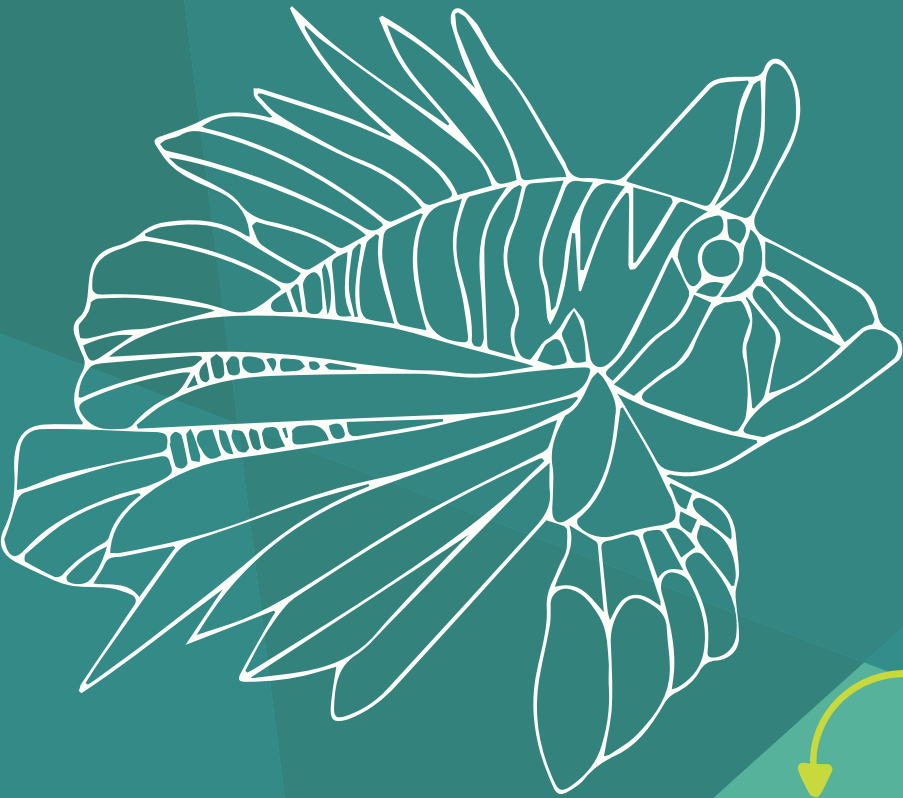


SPOT THE ALIEN FISH

WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE THE LIONFISH INVADER



WHAT SHALL I DO TO AVOID GETTING STUNG? X'GHANDI NAGHMEL BIEX MA NITNIGGISX?

AVOID ALL DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE LIVE FISH. REMOVE (BY USING A PAIR OF SCISSORS OR PLIERS) THE DORSAL FINS (THE ONES LOCATED ALONG ITS BACK, ON TOP OF ITS HEAD) AND THE PECTORAL ONES (THE ONES AROUND ITS GILLS) AS THESE CONTAIN VENOMOUS SPINES. USE A PAIR OF GLOVES THROUGHOUT.

EVITA KULL KUNTATT DIRETT MAL-ĦUTA HAĠĠA. NEĦĦI (BILLI TUŻA IMQASS JEW TNAĠĠA) IX-XEWK DORSALI (DAWK LI JINSABU TUL DAHARĦA U FUQ RASHA) U DAWK PETTORALI (DAWK MADWAR IL-GARĠI). UŻA PAR INGWANTI KULL DARBA LI TMISS IL-ĦUTA.

WHAT SHALL I DO IF I AM STUNG? X'GHANDI NAGHMEL JEKK NITNIGGEŻ?

