

Introduction

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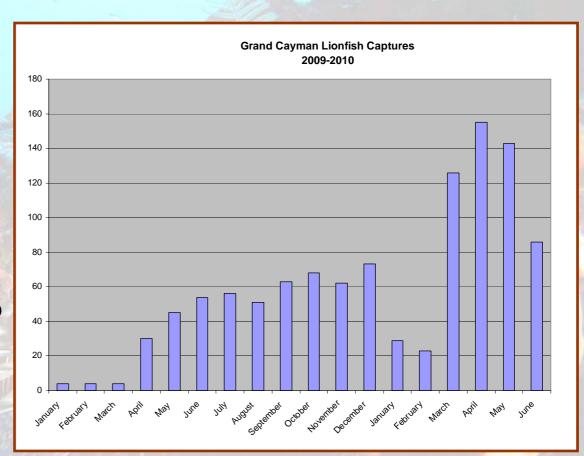
Invasion Status

•1st Sighting February 2008 Little Cayman - Captured

2nd Sighting October 2008 Cayman Brac - Captured

January 2009 – Invasion Began!

~2,000 Reported captures to date















Strategies/Plan

- March 2009 Developed Licensing Program with REEF
- Developed Lionfish Species Action Plan (NBAP)
- Over 500 residents & dive masters licensed, NETS ONLY!
- •ER staff at all hospitals
- Public meetings
- Majority of schools (continue Sept 2010)
- August 2010 Manufactured Pole Spears for dive masters



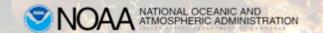
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Successes

- Buy-in (Media, Stakeholders, Community)
- •Licensing system correct info, easy implementation
- •Marine Conservation Board open and adaptive
- •Facebook Page DOE Lionfish Culling Group

















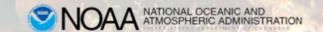
Challenges

- Cost of capture gear
- •Existing regulations on speargun licensing political and enforcement issue
- Restriction on importation of spearing devices local manufacture
- Sister Islands smaller populations/fewer divers













Resources

- •DoE
- Governor's Delegated Fund
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Large commercial and residential diving community
- Cayman Islands Tourism Association (CITA)

















<u>Needs</u>

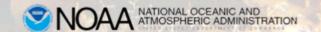
- More info on regional strategies, plans
- Salaried officers dedicated to lionfish removal
- More effective removal techniques
- Better understanding of larval distribution patterns















Conclusion

- Local control is only part of the solution
- More successful in conjunction with regional effort
- Regional effort encourages local support

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