



**Terms of Reference
ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee
on Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion**

Adopted on 23 October 2014 at the 29th ICRI General Meeting (Okinawa, Japan)

Recognizing that the lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region is a mounting threat to the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the region's coral reef ecosystems;

Acknowledging that identifying and implementing measures to control the lionfish invasion, while minimizing other harm to marine ecosystems, are desirable;

Recalling discussions during the Caribbean Day at ICRI's 24th General Meeting and the emphasis placed on invasive lionfish as a high priority threat to the region;

Recognizing the outcomes of the August 2010 ICRI workshop in Cancun as an important step in assembling best management practices as part of a regional strategy;

Acknowledging the decision taken at the 6th Conference of Parties to the SPAW Protocol in Montego Bay, Jamaica, October 2010, to participate in the development of a Caribbean regional response to the lionfish invasion;

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and coordination with CAR-SPAW, all Caribbean countries and territories, and other key stakeholders in the region;

Recalling the ICRI 2009 Recommendation on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling the agreement during 25th ICRI General Meeting (Apia, Samoa) on the creation of an ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee to facilitate a coordinated response to the Lionfish invasion in the Caribbean Region (RLC);

The *Ad Hoc* Committee (RLC) will extend its work one year, to promote the following activities:



1. Promote the use and implementation of *Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean* published by ICRI in 2013 and *Invasive Lionfish: A guide to control and management* published by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in 2012.
2. Raise awareness among the fishery and marine protected area managers on the lionfish threat and the need to develop effective local response plans.
3. Support countries and territories to develop local strategies, based on the regional strategy.
4. Work with the ICRI secretariat to disseminate lessons learned, including, if appropriate, guidelines, particularly on prevention, early detection and actions, to other regions.
5. Identify possible options for migrating the RLC to a committee that addresses in general, other marine invasive alien species including pathway vectors.
6. Promote the use of the web portal developed in coordination with NOAA, to exchange knowledge and experience in the integrated management of lionfish.
7. Build active participation between organizations and countries.
8. Report to the 30th General Meeting of ICRI on implementation of actions herein described.