

# Non-native marine fishes: Lionfish and more . . .

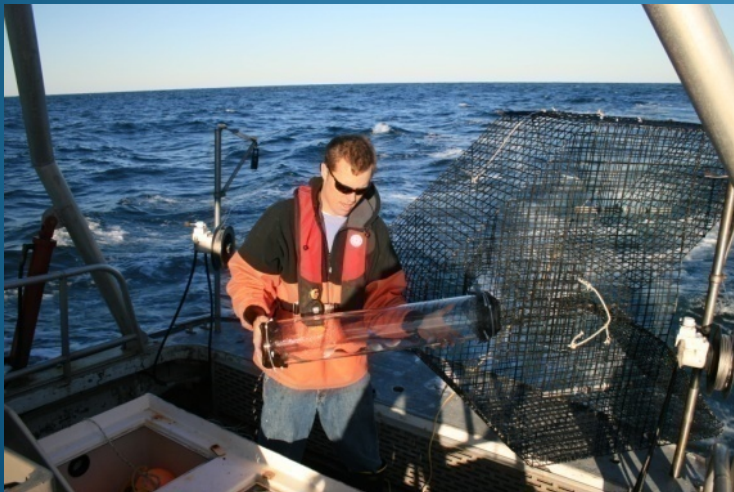
Pam Schofield



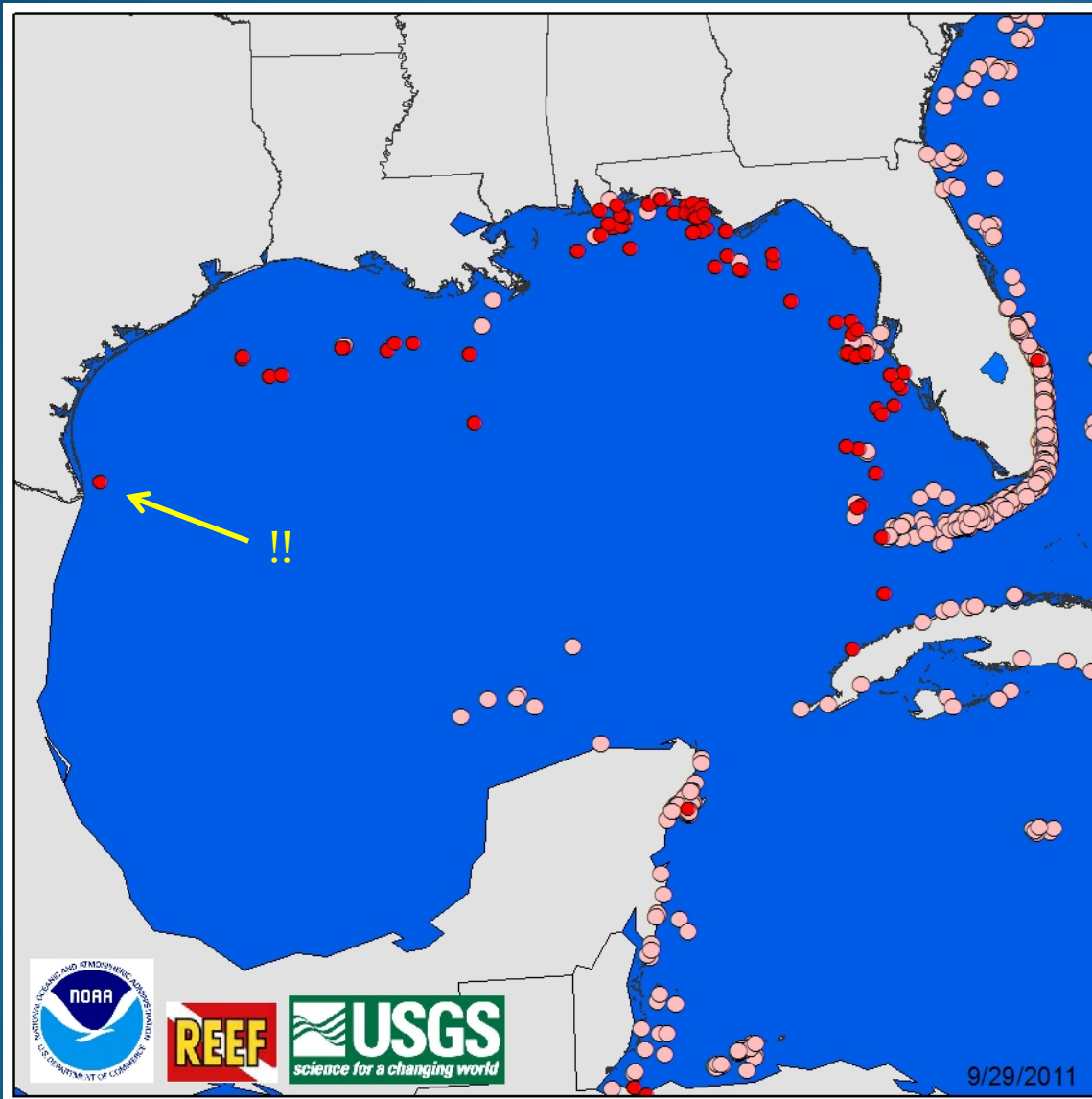
Presented to: Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance  
Species Task Force, Austin, Tx. October 2011

