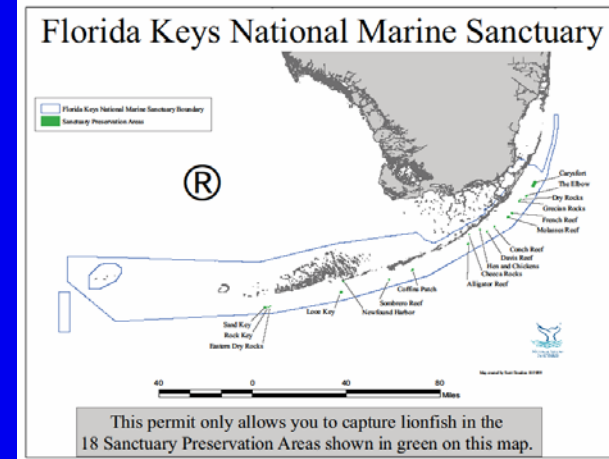
Successes

- Early detection/rapid response plan
- Outreach/awareness
- Permitting for MPA removals
- Partnerships
- Centralized reporting
- Utilizing specimens
- Derbies



Challenges

- Rapid invasion
- Extensive area and habitats
- Training
- Removal incentives
- MPA removals
- Allowable gear/regulations
- Applied research
- Funding



Funding

- **FKNMS**
 - No dedicated funding, some staff time for outreach, permitting
- **Partners**
 - REEF – 2 staff, one-time govt funding, leveraged community support
 - MOTE – part time staff
 - USGS – part time staff, PhD researcher
- **Local Community – volunteer removals!**
- **Future – market development, grants, ??**

Needs

- **Research**
 - Direct impacts (\$)
 - Effectiveness of removals
- **Removals**
 - Training
 - Efforts outside dived areas (organized teams)
 - New techniques
 - Regulatory changes
- **Incentives**
 - Market development – demand and supply
 - Events
- **Funding!**

FKNMS Lionfish Response

Upcoming Programs and Events

- **Lionfish derbies**
 - Key Largo Sept 10-11
 - Marathon Oct
 - Key West Nov
- **Additional Collecting/Handling Workshops**
- **Lionfish Cookbook**





REEF



Thank you!