

An example of species invasion management in Florida

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 southern coast is the most popular diving spot in the world. It's a hotspot of marine diversity with hundreds of fish species. But nowadays, there is an invasion of lionfish. This species comes from the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. The current sites of invasion are in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. The lionfish was introduced in the 1980's due to aquarium owners who removed them back introduced them into the ocean. They're invasive because they're fast-breeders, with 2 millions of eggs per year, and they don't have natural predators on this coast. They have a voracious appetite because they are capable of eating 90% of their body weight in fish every day. For example they eat key species that maintain the health of the reef by grazing algae.

This invasion may have a risk on be a risk for the entire marine ecosystem because at first, there is a there is an immediate risk of extinction of some species of fish. Indeed the reef population will be reduced by 65% over two years. In second, Then, the reef is will be degraded and finally, there is will be a commercial impact on the fishery.

To solve the problem, several groups tried try to catch them even if it's difficult. Indeed, lionfish don't swim in large schools and they have poison spin that can sting. Their poison spin can hurt 50 times worse hurt ten times more / be ten times worse than wasp pain and the pain has an effect during for 3 months. To catch fish, they created zookeepers who are plastic cylinders to store lionfish underwater and protect divers from being stung.

The lionfish who are captured are eaten : it's the best way to fight against this invasion.