



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

*Adopted by the participants on November 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 25<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting (Apia, Samoa)*

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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;

The ICRI General Meeting agrees on the creation of an ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee to facilitate a coordinated response to the Lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region.

The Ad Hoc Committee will be co-chaired by Mexico, United States of America and the SPAW- RAC, and will be open to participation to other countries, territories and organizations within the region.

The Ad Hoc Committee will implement the following activities:



- 1) Guided by Cancun outcomes, develop a regional lionfish control strategy to identify and guide collaborative responses.
- 2) Work with ICRI Secretariat to facilitate the review, completion, and dissemination of the best practices manual resulting from the August, 2010, Cancun meeting.
- 3) Raise awareness among the fishery and marine protected area managers on the lionfish threat and the need to develop effective local response plans.
- 4) Share best management practices identified in Cancun with marine managers, including through local workshops, as feasible, and seek input on regional strategy for lionfish control.
- 5) Conduct a workshop to substantively review the draft regional strategy and develop a consensus vision on regional elements of a response plan.
- 6) Build an active participation between organizations and countries.
- 7) Work with ICRI Secretariat to produce an Host Secretariat Advisory statement, to be released in 2011, calling attention to the lionfish invasion and its threats to coral resources of the Caribbean region and urging implementation of local control measures and engagement in a regional response.
- 8) Work with the ICRI secretariat to disseminate lessons learned, particularly on prevention, early detection and actions, to other regions.
- 9) Report to the 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of ICRI on implementation of actions herein described.