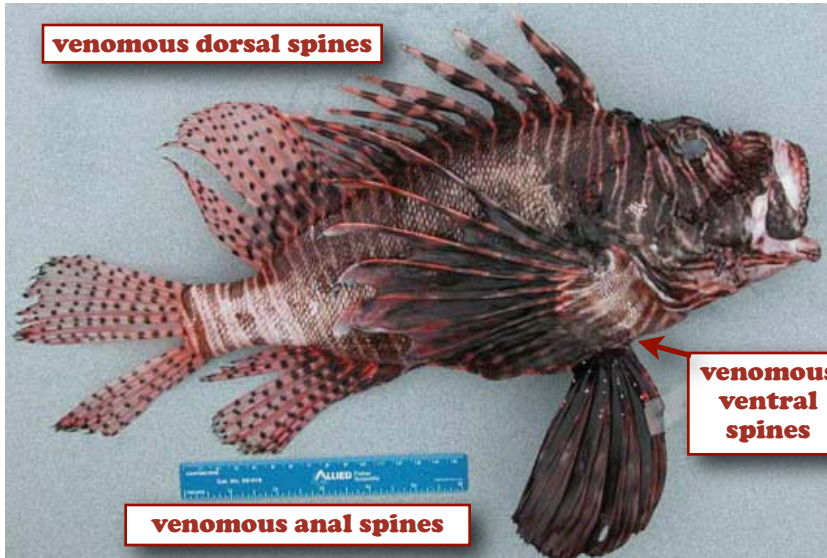


Have You Seen Me?



The venomous Indo-Pacific 'Lionfish' has already been reported in habitats within the Northern Windward Islands, including St. Thomas and St. Croix. 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.

Geographic Location and Habitat:

Lionfish are native to Indo-Pacific waters and are now being reported primarily by Scuba divers from Cape Hatteras, NC to the US Virgin Islands, in water depths from 5 to 300 ft, on hard bottom, coral reef and artificial substrates. Lionfish can also be caught by hook and line. The SCF requests information about all Lionfish collected by hook and line. Location information such as lat/long, depth and type of bait and tackle are encouraged.

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"

Recommendation: If you catch a lionfish be extremely careful, do not come in contact with the dorsal, anal or ventral spines. If fish must be handled, thick PVC gloves or a gaff is recommended. Please do not throw lionfish back in the water! The SCF is interested in all lionfish specimens and reports.



Put lionfish on ice and report any lionfish catches to the SCF at (599) 416-3295, 416-5719 or email info@sabapark.org

Saba Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 18, The Bottom, Saba
Tel: (599) 416-3295/2709, Fax: 416-3435, Web: <http://www.sabapark.org>

Source: NOAA Invasive Species Program

