

WCR LIONFISH TIMELINE – REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Regional events and milestones related to management of the lionfish invasion in the WCR

November 2008: SYMPOSIUM, Gosier, Guadeloupe. 61st Annual GCFI conference

NOAA organizes and hosts the first lionfish session with international participation.

November 2009: SYMPOSIUM, Cumana, Venezuela. 62nd Annual GCFI conference

REEF and Simon Fraser University (SFU) organizes and hosts the first lionfish session with international participation.

August 2010: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Cancun, Mexico. Regional Lionfish Strategy Workshop

First large regional meeting of lionfish experts and managers with attendance by representatives from 20 countries and support from ICRI, SPAW-RAC, CONANP, NOAA, and REEF. Launched an expert group (writing team) to draft the “Lionfish Best Practices Manual,” consisting of representation from NOAA, CONANP, CABI, SPAW, SFU, and UWI.

October 2010: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Montego Bay, Jamaica. SPAW COP6

SPAW [decision](#) to “Acknowledge the Secretariat’s initiative to collaborate with Governments and partners in the development of a strategy for managing the lionfish invasion and request the Secretariat to incorporate this activity within the SPAW Programme for 2010-2011 as agreed by the Meeting.” \$10K is set aside by SPAW to fund coordinated activities.

November 2010: SYMPOSIUM, San Juan, Puerto Rico. 63rd Annual GCFI conference

REEF and NOAA organize and host a lionfish session with international participation.

November 2010: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Apia, Samoa. 25th ICRI General Meeting

Creation of the ICRI AD-Hoc Committee on the Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion (“Regional Lionfish Committee”/RLC) and accompanying [Terms of Reference](#). Mexico, U.S., and the SPAW-RAC are identified as co-chairs. The committee is tasked to “facilitate a coordinated response to the lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region” by implementing numerous activities, such as, a control strategy, disseminating the Lionfish Best Practices Manual, producing a host advisory statement, and raising general awareness.

December 2010: PUBLICATION, “The Lionfish Cookbook – the Caribbean’s New Delicacy”, REEF

April 2011: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Miami, Florida. Lionfish Best Practices Manual Writeshop

Expert group of drafters meets to develop outline for the Lionfish Best Practices Manual with funding support from NOAA. Chapter authors are designated and begin drafting content.

May 2011: SYMPOSIUM. Victoria, Canada. 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress

SFU and REEF organize and conduct the lionfish research session.

June 2011: PUBLICATION

SPAW-RAC finalizes the first edition of a POC list of lionfish experts for the Wider Caribbean Region.

June 2011: FUNDING

NOAA is awarded \$200K to develop a regional strategy, develop a webportal, conduct training workshops and training tools, convene a discussion on lionfish as a food fish, and conduct ciguatera analysis.

June 2011: FUNDING

REEF and SPAW-RAC are awarded a \$ x K grant by the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conduct training workshops and translate the Lionfish Best Practices Manual.

July 2011: ICRI [Host Secretariat Advisory](#) on Invasive Lionfish

Statement is released to urge immediate action to address the lionfish invasion in the Wider Caribbean and to provide information on the RLC.

September 2011: Draft Lionfish Best Practices Manual distributed for expert review and public comment.

November 2011: SYMPOSIUM, Puerto Morelos, Mexico. 64th annual GCFI conference

REEF and NOAA organize and host a lionfish session with international participation, presentation of the draft Lionfish Best Practices Manual; side meeting amongst representatives from NOAA, REEF, SPAW-RAC, UNEP CEP, and Mexico to discuss a regional strategy.

December 2011: INTERNATIONAL MEETING, La Reunion. 26th ICRI General Meeting

On behalf of the RLC, Mexico presents the progress of the RLC to-date. The RLC [Terms of Reference](#) are amended such that Mexico, U.S., the SPAW-RAC, and France are RLC co-chairs.

March 2012: SYMPOSIUM, Nassau, Bahamas. Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

On behalf of the RLC, Belize gives a presentation with general background information on the RLC and its associated activities.

May 2012: INTERNATIONAL MEETING, Montreal, Canada. 16th CBD SBSTTA

RLC poster is presented with general background information on the RLC and its associated activities.

July 2012: PUBLICATION. Lionfish Best Practices Manual

The manual is a guide on lionfish best strategies to coastal managers.

July 2012: CONFERENCE, Cairns, Australia. 27th General Meeting – International Coral Reef Initiative

RLC presentation with general background information on the RLC and its associated activities.

Summer 2012: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, TBD. Regional Strategy, TBD

Expert group of drafters meets to develop content for the Regional Strategy.

