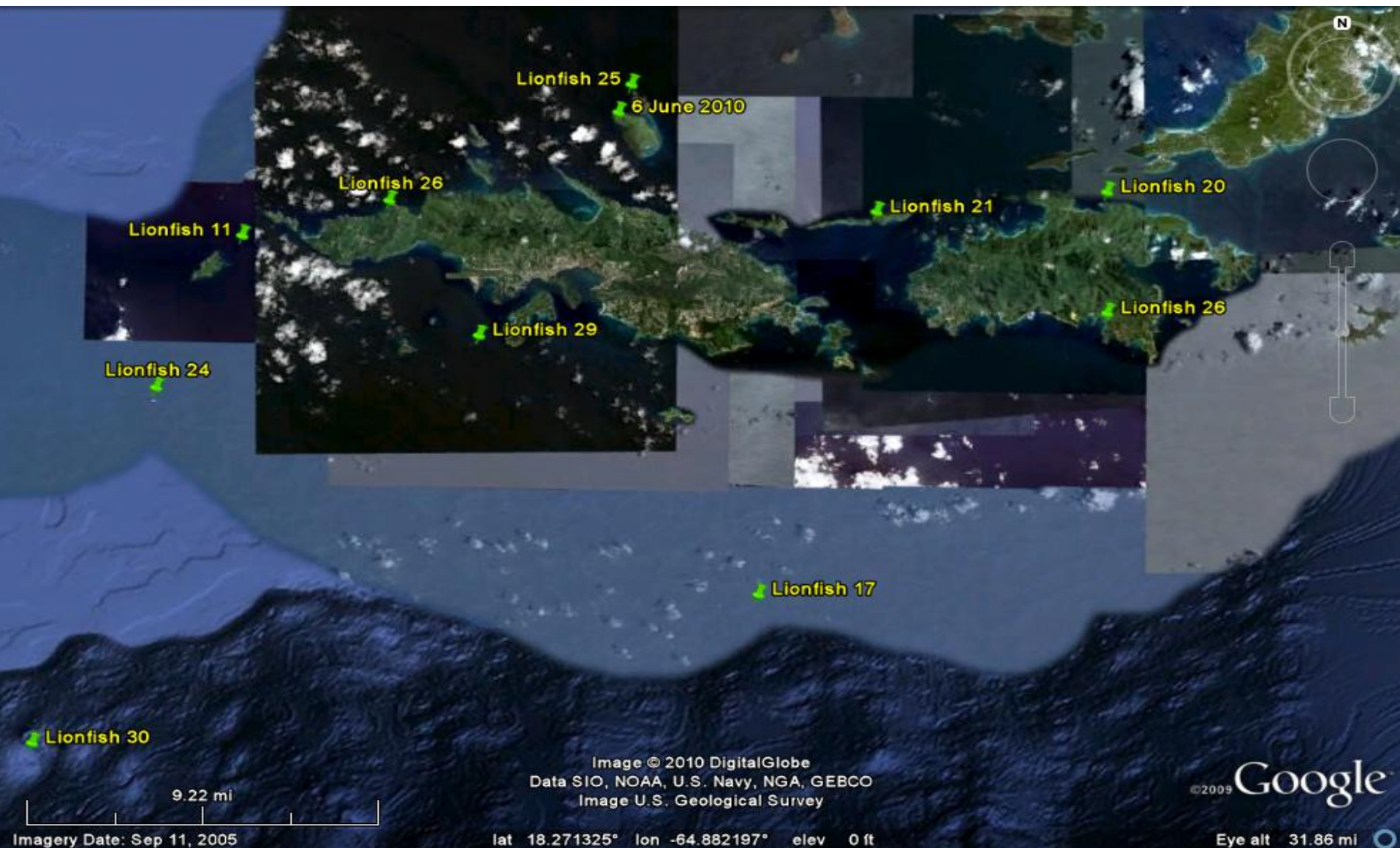


Kemit-Amon Lewis Coral Conservation Manager

The Nature Conservancy
US Virgin Islands

Invasion Status



Strategies and Plans

LIONFISH RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN US VIRGIN ISLANDS

US Virgin Islands
October 2009

Prepared by: Dr. Barbara Kojis
Funded by: Virgin Islands EPSCoR



Department of Planning and Natural
Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Coastal Zone Management Program
CZM/ St. Croix East End Marine Park
The Nature Conservancy
Reef Environmental Education
Foundation
St. Croix Environmental Association

Dive Experience
Joe Gulli
University of the Virgin Islands
Center for Marine and Environmental
Studies/VIMAS
Virgin Islands EPSCoR
National Park Service on St. Croix
and St. John

Goal

The goal is to prevent lionfish from negatively impacting local fisheries and marine ecosystems, and endangering public safety.

Objective

The objective is to achieve a sustained reduction of lionfish throughout the USVI through:

education, outreach, and training,
opportunistic and targeted detection
and removal of lionfish,
monitoring and data gathering,
data analysis and reporting

Crazy Frog's

The Big Pond Divers Network

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CRAZYFROGS



DIVERS NEEDED

WE NEED YOU!

