

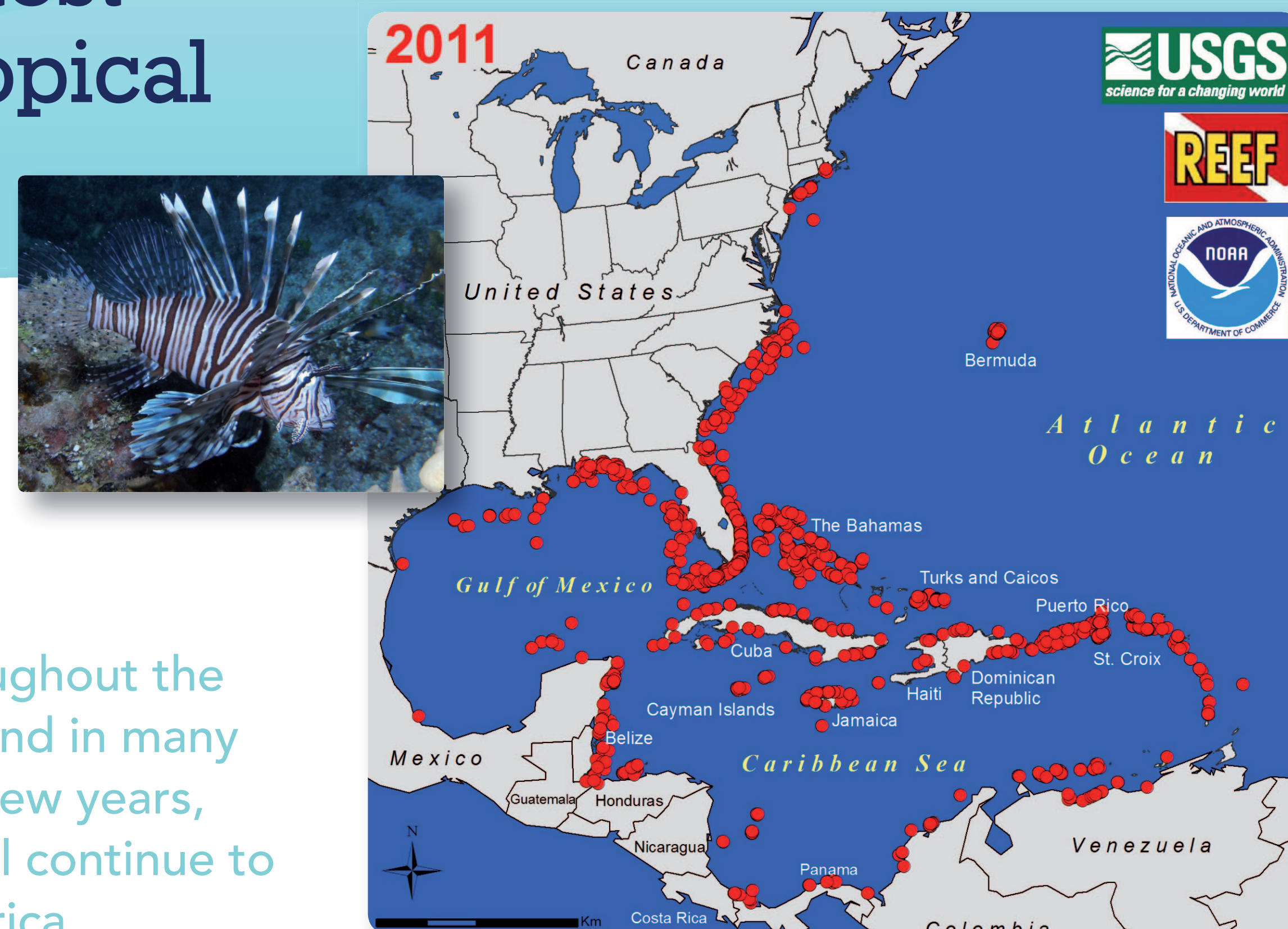
Caribbean Response to Lionfish Invasion

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The invasion of lionfish (*Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*) could pose one of the greatest threats to temperate and tropical Atlantic reefs on record.

The lionfish invasion has occurred rapidly across a wide geographic area.

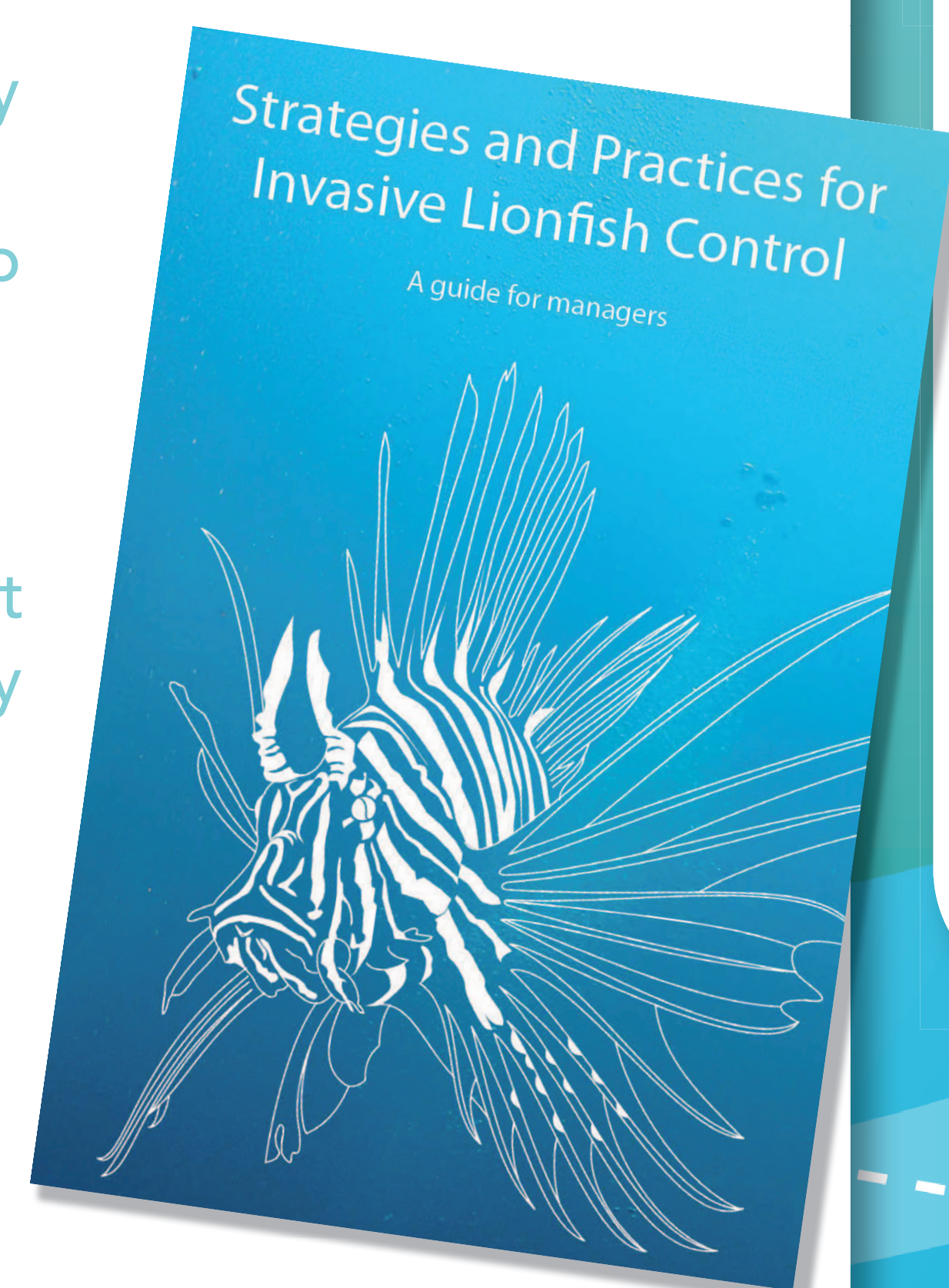
As of 2012, lionfish are fully established throughout the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, and in many parts of the Gulf of Mexico. Within the next few years, scientists predict that the lionfish invasion will continue to spread to the temperate reefs of South America.



Distribution of lionfish - 2011

Created under the auspices of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC) facilitates a coordinated response to the Lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region.

Recognizing the urgency of the lionfish invasion and the need to develop effective local response plans, an international group of experts has developed a manual that contains tools to identify and guide collaborative responses to control, manage and research the lionfish. The RLC has facilitated the review, completion, and dissemination of this best practices manual.



Given their diet and habitat preferences, lionfish have the potential to affect the structure and function of virtually all Atlantic marine reef communities.



For more information:
www.icriforum.org