

# Nassau grouper Closed Season

December 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009

Try lionfish as an alternate this season



## Lionfish on the Menu? - Why not encourage a commercial lionfish fishery

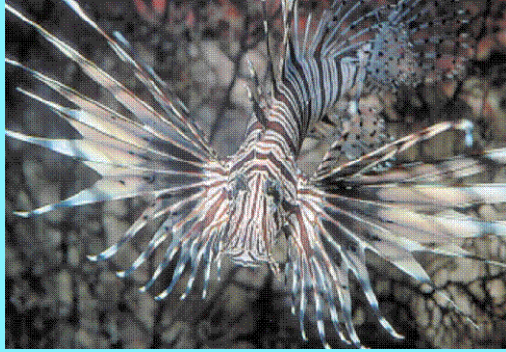
Lionfish are an invasive, non-native species that are rapidly reproducing in our waters. They are voracious predators, competing with our local fish for food and consuming some of our valuable fishery species. Lionfish have very few predators, although Nassau grouper have been known to eat them. **By ensuring a healthy Nassau grouper population and by targeting the lionfish as a food fish, we may be able to combat this threat to our marine environment.**

- Lionfish are tasty. They can be filleted or pan-fried whole
- Lionfish flesh is safe to eat.
- Lionfish venom is located in the spines and is deactivated by heat.
- Lionfish are sold as a food fish in the Pacific region.
- **GO GREEN** - Eat Lionfish!

Lionfish prepared for cooking by Mr. Gregory Maillis at the National Lionfish Response Plan Workshop - Nov 6-7, 2008



## SAFETY FIRST!



Lionfish spines are venomous but the fish can be safely handled once the spines have been removed. If you catch a lionfish, use caution to avoid a puncture wound. Seek medical attention if you are injured by lionfish spines (envenomation).

Photo courtesy of the Department of Marine Resources, Nassau, Bahamas

**First Aid:** Apply hot water (as hot as is safe) and seek immediate medical care.

For more information on [lionfish](#) & [Nassau grouper](#) visit our website at [www.breef.org](http://www.breef.org)

The Marine and Environmental Studies Institute (MESI), an organization of the College of The Bahamas is working in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources and other partners to create a National Lionfish Response Plan. You can get involved by:

- [Reporting lionfish sightings online](#)
- Providing fresh or frozen specimens for the National Specimen Library

If you wish to participate in this initiative, contact the Department of Marine Resources - 242-393-1777 or MESI 242-302-4413 for further information.

### Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation

**BREEF's mission is to promote a sustainable relationship between Bahamians, visitors and our Marine Environment.**

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