

Fighting the invasive Lionfish in the Caribbean and mitigating its impact

The ICRI Regional Lionfish Strategy



Helene Souan, Director of the SPAW Regional Activity Center
On behalf of ICRI and its Regional Lionfish Committee



1992



1997



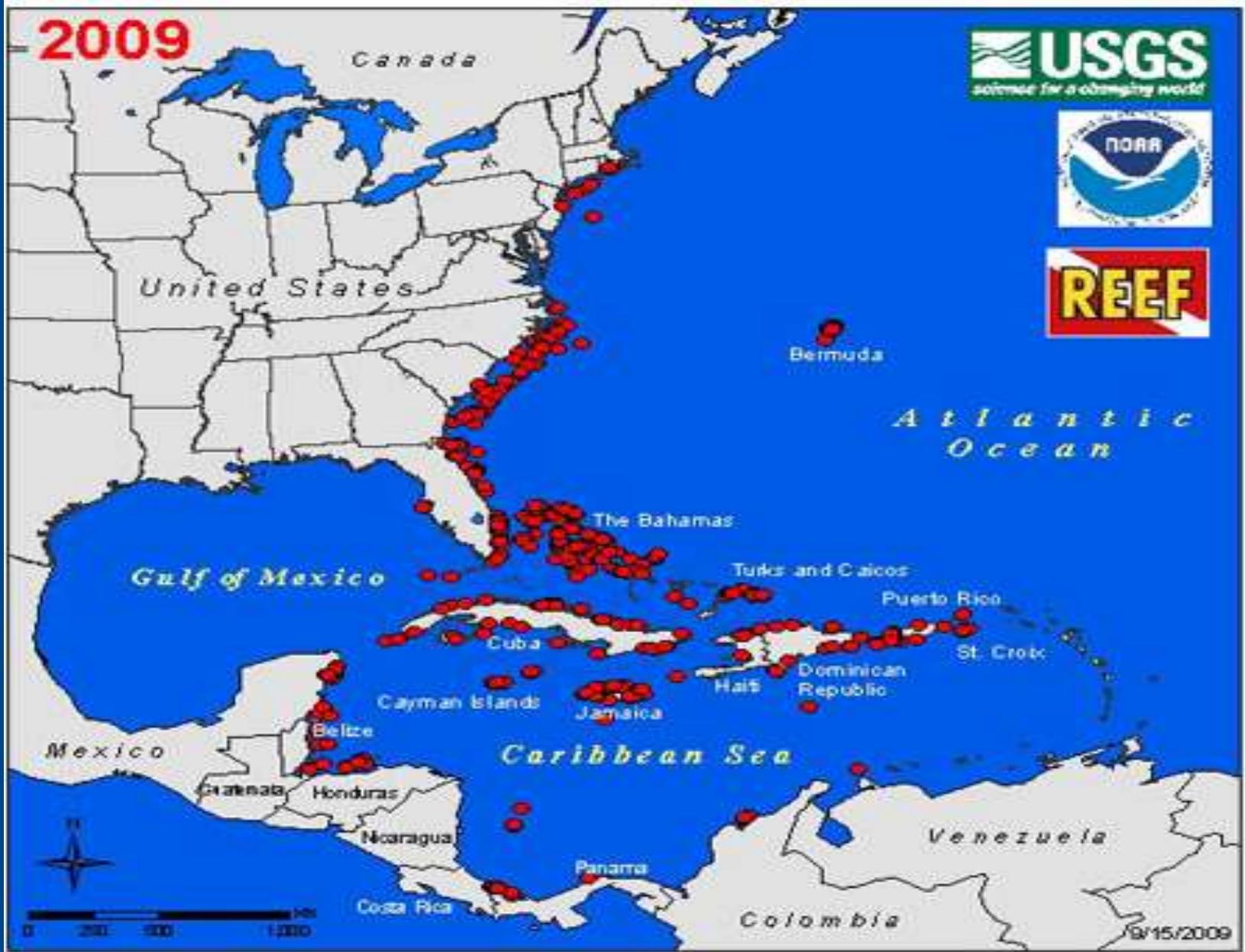
2003



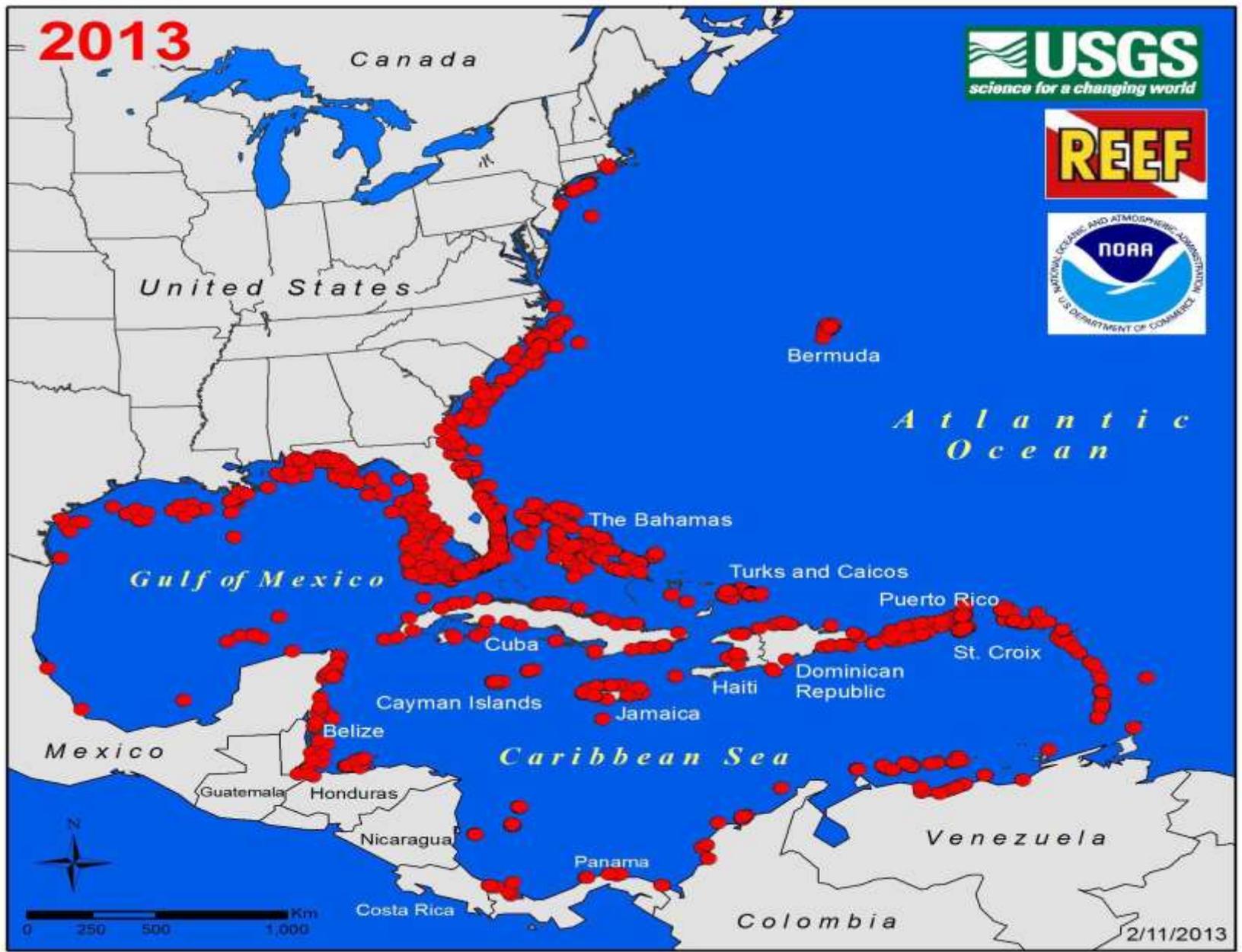
2007



2009



2013



2/11/2013



Impacts and consequences of the invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean

- Vorace predator
- Caribbean fishes not used to its hunting strategy
- High reproductive rate, no predator in the Caribbean
- Can disperse as larva, juvenile or adult
 - **Very fast increase in range**
 - **Very difficult to control/eradicate once established**

Consequences :

- **Ecological impacts** : disturbance of reefs ecosystems
- **Economic impacts** : decrease in species targeted by fisheries
- Impacts on **human health** : highly toxic and poisonous



**Regional Strategy
for the Control of
Invasive Lionfish
in the
Wider Caribbean**



International Coral Reef Initiative

**Estrategia Regional
para el Control del
Pez León Invasor
en el Gran Caribe**



Iniciativa Internacional sobre los Arrecifes Corallinos

**Stratégie Régionale
de Contrôle de l'Invasion
du Poisson-lion dans la
Grande Région Caraïbe**



Initiative Internationale pour les Récifs Coralliens

Content and objectives of the Strategy

- **Scope** : the Wider Caribbean, with possible extensions to North and South as appropriate
- **Vision** : The effects of lionfish on ecosystem services and economic value of reef communities in the WCR are reduced by coordinated control actions implemented at the regional level
- **Mission** : Provide a framework for regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for lionfish management and control, so that best practices are used to develop local action plans to minimize negative impacts of lionfish on marine and coastal ecosystems
- **Objectives** :
 - Facilitate collaboration among governments, reef-reliant industries, civil society, and academia by providing **mechanisms for coordination of efforts** across political and geographical boundaries
 - Encourage a **coordinated research and monitoring** agenda
 - Encourage governments to review and amend relevant **legislation** and, if necessary, develop new **regulations and policies** to control lionfish
 - **Control invasive lionfish** populations where possible using regionally coordinated, effective methods, and
 - Provide **education, information and outreach** mechanisms to generate public support and foster stewardship in invasive lionfish programs.
- A **five-year (2013-2017) Action Plan** that identifies activities, actors, and timeframe





Thank you for your attention!

SPAW/RAC

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