



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM INITIATIVES  
RELATED TO LIONFISH



# Greetings from the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism on behalf of

Executive Director  
Mr. Milton Haughton

Deputy Executive Director  
Dr. Susan Singh-Renton



# Rationale for Initiatives (CRFM perspective)

Fifth meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council (October 2011 ) expressed concern regarding the invasion of predatory lionfish

Noted that lionfish invasion had started on the U.S. coast, spread to Cuba and moved south in the Caribbean



Ministers acknowledged the tremendous challenge of controlling the lionfish given that it was an extraordinarily adaptable species which bred continuously and lived in both shallow and deep waters

Noted need to develop a common approach to addressing the lionfish problem

Noted that there are a number of ongoing research initiatives at all levels aimed at better understanding the impacts of the lionfish in the region and come up with strategies to better control and minimize its adverse effects



## CRFM Initiatives

September 2012 CRFM and OSPESCA signed an MoU accompanied by a Joint Action Plan.

The specific priority areas for the Action Plan include: research and management of fisheries of regional interest, with a focus on:

- Spiny lobster and Large pelagic fisheries;
- combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing through strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems (MCS); and,
- regional development of aquaculture.

Additional areas to be covered under the Joint CRFM/OSPESCA Action Plan include Research, development and management of fisheries of regional interest , such as

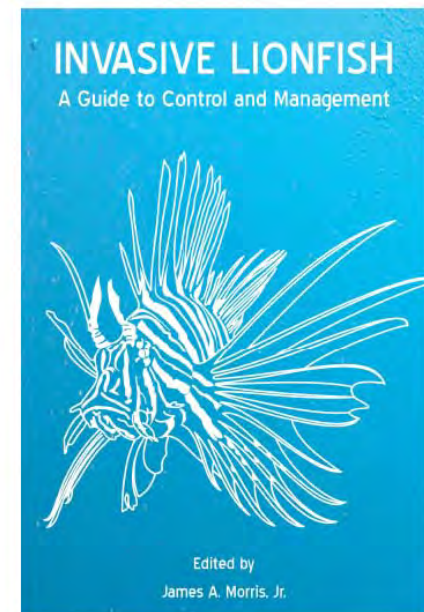
Lionfish



## 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum (April 2013)

noted that the draft regional strategy for the control and mitigation of the invasive lionfish in the Wider Caribbean Region (September of 2012) was complementary to the manual of best practices entitled “Invasive Lionfish a Guide to Control and Management”

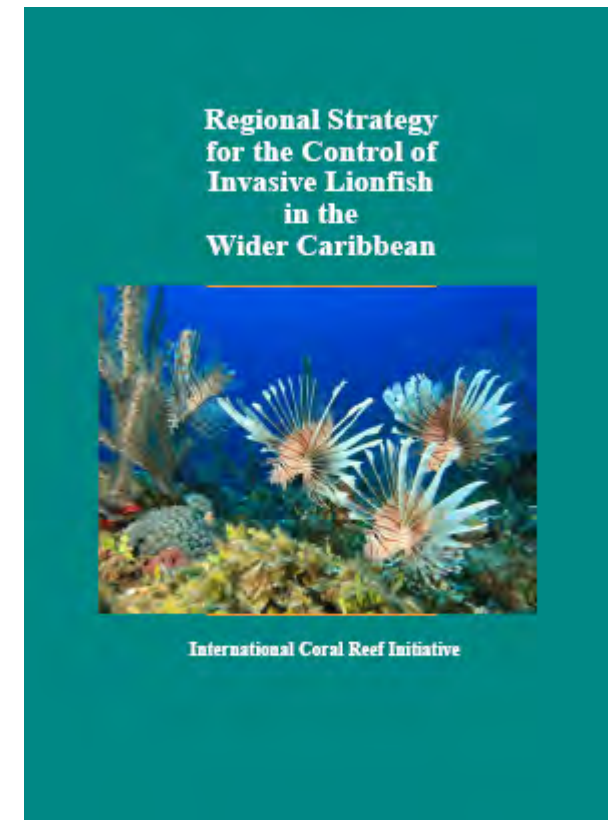
endorsed the Best Practice Manual and called upon the Member States and Stakeholders to implement the practices outlined in the manual



11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum (April 2013), also

endorsed the draft regional strategy for the control and mitigation of the invasive lionfish in the Wider Caribbean Region

requested that the Ministerial Council endorse the draft regional strategy (including the Best Practice Manual) for implementation in the CRFM Member States





4<sup>th</sup> Special meeting of the Ministerial Council (October 2013) accepted the draft CRFM strategic plan as provisionally providing the basis of the work plan for the CRFM for the next Biennium

The work plan (endorsed by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum – April 23-25, 2014) includes:

- review of national progress in implementation of the regional lionfish strategy
- proposing of recommendations on the way forward.

The draft work plan's major activities related to the agreed Regional Lionfish Strategy are to :



- provide support to countries on fisheries data collection programmes for the Lionfish;
- review national progress in implementation of the regional lionfish strategy
- if data exist, convene meeting to discuss options for assessing the impact of lionfish invasion in CRFM Member States; and,
- propose recommendations on the way forward



*Thank you for your kind attention*