



# **ICRI *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion**

**Activities Report**  
for the period November 2011 to July 2012

**27th General Meeting of ICRI**  
16-19 July 2012, Cairns, Australia

# Caribbean Regional Response To Lionfish Invasion

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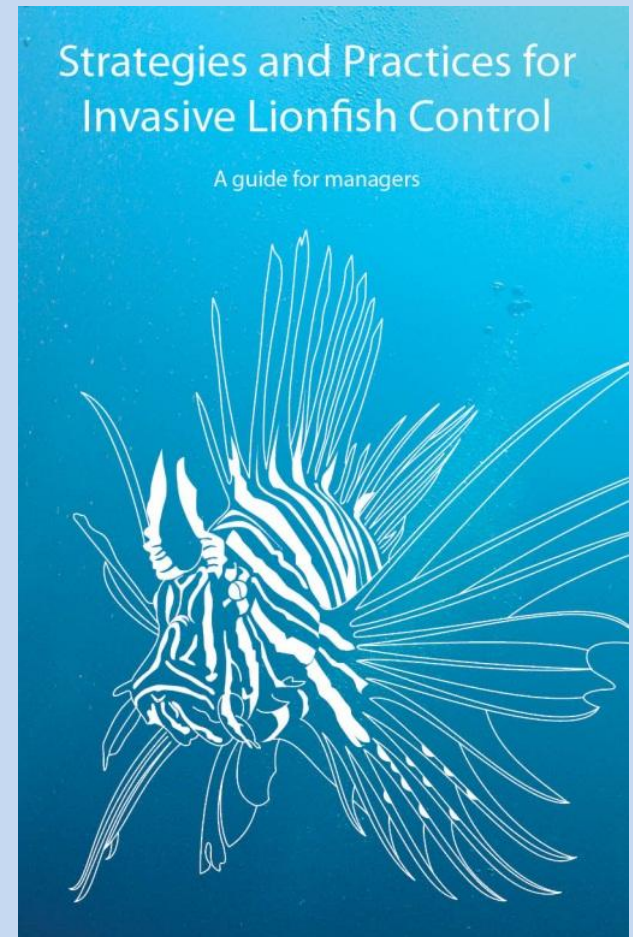


<http://animalsspecies.blogspot.com/2011/03/lion-fish.html>

# Taking Aim at the Lionfish: Activities and Projects Underway

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- Developing the Invasive Lionfish Control Manual
- Regional training workshops
- Lionfish web portal
- Lionfish Regional Response Plan for the Caribbean



# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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According to the mandate of the Regional Committee for the Lionfish Control in the Caribbean (RLC), we have developed the following activities.



# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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- I. Develop and update a regional list of contacts including experts on marine invasive species, marine resource managers, fisheries experts, technicians and scientists, with the aim of exchanging experiences and information.

## Result:

So far the list has more than 190 contacts.

# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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- II. The committee held four conference calls to follow-up on the pending issues:
- a) Strategies and Practices for Invasive Lionfish Control Training (August 2012, MARCUBA)
  - b) Lionfish web portal contracting is underway. We plan to begin planning team meetings by late summer (Aug/Sept).
  - c) Regional lionfish collecting and handling workshops:
    - In Bahamas on 15-16 May for fisheries officer and managers from Trinidad/Tobago, Dominica, Bahamas, Guadeloupe, BVI, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Saba (Netherlands), and Colombia.
    - In Florida in the coming months.



# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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## III. Promoting a Joint Regional Strategy

- a) The RLC presented to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) the actions and progress of this committee. Discussed establishing a regional strategy for controlling lionfish.
- b) Belize, acting on behalf of the RLC, presented the project and our proposed actions at the 10th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 26-28 March, 2012, in the Bahamas. Focused on a joint regional activities to address this threat.

# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

IV. ICRI/RLC poster displayed at the 16th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 30 April - 5 May 2012 in Montreal, Canada.

The poster features a light blue background with a stylized wave pattern. At the top right is the ICRI logo. The main title is 'Caribbean Response to Lionfish Invasion'. Below the title is a paragraph about the invasion of lionfish. To the right is a map of the Caribbean and surrounding regions with red dots indicating lionfish distribution. Below the map is a text box about the rapid geographic spread of lionfish. To the right of this text box is a small image of a lionfish. Below that is another text box about the coordinated response facilitated by the RLC. To the right of this text box is a small image of a diver. At the bottom right is a text box with the website 'www.icrforum.org' and several logos.

**ICRI**  
INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

## Caribbean Response to Lionfish Invasion

The invasion of lionfish (*Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*) could pose one of the greatest threats to temperate and tropical Atlantic reefs on record.

The lionfish invasion has occurred rapidly across a wide geographic area.

As of 2012, lionfish are fully established throughout the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, and in many parts of the Gulf of Mexico. Within the next few years, scientists predict that the lionfish invasion will continue to spread to the temperate reefs of South America.

**Distribution of lionfish - 2011**

Created under the auspices of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC) facilitates a coordinated response to the Lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region.

Recognizing the urgency of the lionfish invasion and the need to develop effective local response plans, an international group of experts has developed a manual that contains tools to identify and guide collaborative responses to control, manage and research the lionfish. The RLC has facilitated the review, completion, and dissemination of this best practices manual.

Strategies and Practices for Effective Lionfish Control

Given their diet and habitat preferences, lionfish have the potential to affect the structure and function of virtually all Atlantic native reef communities.

For more information:  
[www.icrforum.org](http://www.icrforum.org)



# Activities of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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V. Planning is underway for the development of the regional strategy.

- Writing workshop during the first week of September to create the first draft of the strategy.
- Twelve experts from the region in lionfish and fisheries will be invited to participate. Special participation of *CRFM*.
- The draft strategy produced at the writing workshop will continue to be developed through email, teleconferences, and the internet.

# Future of the Regional Lionfish Committee

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## VI. Considering the long-term future of the RLC

- Eventually broadening coordination in the Caribbean beyond lionfish to include all marine invasive species.
- Possibilities for funding dedicated to lionfish control.
- ICRI's role in a permanent RLC.
- A “home” for the RLC with one of the existing organizations or institutions in the Caribbean.
- Modalities for embedding lionfish control efforts in existing institutions and carrying on the work of the RLC once this ICRI ad-hoc committee goes away.

# ***Thank you!***



Photo by Rich Carey