Belize National Lionfish Management Strategy 2019 - 2023

Alicia Eck-Nunez

Belize Fisheries Department

September 22nd, 2023

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i



The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting

To establish a multi-stakeholder Lionfish Working Group in 2019 that will coordinate lionfish management, monitoring and evaluation.

Completed



To establish at least one seafood processing facility that will purchase lionfish from fishers by 2020.

Not Accomplished



To establish a lionfish tourism certification scheme that will adequately address associated risks, supports the needs of marine tour operators, and supports lionfish management priorities by 2020.

Not Fully Accomplished – Brigades Established



By 2021

- All lionfish tournaments registering with the Lionfish Working Group
- Raise awareness about the lionfish invasion
- Provide economic benefits to host communities
- Record data to national database.

Partially Accomplished



Lionfish control in Belize's no take zones (NTZ) has been implemented by 2021.

Completed



Conduct consistent education and outreach programmes about lionfish with a wide range of stakeholders.

Partially Accomplished



Increase the value of lionfish catch through diversified product markets.

Partially Accomplished



Conduct research and monitoring to fill identified knowledge gaps and evaluate lionfish control actions.

- National Lionfish Monitoring Plan
- Lionfish assessment at one of Belize's atolls.
- Systematic monitoring of lionfish landings from fishery, tourism and tournaments.
- Conduct social research every three years to enable adaptive management

Ongoing



Ensure adequate funding is available for consistent implementation of lionfish control activities, as well as monitoring and evaluation.



Ongoing



The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting