FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SSI Continues to Expand Its Industry-Leading Conservation Education Programs with New Invasive Species Management Specialty

DELRAY BEACH, FL – [July 07, 2026] Scuba Schools International (SSI) is proud to announce the release of its new **Invasive Species Management Specialty**, its tenth Environmental Specialty program designed to equip divers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to safely participate in lionfish management while supporting local marine conservation efforts.



As the latest addition to the SSI continuing education portfolio, this new specialty certification reflects SSI's ongoing commitment to expanding meaningful training opportunities that combine diver education with real-world environmental action.

Developed for certified divers aged 16 and older, the program introduces students to the ecological impact of invasive species, with a specific focus on the lionfish invasion. Divers learn lionfish biology, responsible removal practices, gas planning, and the proper selection and use of specialized equipment needed to safely conduct lionfish management dives.

Unlike the previous recognition program, the newly revised curriculum is now a **full SSI Specialty certification**, complete with the SSI Total Teaching System, including digital learning materials, instructor resources, presentations, and certification processing.

For SSI Training Centers and Professionals, the program offers an exciting opportunity to expand continuing education offerings while connecting divers with meaningful conservation initiatives in their local communities. The specialty integrates seamlessly into existing education pathways and can be paired with environmental awareness events, conservation projects, and advanced training programs.

"Today's divers want more than unforgettable underwater experiences—they want the opportunity to make a positive impact," said **Rachael Steidley, SSI Marketing Manager**. "The new Invasive Species Management Specialty gives our Training Centers the tools to meet that demand while empowering divers to actively support healthier marine ecosystems. It is another example of SSI's commitment to education with purpose."

Current SSI Invasive Species Management Instructors will automatically receive the updated instructor rating, while active-status SSI Open Water Instructors can qualify by following SSI's Specialty Instructor process.

The new SSI Invasive Species Management Specialty is launching globally across the SSI network this week.

To learn more, contact your local SSI Training Center or log into your SSI University account to review the program webinar.

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