November 2012: SYMPOSIUM, Santa Marta, Colombia. 65th Annual GCFI conference

REEF and NOAA organize and host a lionfish session with international participation.

November 2012: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Santa Marta, Colombia. Regional Strategy workshop and Food fish forum

Regional stakeholders gather to discuss the draft regional strategy and the consideration of lionfish as a food fish.

WCR LIONFISH TIMELINE – TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Regional training workshops related to management of the lionfish invasion in the WCR

November 2007: WORKSHOP, Nassau, Bahamas. Bahamas National Lionfish Response Planning Workshop

REEF and NOAA are invited by the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources to present a regional update and conduct managers training for Bahamas DMR, Bahamas National Trust, BEST commission, The Nature Conservancy, etc.

June 2008: WORKSHOP, Marathon, Florida. NOAA-REEF Lionfish Early Detection Rapid Response Planning Workshop

REEF and NOAA organize and conduct a two day workshop aimed at early detection rapid response planning for the SE region. Participants included resource managers from the South-eastern U.S. (NOAA, NPS, USGS), as well as the Bahamas.

January 2009: WORKSHOP, Turks and Caicos

Turks and Caicos Department of Environment and Coastal Resources funds REEF to conduct a two-week series of workshops, dives, outreach events and meetings targeting development of lionfish response plans.

March 2009: WORKSHOP, Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Department of Environment funds a REEF and SFU to conduct a seven-day series of workshops, dives, outreach events and meetings targeting development of lionfish response plans.

April 2009: WORKSHOP, Netherland Antilles

Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire, REEF and SFU lead a seven-day series of workshops, dives, outreach events and meetings targeting development of lionfish response plans.

July 2009: WORKSHOP, Yucatan, Mexico

CONANP and REEF lead a seven-day series of workshops, dives, outreach events and meetings targeting development of lionfish response plans.

August 2009: WORKSHOP, St Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

REEF meet with USVI DFW, UVI, TNC, EPSCOR and local dive and volunteer groups to develop lionfish control plans.

November 2009: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Cumana, Venezuela

REEF and SFU conduct a workshop with participation by more than 30 people from 12 countries around the region.

August 2010: WORKSHOP, Nassau, Bahamas

REEF and SFU conduct training and provide advice to the UNEP-funded Bahamas MTIASIC project.

January 2011: WORKSHOP, Dominica.

The Dominica Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries, Watersports Association, and REEF lead a seven-day series of workshops, dives, outreach events and meetings targeting development of lionfish response plans.

August 2011: WORKSHOP, Roatan, Honduras

REEF conducts week-long field survey, including presentations to Roatan Marine Park officials.

September 2011: WORKSHOP, Miami, U.S.

NOAA, REEF and SFU work as invited advisors to the NPS to develop the NPS Lionfish response and control plan.

November 2011: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Cancun, Mexico

Funded by a grant from the NFWF, REEF and SPAW-RAC conduct a two day collecting and handling workshop for resource managers from around the region.

March 2012: REGIONAL WORKSHOP, Bahamas

REEF and the SPAW Lionfish Collecting and Handling Workshop.

WCR LIONFISH TIMELINE – REGIONAL LIONFISH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RLC teleconferences related to management of the lionfish invasion in the WCR

February 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of committee composition and meeting process; prioritized goals of committee and Terms of Reference.

March 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCES

Discussion of draft outline for a webportal and regional strategy.

May 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of a Host Advisory Statement and RLC priority activities.

July 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCES

Discussion of a draft Host Advisory Statement and its roll-out, POC list, funding news, and upcoming ICRI meetings.

August 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of the training workshop and the lionfish session to take place alongside the November 2012 GCFI meeting.

October 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of the Lionfish Best Practices Manual progress, an update on the webportal, and preparation for renewing the RLC at the December ICRI meeting.

December 2011: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of the draft amended Terms of Reference for the RLC, report of the RLC to ICRI, the Lionfish Best Practices Manual progress, an update on the webportal, and ITMEMS.

January 2012: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion on the outcome of the December 2011 ICRI meeting, RLC representation at upcoming regional meetings, and update on the webportal.

February 2012: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion to update on the webportal and its factsheet.

April 2012: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of the RLC poster to be shown at the upcoming CBD-SBSTTA meeting in May 2012, general funding support for RLC-related activities, update on the webportal and regional strategy next steps, long-term future of the RLC as it relates to the creation of a regional group with broader attention to all marine invasive species.

May 2012: RLC TELECONFERENCE

Discussion of how to improve general coordination and communication amongst RLC members, update on funding applications, and MARCUBA.