Tracking distributions of non-native marine fishes by USGS is part of a large, joint research program with our partners NOAA and REEF, focusing on:

Lionfish biology and ecology  
Control techniques and assessment  
Assessment of Impacts  
Outreach and education  
And much more . . .



## Lionfish distribution – update



All data up through  
our last meeting  
(April 2011) = **pink  
dots**

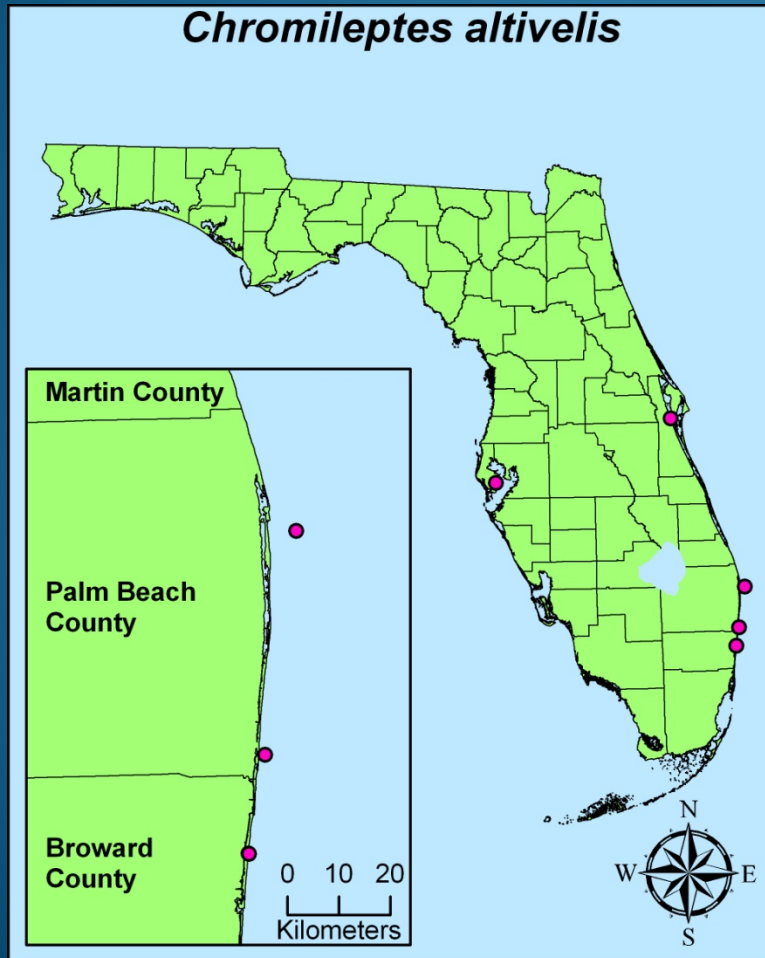
New data (records  
since April 2011) =  
**red dots**

**And now for something a little scary . . .**





Remember at our last meeting in April we told you about the panther grouper (*Chromileptes altivelis*) in West Palm . . .



The species had not been  
seen since 2007

Guess who's back . . . Two more recent sightings.



