

HR 9109

2015

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating May 16, 2015, as "Lionfish
3 Removal and Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.
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5 WHEREAS, two species of lionfish, *Pterois volitans* and
6 *Pterois miles*, are found in Florida's waters, and

7 WHEREAS, lionfish are known to cause detrimental effects to
8 native marine life, including important commercial,
9 recreational, and ecological species of fish and invertebrates,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, while some lionfish are incidentally captured in
12 the lobster trap fishery, much of the lionfish population is
13 being controlled by divers and snorkelers at accessible
14 locations through regular removals and removal events, and

15 WHEREAS, removal efforts are showing success at reducing
16 lionfish populations and maintaining low densities, and

17 WHEREAS, lionfish are being commercially sold and consumed
18 as a food fish in Florida and throughout the United States,
19 which provides an incentive to remove larger invasive lionfish,
20 and

21 WHEREAS, lionfish, extremely popular in the home aquarium
22 trade, are being imported from their native range to supply this
23 trade, and Florida's marine life collectors are able to collect
24 and sell lionfish into the trade, and

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25 WHEREAS, the collection and sale of these fish provides an
26 incentive to remove smaller lionfish before they can mature and
27 reproduce, and

28 WHEREAS, continued outreach and education efforts regarding
29 lionfish can positively influence the public to engage in
30 removal efforts, NOW, THEREFORE,

31

32 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
33 Florida:

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35 That May 16, 2015, is designated as "Lionfish Removal and
36 Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.