



# Regional Lionfish Strategy Workshop

Cancun, 25 to 28 August 2010

## French West Indies Strategy

**St Martin, St Barthélemy, Guadeloupe, Martinique**

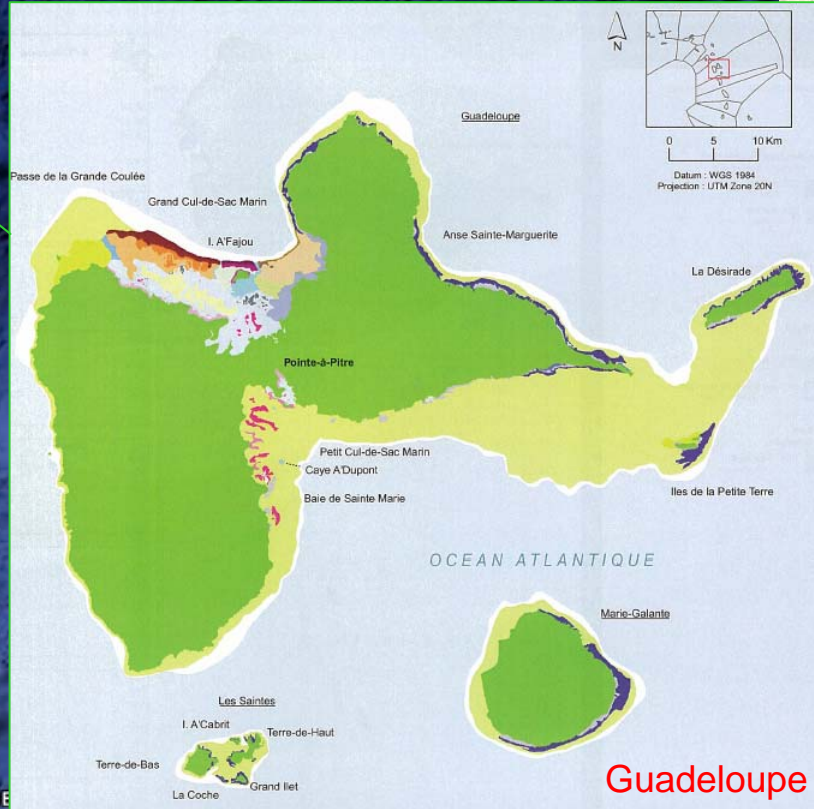
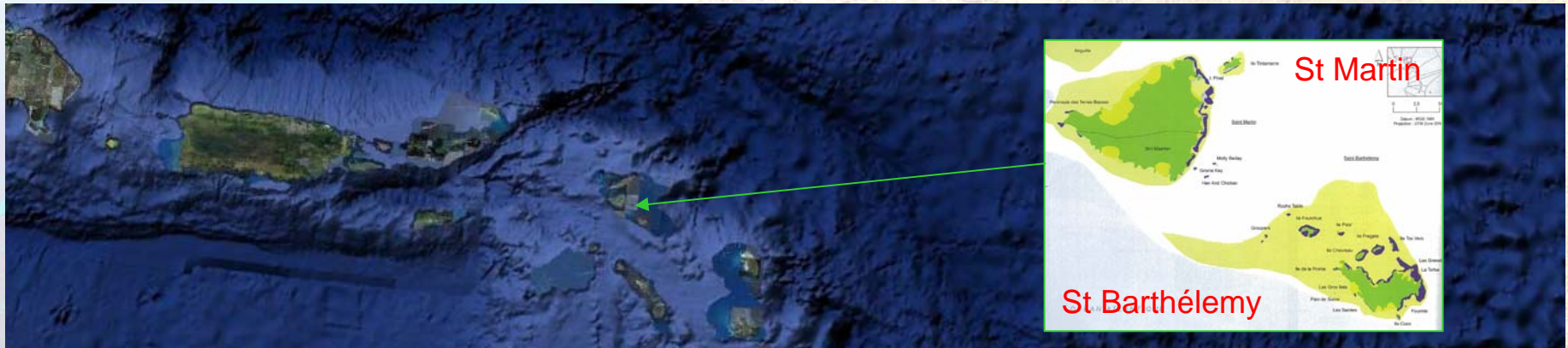
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# Location



# Local conditions

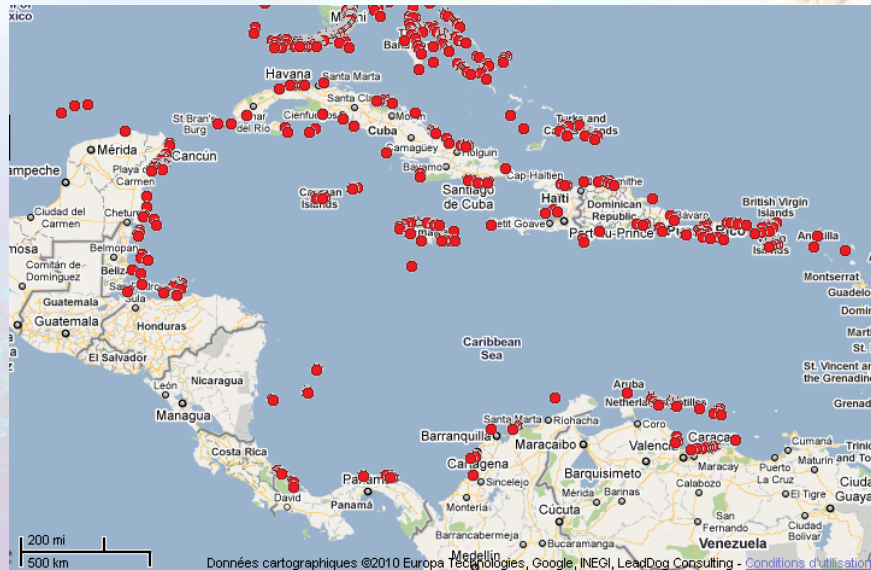
Different status for each island in terms of  
Self-government, area, marine protection level, fishing and  
diving activities