- REMOVE PIECES OF THE SPINE. SOMETIMES, PIECES OF THEIR SPINE REMAIN IN THE SKIN AFTER A STING;
- CLEAN THE AREA WITH SOAP AND FRESH WATER. IF YOU HAVE A FIRST AID KIT, YOU CAN ALSO CLEAN THE WOUND WITH ANTISEPTIC TOWELETTES;
- CONTROL BLEEDING. USING A CLEAN TOWEL OR CLOTH, APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE TO THE WOUND;
- APPLY HEAT TO HELP THE VENOM BREAK DOWN. USE AS MUCH HEAT AS YOU CAN TOLERATE WITHOUT BURNING YOURSELF. JUST MAKE SURE THE WATER OR HEAT PACK ISN'T TOO HOT! YOU DON'T WANT TO ADD A BURN ON TOP OF YOUR INJURY. KEEP THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER BELOW 120°F (48.9°C). APPLY HEAT FOR ABOUT 30 TO 90 MINUTES;
- TAKE PAIN MEDICATION. A LIONFISH STING CAN BE EXTREMELY PAINFUL, SO TAKE AN OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN RELIEVER TO REDUCE PAIN. THIS CAN INCLUDE IBUPROFEN OR ACETAMINOPHEN (PARACETAMOL).
- APPLY A TOPICAL ANTIBIOTIC CREAM. THEN BE SURE TO WRAP A BANDAGE AROUND THE WOUND TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INFECTION;
- USE ICE OR A COLD PACK TO REDUCE SWELLING. DO THIS AFTER APPLYING THE INITIAL HEAT THERAPY;
- SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION. IF THE STING CAUSES SEVERE PAIN, YOU MIGHT NEED A STRONGER PAIN MEDICATION. INFECTION IS ALSO POSSIBLE IF OTHER GERMS GET IN UNDER THE SKIN,

WHY IS THE LIONFISH SUCH A THREAT? GHALIEX IL-LIONFISH HIJA DAQSHEKK PROBLEMA?

1. LIONFISH HAVE NO NATURAL PREDATORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AS THEY ARE NATURALLY FOUND IN THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC OCEANS. M'HEMMX PREDATURI TAL-LIONFISH FIL-MEDITERRAN GHALIEX JINSABU FL-OCEAN PAČIFIKU U F'DAK ATLANTIKU.

2. MATURE FEMALE LIONFISH CAN RELEASE UP TO 2 MILLION EGGS EACH YEAR, BECOME SEXUALLY MATURE AT THE AGE OF JUST 1 YEAR AND LIVING UP TO 15 YEARS. IN-NISA JISTGĦU JIPPRODUČU SA ŻEWĠ MILJUN BAJDA FIS-SENA, MILL-ETÀ TA' SENA, U JISTGĦU JĠHIXU SA 15-IL SENA.

3. LIONFISH ARE AVID PREDATORS THEMSELVES, LEADING TO A SHARP DECLINE IN NATIVE BIODIVERSITY LEVELS. IL-LIONFISH STESS HUMA KACCATURI KBAR U GHALHEKK JWASSLU GHAT-TNAQQIS FIL-ĦUT U FIL-BIODIVERSITÀ.

4. LIONFISH ARE VENOMOUS CREATURES WHICH STING AND INJURE NUMEROUS FISHERS AND DIVERS EACH YEAR AROUND THE WORLD. IL-LIONFISH TNIGGEŻ MINĦABBA X-XEWK LI GHANDHA FUQ RASHA U MAL-GARĠI LI MINĦABBA FIHOM JWEĠĠĠU ĦAFNA GHADDASA U SAJJIEDA KULL SENA.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE LIONFISH IS CONSIDERED AN INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS) GHAL DAWN IR-RAĠUNIJET, IL-LIONFISH HIJA KKUNSIDRATA BĦALA SPEČI INVAŽIVA.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT (IAS) CAN BE COLLECTED BY WATCHING THIS SHORT ANIMATION CLIP ON YOUTUBE:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=7W00U_UGD2K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W00U_UGD2K)



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CATCH OR SPOT ONE?

KEEP THE CAUGHT INDIVIDUAL FROZEN IF DEAD OR IN A BUCKET WITH SEA WATER IF ALIVE. IF YOU SPOT ONE WHILST DIVING, SNORKELING OR SWIMMING, TRY TO TAKE A GOOD (HIGH-RESOLUTION) PHOTO OF IT, SINCE **THE FIRST CONFIRMED RECORD OF THE LIONFISH FROM MALTESE WATERS WILL EARN YOU A BRAND-NEW GOPRO 12!**

X'GHANDI NAGHMEL JEKK NAQBAD JEW NARA WAHDA?

ŽOMM L-INDIVIDWU MAQBUD IFFRIŻAT JEKK MEJJET JEW ĠO BARMIL BL-ILMA BAĦAR JEKK HAĠ. JEKK TINNOTA WAHDA WAQT LI TKUN QIEGHED TOĠHDOS, SNORKELING JEW TĠHUM, IPPROVA ĦU RITRATT TAJJEB (B'RIZOLUZZJONI GHOLJA), PERESS LI **L-EWWEL REKORD IKKONFERMAT TAL-LIONFISH MILL-IBĦRA MALTIN JIRBAĦ GOPRO 12 ĠDIDA!**



SPOT THE ALIEN FISH

SOME OF THE MOST INVASIVE
ALIEN FISH SPECIES IN THE
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN
UP TO 2024!

