

## Group A WRITING: Species Management

Write a report 'An Example of Species Invasion Management in Florida'.

Include information about the following points:

- The current situation & how it happened
- Details of the invasive species, and why it proliferates so successfully
- What could happen if no action was taken
- Community action - what is being done (by several groups)
- The scientific point of view of this collaboration & the possibility of its success

Florida's fauna is endangered because of an invasive species : lionfish. Their natural habitat sites are **in the South Pacific and in the Indian Ocean**. In the 1980-1990's Aquarium owners introduced them to the Atlantic Ocean in the Bahamas. They impacted the aquatic ecosystem by reducing the reef fish population by 65%. Lionfish are voracious, they eat more than a hundred species of fish including baby **groupers** and **snappers** and **fish** that maintain the health of the reef by **grazing** on **algae**. They proliferate so successfully because they can produce 2 million eggs in one year and they don't have any predators. If no action was taken it could lead to an extinction of some local fish species. It could impact the economy and the trophic chain. For that, the government has enrolled some scientists and divers to hunt lionfish. After fishing some of them are used for studies and the other parts are given to restaurants. They are hunting them by using a plastic bag or a metal cage because they are very poisonous (50 times more painful than a wasp sting). However, for the customers it tastes really good. Some scientists are enthusiastic about the success of the hunting campaign because they can see that some other populations of local fish are coming back.