

Beauty That's a Beast

By Terry Peterman

Although Native to the tropical Indo-Pacific; the Red Lionfish has been a beautiful and elegant addition to aquariums for many years. However, since 2000 the Lionfish has been spotted in Coral reefs through Florida and up to South Carolina. Removed from it's predator filled environment to an environment where it's normal multiplicative proclivities have no restraining factors has allowed it to multiply quickly. Lionfish by nature are a very aggressive predator and well aware of the power of their venomous Dorsal, Pelvic and Anal Spines. They have been known to aggressively attack swimmers and divers in their native environment. Be aware of the growing populations



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

of this fish. The Sting from this fish is very painful and can be dangerous. The Venom breaks down with heat, First Aid consists of removing any broken spines and soaking the area in hot, not scalding water. Medical attention should be sought to prevent infection. It looks like hot packs should now be considered a staple with your diving first aid kit. For more information as well as some interesting downloadable flyers, go to <http://home.eisf.org/node/1082> . See you at the anchor.

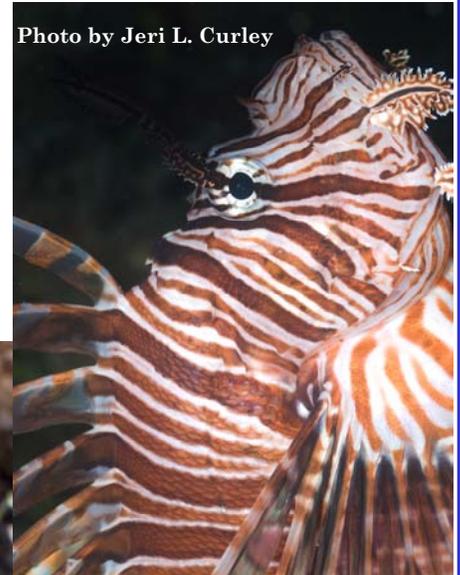


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