REPORTING AN ALIEN FISH SIGHTING

WHEN THE FISH WERE SIGHTED (DATE AND AM OR PM)
WHICH SPECIES OF FISH WERE SIGHTED (REFER TO IMAGES BELOW)
WHERE THE FISH WERE SIGHTED
QUANTITY OF FISH (APPROXIMATE NUMBER IN THE AREA)

SENDING A REPORT

PHONE: 79604109 / 23403704

SEND YOUR REPORT BY EMAIL: ALIENSMALTA@GMAIL.COM

SEND A MESSAGE OVER SOCIAL MEDIA THROUGH

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALIENSMALTA

OR AS A PRIVATE MESSAGE TO PROF. ALAN DEIDUN



@MARINEBIOLOGYMALTA
Instagram



@SPOTTHEALIEN
Facebook



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**RETICULATED LEATHEJACK
(EDIBLE)**

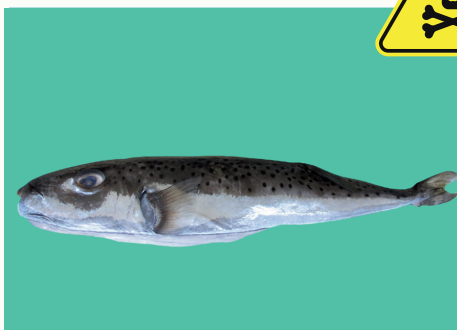


IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH (NOT
TO BE EATEN)**

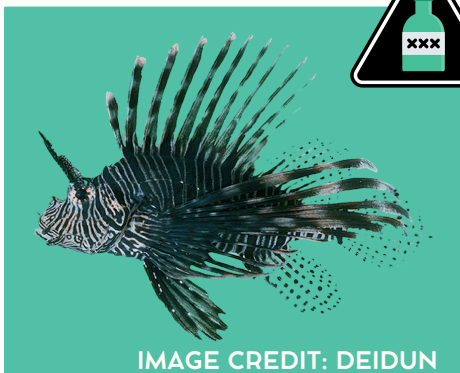


IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**DEVIL FIREFISH (LIONFISH)
(EDIBLE)**

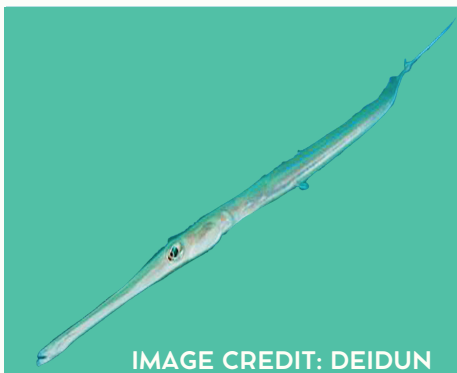


IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**BLUE-SPOTTED CORNET FISH
(EDIBLE)**

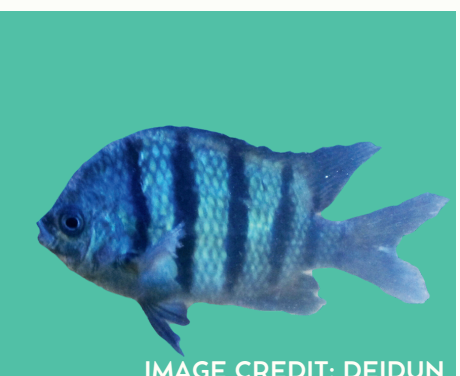


IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

SERGEANT MAJOR (EDIBLE)



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**DUSKY SPINEFOOT (A RABBITFISH
SPECIES) - QAWSALLA (EDIBLE)**

SEEN A SPECIES OF
ALIEN FISH NOT ON
OUR LIST?



KEEP THE SPECIMEN ALIVE OR IN A FROZEN STATE IF DEAD.
A ROYALTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR ANY DONATED SPECIMEN OF
ALIEN FISH

CONTACT US ON 79604109 FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN

**TAKE GOOD QUALITY PHOTOS OF ALIEN
SPECIES OBSERVED WHERE POSSIBLE
TO HELP IN THE IDENTIFICATION
PROCESS!**



TOXIC: THIS FISH SHOULD NOT BE EATEN



VENOMOUS: SHOULD NOT BE HANDLED OR TOUCHED

PROJECT
SUPPORTED
BY:



L-Università
ta' Malta



JUNE 2024