

# Introduction

In January 2009 was the first sighting of lionfish t in waters of the Mexican Caribbean.

Can affect the diversity of the reefs, including important species for the region as Caribbean spiny lobster.

National Commission of Protected Natural Areas CONANP has taken the initiative.

Tourism divers and fishermen efforts are the best tool to prevent the population increase in certain regions.



# Invasion Status

Yellow Phase.

Currently found throughout entire Mexican Caribbean, including the states of Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche.

Don't know the potential dispersion along the Gulf of Mexico.

Measures are being taken to counteract the dispersion as slow as possible.



# Strategies/Plan

Early Warning Program, Capture and Control of Lionfish.

Training briefings with aquatic recreational service providers, state and municipal governments, fishermen and public in general.

Informative spots in radio, television, press and electronic media.

Deliver of material to capture lionfish nets, antipunction gloves.

Data base per Protected Natural Area

Lionfish tournaments & volunteers brigades



# Successes

National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries CONAPESCA has giving consent to hunt lionfish as incidental catch.

General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection LGEEPA:

Article 27bis “Do not allow the release or introduction to habitats and ecosystems of invasive alien species”.

Article 85 ...the establishment of regulatory measures or restrictions, in whole or in part to the export or import of species of native wildlife or exotic...

Objectives of National Strategy on Invasive Species: Prevention control; eradication and dissemination and information.

# Challenges

Reduce and control lionfish populations.

Search funding support from the private sector as hotels, restaurants and NGO'S

Generate information: dispersion maps, real impacts in Caribbean Mexican reef, advanced research.

Create a regional network , share information as action plans.

# Funding

Secretary of Natural Resources Environment SEMARNAT/CONANP:  
purchase work materials for lionfish capture.

The Nature Conservancy: Lionfish posters.

ICRI, REEF and NOAA: realize of courses and workshops.

Private sector realize lionfish tournaments.

We are depending almost from government

# Needs

Increase a wider range of action in Mexican Caribbean

The effort is high and the efficiency low, we need to perform this efficiency.

Identify sites of lionfish spread in Caribbean region

More stringent laws in the import of organisms.

More flexible laws in mexican fisheries regulations.

# Conclusion

The best effort we have is the people who work in the sea, dive operators active fishermen.

We do not have the necessary support. We need to obtain funds from other sites,

Information flow it is to low in the region.

We need more research to perform the lionfish management as action plans.