

CONSIDER BEING A SUPPORTER OF THE BERMUDA LIONFISH TASK FORCE.

The mission of the Bermuda Lionfish Task Force ...

is to raise public awareness of the lionfish invasion in Bermuda and to coordinate and support all activities to control lionfish population growth, thus reducing any negative impacts of the lionfish on our coral reefs, for the benefit of all Bermudians

The Bermuda Lionfish Task Force is a mechanism to coordinate and focus the efforts of stakeholders and concerned citizens upon the implementation of all components within the Bermuda Lionfish Control Plan. Our two biggest priorities in our fight against the lionfish are research and education.

The Bermuda Lionfish Task Force represents all stakeholders including fishermen, SCUBA divers, free divers, government entities, research institutions, tourist and entertainment destinations, and the general public. We provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to contribute to the control and management of the invasive lionfish in Bermuda and welcome everyone's participation.

Since 2014 The Bermuda Lionfish Task Force has raised just over \$70,000 thanks to the generous support of Elizabeth Kitson, Kirk Kitson, Bob Steinhoff, Gorhams, the Royal Gazette and Axis Specialty. We need to broaden our funding base and raise **\$40,000** in order to sustain the effectiveness of The Task Force for the coming year 2017.

Over the past 3 years The Task Force has provided direct financial support for a variety of areas including these:

- ***Lionfish Trapping Project*** including the creation of experimental traps to harvest lionfish in deep water whilst limiting by catch. This year commercial fishermen launched 10 experimental traps from May to mid-August. Results of catch and by catch were observed and recorded so that we can continue to enhance trap design with a goal of enticing commercial fishermen to harvest lionfish on an industrial scale.
- ***The Groundswell Tournament and The Winter Lionfish Derby.*** We have supported these annual events by providing boats for participants to hunt lionfish on the day as well as providing incentive prizes for top award

winners on the day. Both events provide excellent opportunity for raising awareness and education for members of the public about the invasion of lionfish, hunting lionfish, safe handling of lionfish, cooking and eating lionfish among other important topics. Over 800 people attended The Groundswell event in each of the last 2 years.

- **Website development and maintenance, www.lionfish.bm.** Our website provides a wealth of information about lionfish in Bermuda. Our permitted cullers report sightings and kills of lionfish into an interactive map that can be seen by anyone on the site. The site is a very important outreach and education tool.
- **Researcher travel.** We have supported the travel and attendance of a few of our government and private researchers to important international conferences where they present findings to their colleagues, learn from their colleagues and build important networks of people and discuss best practices for the challenges we face.
- **Research Equipment.** Various projects relating to the study of lionfish, the lionfish impact on our ecology including prey fish populations, the growth rate of lionfish populations and gut content of lionfish require research equipment. The Bermuda Lionfish Task Force has paid for lionfish-related research equipment.
- **Lionfish Task Force Digital Media Production.** The Task Force will produce digital media segments telling key stories including *Lionfish Hunting 101*, *Lionfish Trapping*, *Deep Water Technical Diving*, *Hunting Robots* and *Lionfish Cooking*. The stories will be broadcast via social media including Facebook and YouTube as well as local TV and available on www.lionfish.bm. The stories will be of a pace, length and accessibility for education in schools and for the environmental education programs of BZS, BUEI and BIOS.

Please consider supporting the Bermuda Lionfish Task Force. We need your support now in order to sustain our efforts support activities to control lionfish population growth in Bermuda's waters.

To make a donation online, please see our website www.lionfish.bm

Checks may be made payable to the The Bermuda Lionfish Task Force.

Thank you for your consideration.

THE BERMUDA LIONFISH TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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