

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 943

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to award competitive grants to combat the certain species of lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to award competitive grants to combat the certain species of lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Finding Innovative  
5 Lionfish Elimination Technologies Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGH-**  
2 **ER EDUCATION AND NONPROFIT RESEARCH**  
3 **ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBAT LIONFISH IN**  
4 **THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE GULF OF**  
5 **MEXICO.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce,  
7 through the Cooperative Science and Education Program  
8 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
9 conducted under Public Law 86–685 (74 Stat. 733), the  
10 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et  
11 seq.), and the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and  
12 State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations  
13 Act, 1999 (section 101(b) of division A of Public Law  
14 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681–50), shall award competitive  
15 grants to institutions of higher education and nonprofit  
16 research organizations to combat the species of lionfish  
17 *Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*, in the Atlantic Ocean  
18 and the Gulf of Mexico.

19 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under  
20 this section, an institution of higher education or nonprofit  
21 research organization must—

22 (1) have established research infrastructure and  
23 proven capabilities of understanding the behavior of  
24 such species and the ecosystems of the Atlantic  
25 Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico; and

1           (2) demonstrate a clear appreciation and under-  
2           standing of the biological, chemical, and physical as-  
3           pects of such ecosystem.

4           (c) ENCOURAGEMENT OF COLLABORATION.—In se-  
5           lecting projects for grants under this section, the Sec-  
6           retary of Commerce may encourage collaborative work  
7           with stakeholder groups having practical experience with  
8           gear, harvest techniques, and knowledge of local eco-  
9           systems.

10          (d) USE.—Amounts awarded as grants under this  
11          section shall be used—

12           (1) for lionfish research and the impact of such  
13           species on the ecosystems of the Atlantic Ocean or  
14           the Gulf of Mexico;

15           (2) to develop innovative technologies, including  
16           autonomous cameras and active acoustic systems ap-  
17           propriate for coastal environments, for detection of  
18           lionfish and determination of priority areas for re-  
19           moval of invasive species; and

20           (3) to develop lionfish mitigation technologies,  
21           including traps and countermeasures.

22          (e) FUNDING.—Of amounts available for each of fis-  
23          cal years 2018 through 2022 for the Coastal Ecosystem  
24          Resiliency Grant program of the National Oceanic and At-

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1 mospheric Administration, \$1,500,000 may be used to  
2 carry out this section.

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