

**UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies
Programme**

Invasive Species Project Report

Anguilla Lionfish Project report 1.

18/09/2010

To find out more about JNCC Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies programme see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukotcd/>

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Project Update form

If you have suggestions for improvement of this form, your feedback would be appreciated:

COUNTRY: *Anguilla*

PROJECT TITLE: *Anguilla Invasive Species Public Education and Public Awareness Project*

REPORTER: *Name, Organization, Contact Details.*

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PROJECT UPDATE : *How is the project going? What were the HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-ACHIEVEMENTS of objectives? What CHALLENGES did you encounter? How were these RESOLVED?*

HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-DELIVERY

*The Invasive Species Public Education and Awareness Project is progressing fairly well. One of the main achievements of the project is that we have been able to work closely with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) and the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) in designing and producing colourful brochures depicting and containing information on the invasive lionfish (*Pterois* sp.). These brochures have been widely distributed to fishermen, sea tour and dive operators, as well as members of the general public. Since the distribution of such, there has been increased discussion and interest among the public about the lionfish. Additionally, there have been two confirmed reports of the said fish (of which one was captured) in Anguilla waters. We are also please to report that the survey component of the Invasive Species Project has been completed. This particular aspect involved assessing the knowledge and attitudes of the Anguillian Public towards Alien Invasive Species. The results of this survey are currently being analyzed and will be compared to a similar exercise that was done in 2008. The project was officially launched to the media/public on 13th September 2010. At the said launching ceremony, the project was officially declared by the Hon. Walcott Richardson, Minister*

responsible for the Environment. Additionally commitment and endorsement speeches were given by representatives of support institutions such as the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Department of Agriculture, the Anguilla Farmers Association as well as a member representing the landscaping department of the private sector institution of Cap Juluca Resort.

PROBLEMS and RESOLUTION

Radio Adverts

The radio adverts are prepared and ready for distribution since summer. However, we will like for students from the Albenia Lake Hodge Comprehensive School's Environmental Club to read them on the airwaves. As a result we delayed this until school open in September. The starting of school was further delayed by one week due to the passage of Hurricane Earl. The environmental group is now settling in, and contact will be made with the coordinator to facilitate the infomercial adverts by the end of September 2010.

Newspaper Articles

The articles are fully prepared for the newspaper. However, publishing was delayed due to allowing adequate time for the surveys (invasive species questionnaire) to be completed. The publishing of these articles will start in the latter part of September 2010.