Photo: J. Randall

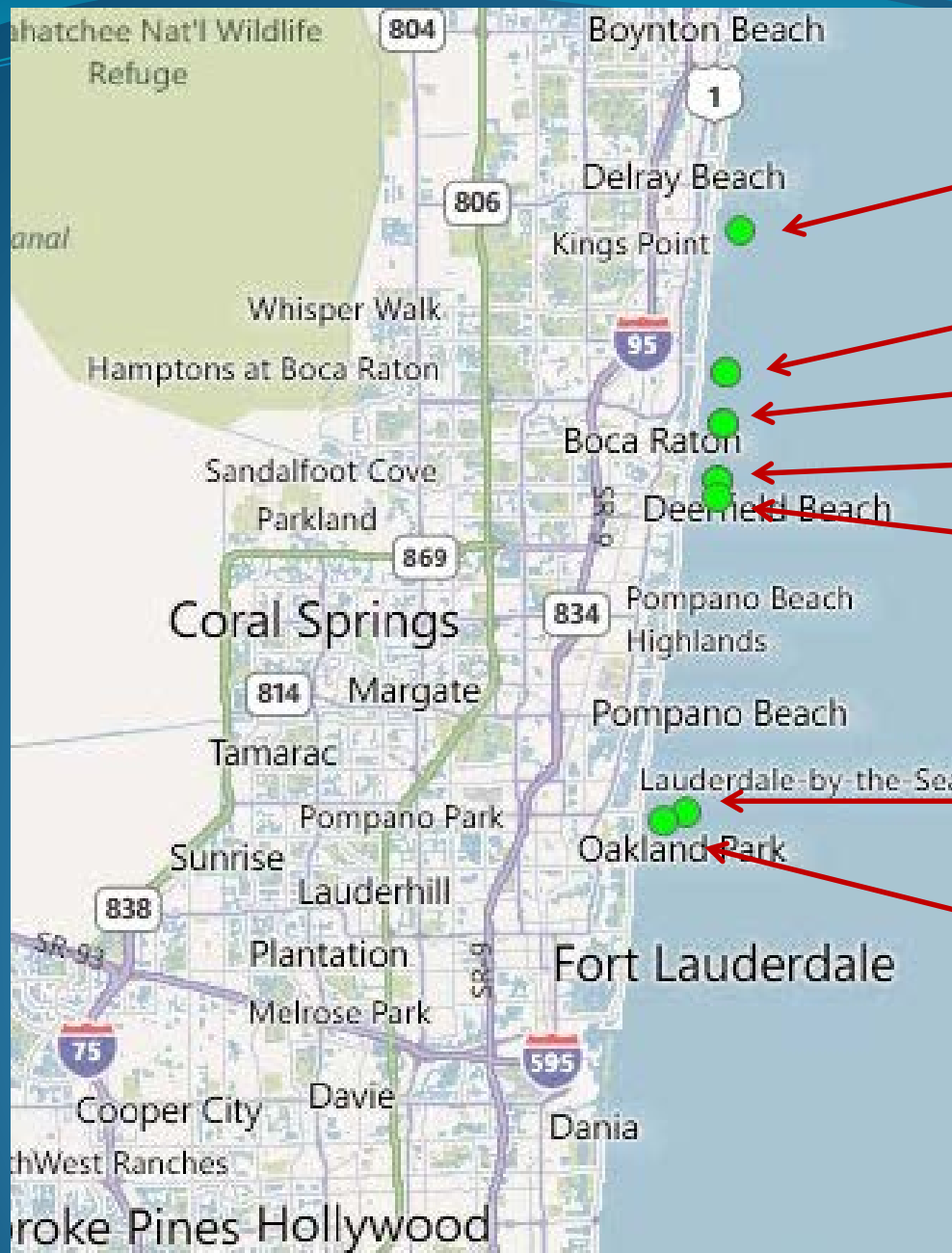
**Native Range:** NW and Central Pacific (incl. Hawaii)

**Max size:** about 20 cm

**Last seen in Florida:** 2005

Available in the aquarium trade

Yellow Tang – *Zebrasoma flavescens*



2005

2001, 2005

2001, 2002, 2003

2002, 2005

2003

2004

2011

All records from  
USGS-NAS and  
REEF databases



# Spotted scat – *Scatophagus argus*



This is a photo of the actual specimen that was captured just inside the St. Lucie inlet (near Stuart, FL) in mangrove/mud habitat, July 2011

