

**Lionfish Research Seed Grant**  
**A Local and Regional Training, Research and Management Approach to the Lionfish Invasion**  
**in The Bahamas**  
***Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean***

The Bahamas' Department of Marine Resources is calling for proposals researching the nature of the Lionfish Invasion. Lionfish were first reported in The Bahamas in 2004 and are now considered invasive. Currently, juvenile and adult lionfish are being observed in waters surrounding every island group throughout the Bahamian archipelago.

**Deadline date: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

**Purpose:** To foster research on the Indo-Pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans* or *Pterois miles*) in an effort to fill knowledge gaps that currently exist. Lack of data and information on the lionfish invasion has been cited as a major deficiency in effectively managing this invasive alien species in the Wider-Caribbean.

**Amount:** A total of three (3) seed grants will be awarded for up to \$10,000 (BSD/USD) per grant, to compliment major funding already secured. Grant funds are provided by The Global Environment Facility (GEF) through The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP's) project, *Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean*.

**Length of study:** 1-year

**Nature of research/project:** Equal priority will be given to three (3) general research areas (ecology, social impacts and control factors). The following priority areas will be the criteria for selecting grant proposals.

- Ecology and impact of lionfish in mangrove, seagrass and deep sea communities.
- Distribution and movement of lionfish across and between coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass and deep sea habitats.
- Ontogenetic shifts in habitat use and distribution.
- Larval distribution, settlement patterns and cues.
- Evaluating the catch per unit effort (CPUE) associated with a lionfish commercial fishery required to evaluate the effect on local lionfish populations.
- Socioeconomic (SE) impacts of the invasion, and the identification of SE factors to develop a commercial lionfish fishery.
- Predicting the rate and pattern of lionfish spread throughout The Bahamas and the Caribbean based on oceanographic features, current lionfish abundances and distribution, and lionfish reproductive biology and behavior.

- Effect of outreach and education initiatives on local lionfish populations.

**Eligibility and funding restrictions**

- Seed grants cannot be applied as co-finance to fund any GEF/UNEP Project.
- No more than one research grant will be issued to a respective agency or institution.
- Seed grants cannot be applied to salary or stipends, administrative costs, hiring of consultants or contractors. Grants can however be used for the purchase of equipment and travel etc.

**Application process:** The same process applies for obtaining a Scientific Research Permit through The Bahamas Government. All grant applications must include the following materials:

- A C.V. for all Principal Investigator(s) and Co-Principal Investigator(s)
- A 2-5 page proposal outlining what is to be accomplished, the methodology proposed, time required, the amount and allocation of funding requested.

**To download application, go to:** [http://forms.bahamas.gov.bs/dp\\_form.asp?fid=259](http://forms.bahamas.gov.bs/dp_form.asp?fid=259)

**Additional Requirements:** Hard and electronic copies (2) of a resulting technical paper should be supplied to The Department of Marine Resources and The Gerace Research Centre.

**Selections will be announced by 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.**

**Applications should be emailed to:**

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