

# DIVERS, HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



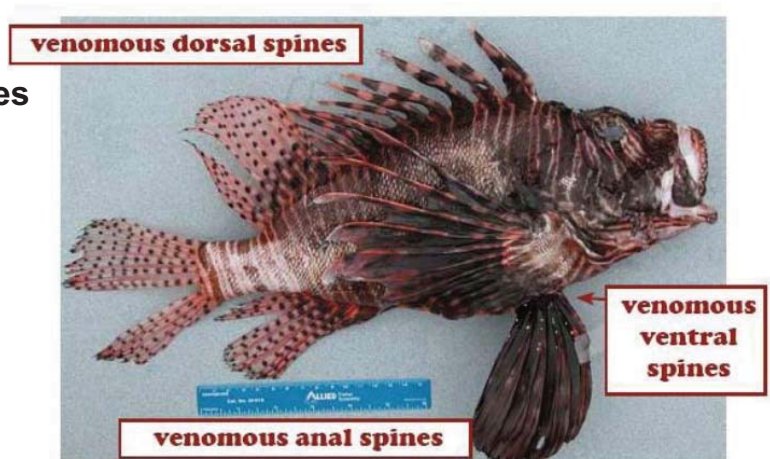
The venomous Indo-Pacific “Lionfish” is regularly observed in habitats within the southeast region (Florida to North Carolina) and the Bahamas. These fish are not native to Atlantic waters and may have a negative impact on native fish populations. **All of their spines are venomous and can cause extreme pain!** If stung, immerse wound in hot water and seek medical attention as soon as possible. Lionfish are a major threat to local fish species. Because fish do not see Lionfish as a predator they have no natural defense against it.

Lionfish can kill all the commercial fish in local waters, destroying local fishing population and coral reef.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT IF YOU SEE A LIONFISH DO NOT HARASS IT! REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY TO THE BONAIRE NATIONAL MARINE PARK: “hotline” 9292 or 786-8444**

## Identification:

- \* Lionfish have distinctive red, maroon, and white vertical stripes
- \* Fleshy tentacles above eyes and below mouth;
- \* Fan-like pectoral fins;
- \* 13 long separated dorsal spines
- \* 10 - 11 dorsal soft rays;
- \* 3 anal spines;
- \* and 6-7 anal soft rays;
- \* An adult Lionfish can grow as large as 18” ( 45 cm )



**HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION: IF SEEN, MARK THE SITE AND REPORT LOCATION AND DEPTH, TO THE BONAIRE NATIONAL MARINE PARK: “hotline” 9292 or 786-8444.**