

What is a Lion Fish?

Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) is a marine species native to the western Pacific and Oceania. Because of its great beauty and behavior, is very popular among the aquarium, one of the 10 most valuable species imported in the U.S.. This is a species of large fish that can reach the 38 cm and weighing 1200 gr. Its color is dramatic, and is distinguished by vertical lines red, white and brown all throughout his body, though the tones vary depending on where you live.

It was first sighted in 1992 in southern Florida following Hurricane Andrew, and has since spread throughout the east coast of the United States, to descend to the Bahamas and recently the Greater Antilles. Because the characteristics of the region are similar to those found in their home range.

The most likely explanation for the arrival of the fish the Atlantic Ocean, through the aquarium trade. It is also possible that I can lionfish have been transported through ballast water of ships traveling from the Pacific Ocean.



Where Lion Fish can be found?

The species is late and night and is found in tropical coastal seagrass beds, coral reefs or shallow lagoons.

What does Lion Fish eat? Who eats them?

It is a carnivorous species that feeds on other fish, crustaceans and molluscs. It is very voracious and threatens the reproduction of other fish. No fish in the Caribbean is eating Lion Fish (yet).

Are Lion Fish dangerous?

The lionfish is an exotic species (not the Caribbean), which competes with other territorial local species such as grouper ocean alters the ecological balance due to their greed and has no natural predators in this area.

The lionfish has 13 spines and 3 anal all poisonous. Their sting is very painful, though it is not lethal.

First Aid if you are stung by Lion Fish:

1. Carefully remove the spines
2. Apply water as hot as you can stand, as this deactivates the poison
3. Go to a health center and report their condition.
4. The pain can be relieved with analgesics.

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