

Managing Lionfish in Jamaica

Denise Chin¹ and Karl Aiken¹

¹Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica, W.I.

Jamaica first observed Lionfish in 2006 and experienced a population explosion. In September 2009 the National Lionfish Pilot Project was commissioned under a regional project entitled “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Insular Caribbean”. The project facilitated a national public education campaign: “Let’s Eat It to Beat It” with support from the private sector. The project implemented various strategies including conducting scientific research, public awareness and community outreach programmes and promoting consumption of the fish. The Lionfish Pilot Project noted a decrease in lionfish densities across two of three sampling stations in Discovery Bay, St. Ann over a 26 month period. There was a decline in the lionfish population by approximately 37% and 48% ± 0.95 SE at Skeggy Reef and Dairy Bull respectively. However, Pear Tree Bottom, the eastward site of three, showed an increase in the lionfish population density of 52% ± 0.95 SE over the same time period. In addition, Jamaica has made amendments to its legislation to manage Invasive Alien Species including Lionfish within its Special Fisheries Conservation Areas formerly called Fish Sanctuaries.

Keywords: Lionfish, Invasive, Jamaica

[DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION](#)