**Native Range:** Indo-Pacific (India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, SE Asian coast)

**Native habitat:** found in fresh, brackish and marine waters

**Diet:** detritus, vegetation, algae, phytoplankton

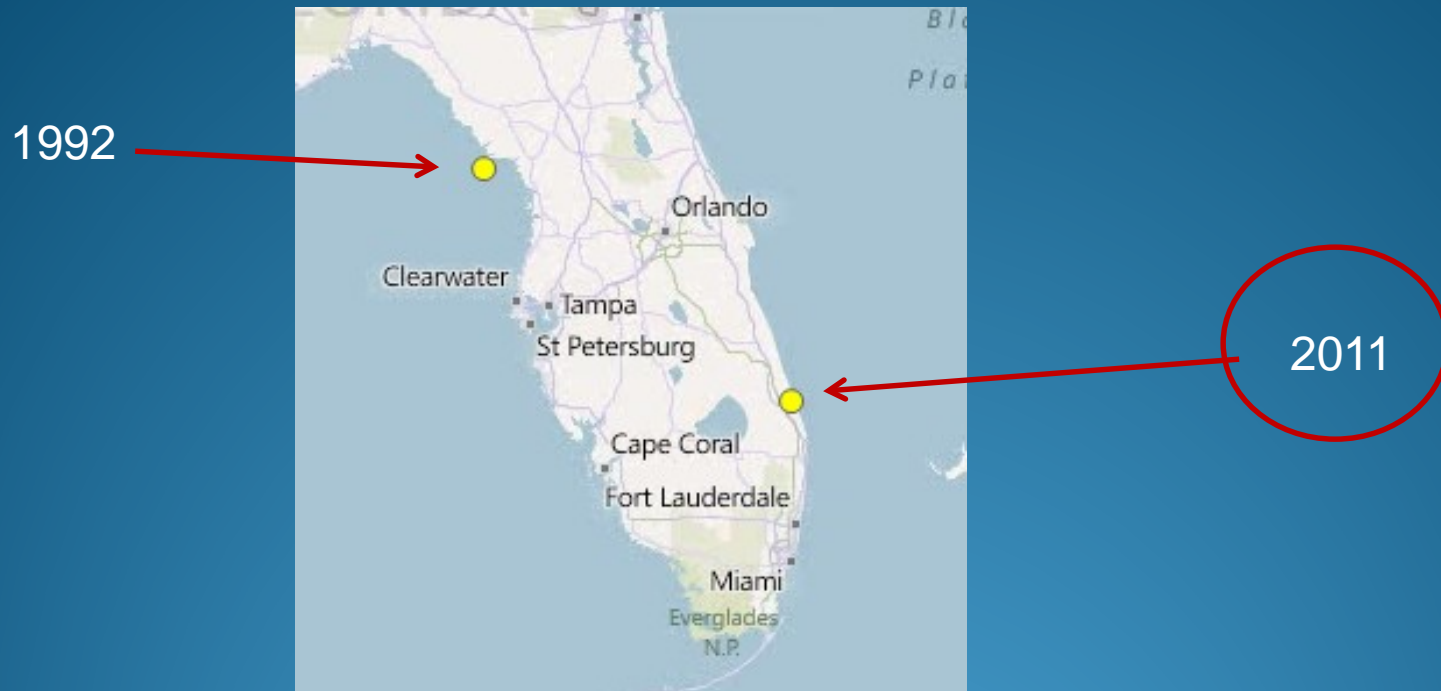
**Max size:** about 30 cm

**Last seen in Florida:** 1992

**Important note:** reported to have venomous spines

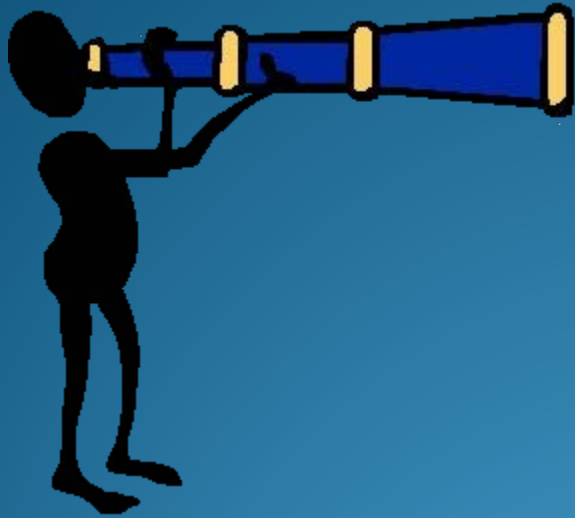


## Previous occurrences of scat:



This is the first time this species has been documented from the Atlantic Ocean. The only other specimen of record was collected in 1992 off Cedar Key, FL, in the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, this is the second record of the species in the continental USA.

Specimen has been transferred to Florida Museum of Natural History (UF). Thanks, Scott!



**Be on the lookout!**

**Report sightings to REEF or USGS**