Artisanal fishing gear on coastal area : Fish traps, gill and  
trammel nets leading to overfishing

Increase of spearfishing

Eventual predators, big groupers and sharks, have  
disappeared (excepted in local places)

# Invasion status



NAS USGS map layer



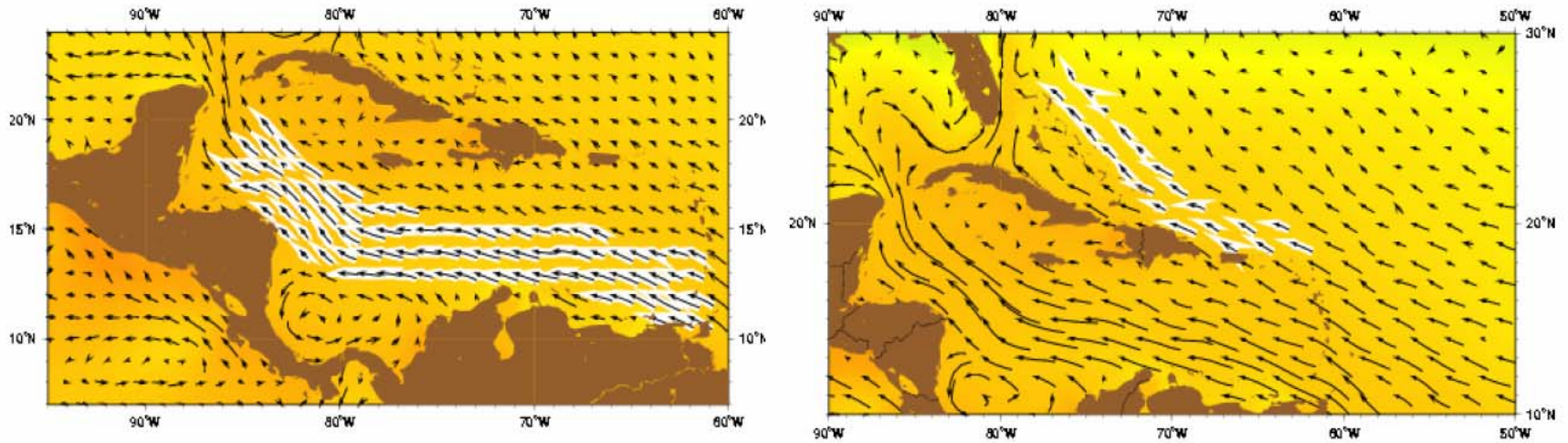
First fish reported in St Martin on July 20th 2010

3 fishes have already been reported on the french part of the island

Habitat : rock and sand , size <3.9 inch

2 have been removed a few days later

# Invasion status evolution



<http://oceancurrents.rsmas.miami.edu/caribbean/caribbean.html>

Arrival date forecasting ? (communication planning)

Lionfish larvae dispersion regarding to the currents in the leeward islands passage

# A Common control strategy for the FWI including :

## **Regional coordination**

- *IUCN French committee / Fr ministry / Spaw-RAC workshop on alien species including lionfish (Guadeloupe, 2009)*
- *Identifying focus points and implementing a network (University, marine park manager, DIREN, Non-profit organization)*

## **Communication**

- *Organization of regional information meeting with local marine users*
- *Broadcoasting « wanted » posters on each island with local focus points phone numbers*
- *Organization of press conferences on each island*
- *Broadcoasting of a note about envenomation issues for local emergency and medical staff*

# A Common control strategy for the FWI including :

## **Lionfish population control**

- *Delivering special authorizations for scuba fishing*
- *Purchase and distribution of underwater collection tools (hand nets & gloves) to authorized persons*



## **Lionfish data collect**

- *Dedicated GIS in the FWI*
- *Collection form (location, size,...) stomach content and tissue sampling*
- *Reporting information to Carribean networks (NAS) and SPAW-RAC*

## **Next step**

- *Implementing an Eat it! strategy*

# Successes

- 2 on 3 reported fishes captured in St Martin (distribution of location tag needed)
- Good feedback on communication strategy
- Relationship with the Marine Park of Sint-Marteen





# Challenges

- Wide-ranging habitats described
- Diving spots are concentrated in Martinique on Caribbean shore
- Removal operations won't be possible all around the island
- Knowledge lack about near-shore hydrodynamism (local larvae dispersion trajectory)
- Biological control by native predators (if any) impossible

# Funding

Opportunity of extra fundings for invasive alien species issues but must be anticipated (need other country experience)

# Conclusion / Need

Ready to face the beginning of the invasion

No experience to share as the invasion is just beginning

But many questions :

How to target eradication efforts (what percentage of suitable habitat should be monitored ?)

Way to develop a commercial fishing of Pterois in case of population explosion. Risky ? Has fish traps dedicated to this species been studied ?

What about Lionfish tournament and spearfishing encouragement ? Ciguatera poisoning risk ?

What about State responsibility in case of serious envenomation during removal operations ?