

# Invasive Lionfish: A Guide to Control and Management

## El Pez León Invasor: Guía para su Control y Manejo

### Poisson-lion Envahissantes : Un Guide pour le Contrôle et la Gestion

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#### EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The countries of the Wider Caribbean with their vibrant coral reefs are major tourist destinations bringing billions of dollars to the Caribbean annually. The importance of reef resources is invaluable to local economies and cultures. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are considered one of the major threats to native species and habitats in the Caribbean. Recognizing the urgency of the lionfish invasion and the need to develop clear recommendations for local control, a special workshop was organized by an international team including the International Coral Reef Initiative, REEF, NOAA, and SPAW-RAC in August 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. With 47 participants representing over 25 organizations from 20 countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean, this workshop identified many of the best strategies for addressing the lionfish invasion.

The results of this workshop have been published — *Invasive Lionfish: A Guide to Control and Management* — Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Special Publication Series Number 1 (English) and Number 2 (Spanish). The Guide includes:

- *Chapter One* — The Lionfish Invasion: Past, Present, and Future — J. Morris
- *Chapter Two* — Lionfish Research: Current Findings and Remaining Questions — J. Morris and S. Green
- *Chapter Three* — Education and Outreach: Building Support and Expertise — J.L. Akins
- *Chapter Four* — Control Strategies: Tools and Techniques for Local Control — J.L. Akins
- *Chapter Five* — Monitoring: An Essential Action — S. Green
- *Chapter Six* — Legal and Regulatory Considerations for Lionfish Management — D. St. A. Buddo
- *Chapter Seven* — Resources, Partnerships, and Sustainable Funding — R. Gómez Lozano

The intent of this guide is to provide a reference for resource managers, policy makers, field workers, outreach coordinators, researchers, fishermen, and the general public who are actively engaged in learning about lionfish and developing local control strategies. The strategies recommended in the guide are based upon best available science and practice, which in time will change as new approaches and the effectiveness levels of existing approaches emerge. Resource managers are encouraged to use the information provided to develop local management plans.

We believe this guide will prove to be a crucial tool for managers and practitioners in the Wider Caribbean Region, and we hope it will help them better control the lionfish invasion and its impacts by providing practical solutions and recommendations.

*Invasive Lionfish: A Guide to Control and Management* — English and Spanish versions are available as an ebook and in PDF format at the GCFI website: [www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org).

