

TOOLS CHECKLIST FOR HANDLING

- Reinforced gloves such as fish handling gloves (can be purchased at hardware stores).
- Small strong shears or scissors.
- Newspaper for wrapping up spines that have been removed.
- Solid receptacle or container for dumping the spines that have been removed.
- Tool for removing scales before cooking such as a scraper or knife.
- Container containing hot water (in case of injury by spines of the lionfish; remember in case you are stung IMMEDIATELY soak hand in water until pain ceases).

FIRST AID PROCEDURES

If you are stung by a Lionfish:

- ◆ Check for, and remove any obvious pieces of spines left in the wound.
- ◆ Hot water, as hot as one can tolerate (not more than 100-110°F), should be applied directly to the wound for 20 to 30 minutes. While at sea, hot water is accessible via the jet on the outboard engine of the boat. Repeat if pain returns.
- ◆ Over the counter painkillers can also be considered for additional pain relief.

If pain and swelling persist seek medical attention as some people are more susceptible (allergic) to venom than others.



Discovery Bay Marine Lab
Centre for Marine Sciences
University of the West Indies



National Environment
and Planning Agency



FISHERIES DIVISION
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

For further information please contact:

Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Marcus Garvey Drive, P.O. Box 470
Kingston 13

Tel.: 1-876-923-8811-3
Fax.: 1-876-937-6726.
Email: fisheries@moa.gov.jm
www.moa.gov.jm

HANDLING THE LIONFISH NO PROBLEM!



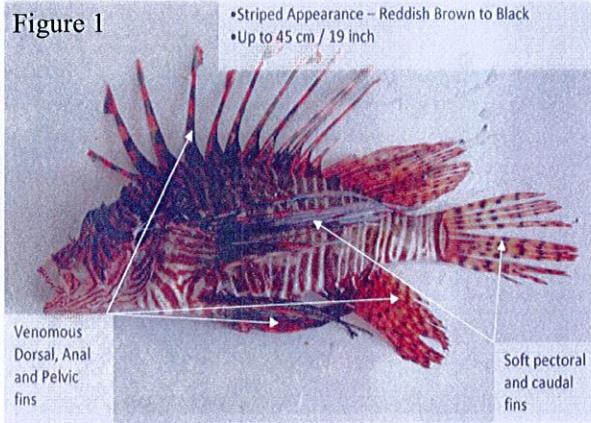
Photos © Michelle McNaught/MOA&F (IJAP Project)

SAFE WAY OF HANDLING THE LIONFISH

KNOW THE FINS

- The spines in the dorsal, anal and pelvic fins are venomous (see Figure 1).

Figure 1



CAREFULLY HOLD THE FISH by placing one finger firmly in the mouth of the fish and another on the underside of the jaw (see Figure 2).

Figure 2



HANDLE ONLY DEAD FISH as live specimens will move and cause possible injury to the handler.

CAREFULLY REMOVE ALL THE VENOMOUS FINS

- First cutting from the tail to the head as this will make handling much easier (Figures 3 to 5).

Figure 3

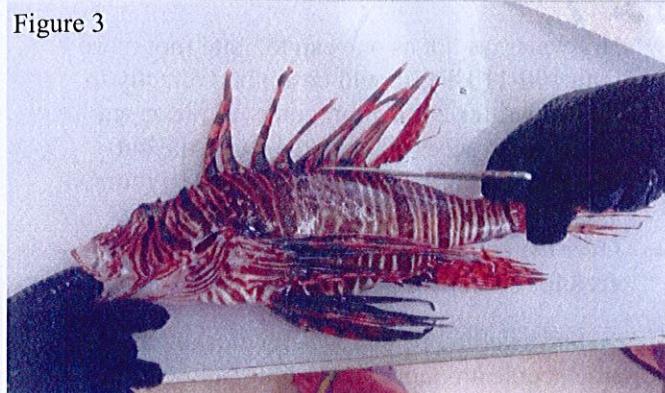
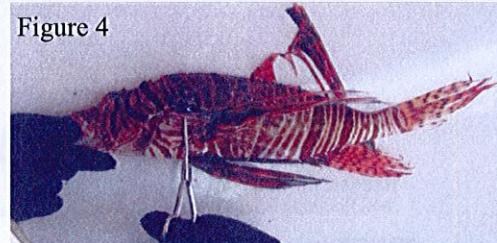


Figure 4



Photos © Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory

DISPOSAL OF SPINES

CAREFULLY WRAP ALL SPINES IN NEWSPAPER and dump in receptacle (see Figure 6).

DO NOT THROW SPINES:

- In the sea
- On the beach
- In nearby bushes
- In public garbage receptacles

Incineration of spines in a separate metal container is recommended as heat destroys the venom contained in the spines.