LIONFISH

THE THREAT IS REAL

THE FACTS:

IN A 5 WEEK PERIOD 85% OF THE FISH ON A BAHAMIAN REEF WERE EATEN BY LIONFISH.
LIONFISH WILL EAT EVERYTHING; FISH, INVERTEBRATES LIKE LOBSTER, CRABS, ETC.
LIONFISH ARE HERE ON ST. CROIX.

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.
CRAZY FROG'S WILL BE NETWORKING DIVERS TO HELP WITH THE USVI LIONFISH RESPONSE PROGRAM
IN ELIMINATING LIONFISH HERE ON STX. WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL DIVE SHOPS;
DIVE EXPERIENCE, S.C.U.B.A. AND CANE BAY DIVE CENTER WE WILL BE SENDING OUT
DIVE TEAMS 3 TIMES A MONTH TO HUNT FOR AND REMOVE LIONFISH AROUND ST. CROIX.
IF YOU HAVE GOOD DIVING SKILLS AND ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING AND PRESERVING OUR
BEAUTIFUL MARINE LIFE HERE ON ST. CROIX, THEN CONTACT US.

SEND AN E-MAIL TO NOLIONFISHSTX@YAHOO.COM
IN THE SUBJECT LINE TYPE "NO LIONFISH"

IN THE BODY OF THE TEXT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER,
AS WELL AS THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF DIVES YOU HAVE LOGGED.

NOT ONLY WILL THIS BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO HELP,
BUT A CHANCE TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE SOME INCREDIBLE DIVING YOU
NORMALLY WOULD NOT GET A CHANCE TO DO.

SIGN UP TODAY!

JOIN THE TEAM

THE ST. CROIX LION SLAYERS



WANTED: DEAD

Long pectoral fins
3 Anal fin spine

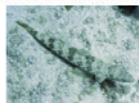


The Indo-Pacific "Lionfish" -

These are some native fish that are sometime



Sergeant Major



Bluestriped Lizardfish



Spotted Drum



Banded Butterflyfish



Spotted Scorpionfish



Redspotted Hawkfish

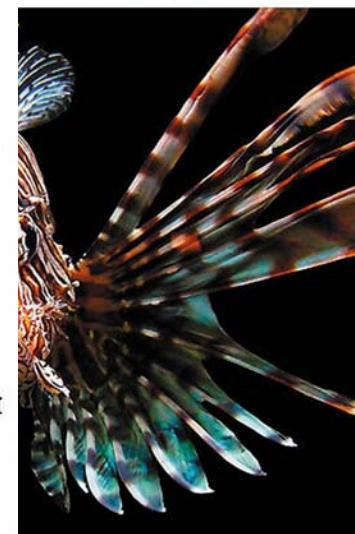


Night Sergeant



Schoolmaster

INVASIVE
LIONFISH
1 miles complex



own Predator
fish Response
Diver
1-Problem
tion
elp save Our Reef
@yahoo.com

Challenges



Initially

Education and Awareness

Local Scientists/Managers

Wider Community

Funding

Long-Term

Lionfish Behavior

(Atlantic/Caribbean)

Messaging (Quality Control)

Response/Removal Capacity

Keeping the Ball Rolling

Funding

Amount	Funding Organization	Purpose/Activity
\$5,000.00	VI-EPSCoR	Development of the Lionfish Response Management Plan (USVI)
\$5,000.00	VI-EPSCoR	MESA Summer Academy Lionfish Program
\$33,000.00	NPS	Buck Island National Monument Detection and Removal Program
\$10,000.00	Joe Guilli – CORE	Targeted Searches, Removal, Education/Outreach
\$103,000.00*	NOAA	SEA – Implementation of the Lionfish Response Management Plan (USVI)
\$2,000.00	CRABBS	Targeted Searches, Removal, Education/Outreach

* Total of a 1 to 1 Match Grant

DFW and TNC Funds for Lionfish Response through Salary and Facilitation of Planning



Needs

US Virgin Islands

Dedicated Response Teams/Networks

More Research

More Realists

Regionally

More Research

Frequent Regional Dialogue/Exchanges

Conclusions

US Virgin Islands

From Outreach to Changing Behavior

Heading in the Right Direction

Making Good Progress

Small-Scale Regional Approach (PR/BVI)

Alternatives to Targeted Searches

Regionally

Sharing is Caring (unless you're sharing Lionfish)

recipes are okay

Acknowledgements

US Virgin Islands

William Coles (DFW), Joe Guilli (CORE), Jeanne Brown (TNC), Ian Lundgren (NPS), Rafe Boulon (NPS), VI-EPSCoR, SEA, Dive Experience, N2 the Blue, CRABBS.

Workshop Organizers/Sponsors

ICRI, SERMANAT, NOAA, REEF, Comision Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas