



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



June 17, 2014

Subject: Filing Changes Affecting Import and Export of all Lionfish Species

Background: The Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (GSARP) is drafting a National Invasive Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan. Implementation of this Plan requires an understanding of import/export practices and appropriate monitoring strategies.

Lionfish are imported in the live aquarium trade, but the specific quantity by species is unknown. Currently, tropical fish imported into the United States can be declared to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a general manner on the Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife (Form 3-177) as marine or freshwater fish. The invoice must contain detailed species information; however, that information is not easily retrievable via the Service's database. In order for the GSARP to develop accurate objectives and monitoring strategies for lionfish management, the Service needs to collect more detailed species information on the Form 3-177.

Action: Effective July 8, 2014, all importers and exporters must separately record any live specimens of the genera *Brachypterois*, *Dendrochirus*, *Ebosia*, *Parapterois*, and *Pterois* on different lines of the Service Declaration (Form 3-177, whether filed electronically or in paper form). Declarations that combine any species of the genera listed above as one line item of marine, freshwater, or tropical fish will be rejected for correction.

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