



Pterois volitans

Lionfish

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - “Active hunters/ambush predators likely to affect population size of their prey & availability of food sources for larger fish in the Atlantic” (Molnar 2008).
 - No referenced problems w/introduction or existing populations at this time.
2. Invasive potential
 - “Mainly human assisted introductions. Ballast water and intentional aquarium release are main transport vectors. Some potential for natural expansion from introduced ranges” (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally patchy



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Indo-pacific from Australia north to southern Japan and south to Micronesia.
2. First introduction: mid 1990's
3. “Ballast water possible because larvae have low oxygen/food needs. Possible release from private aquarium in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit Florida. Local owners may release instead of kill” (Molnar 2008).
4. Marine, coral reefs
5. Coral reefs of tropical waters, hovering in caves or near crevices

Invasion Pathways

Ballast Water and Sediments

- Accidental possible
- Ballast water possible because larvae have low oxygen/food needs.

Pet, Aquarium, and Water Garden Trade - including organisms & facilities

- Intentional possible
- Cause- Storm event (Hurricane Andrew-1992) may have caused release
- Possible release from private aquarium in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit Florida.

Pet, Aquarium, and Water Garden Trade - including organisms & facilities

- Accidental possible
- Cause- aquarium release
- Local owners may release instead of kill.

Non native locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=963>