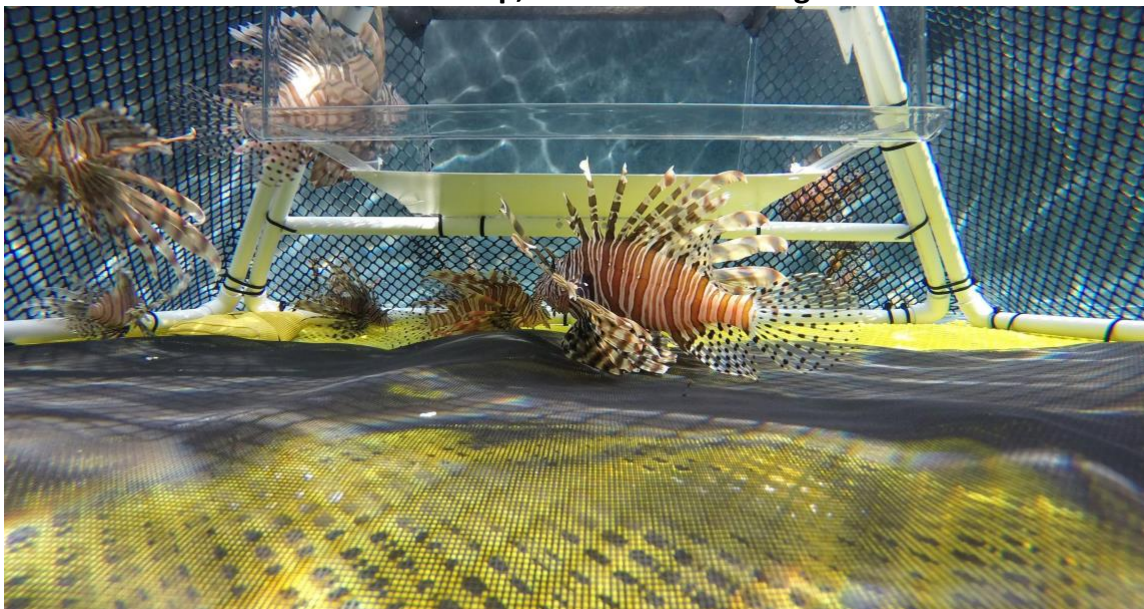


Lionfish Trap, Trinidad and Tobago



The invasion of lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) is considered one of the greatest environmental problems in the Caribbean. Lionfish fishing targeted for human consumption is a potential cost-effective management solution and has been adopted in countries like the Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize and Bermuda. Incorporating lionfish to the seafood market (e.g. local traditional dish “Bake and Shark”) in Trinidad and Tobago through a market-based approach could help solve this problem. This approach is dependent on building a supply of lionfish meat to consumers. However, the ability to catch lionfish in large numbers is yet to be developed in T&T. The most common method for catching lionfish is via spearfishing, which makes the lionfish market dependent on highly skilled and well-trained few individuals. Therefore, we propose to develop prototypes of lionfish traps in D-LAB II to be tested by our partner organization in Trinidad and Tobago, the Institute of Marine Affairs. Ideally, the traps will improve the access to lionfish stocks and decrease the dependence on culling lionfish via spearfishing/freediving/SCUBA diving to supply the market. Our proposal is based on a similar project developed in Bermuda which we will be using as a reference and adapting to the T&T environment. More information about the Bermuda lionfish trap project can be found at:
http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/12_joanna_lionfish_trapping_for_gcfi_workshop_2.pdf

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