

Appendix 2.

Interview schedule

Topics were adapted to the individual respondent according to his/her function or profession in the MPA. By asking respondents to provide their “views”, “perceptions” or “perspectives” about lionfish (LF) presence in MPA’s waters – and about LF management in their MPAs- the meanings they attach to LF could be explored broadly. Probing questions attempted to elicit more specific responses.

Introduction

Q: I would like to start by asking if you could describe your daily activities related to (MPA).

Q: In your daily life, how often do you have to do in any way with LF? For example, during work or recreational activities.

Origin

Q: How/when did you hear about the LF for the first time? **Probing:** Please describe the time when the first LF were sighted in (MPA). What type of information did you receive and from which source?

Spread

Q: In your view, are LF numbers (in MPA) increasing, decreasing or stable? **Probing:** How often do you go in the water? When you are in the water, how often do you see LF? When you see LF, what do you do and why? **Q:** Is LF monitoring carried out in (MPA)?

Impact

Q: I would like to hear your perspectives/perceptions/views about LF (in general and specifically in MPA). **Q:** What is your perception about the LF in terms of affecting your activities, your business, your health? **Probing:** I would like to have a general idea of what’s going on at (MPA) regarding LF; how do you and your colleagues interact with LF; you say that personally you do/not encounter LF and/but you know that they’re having an impact, could you elaborate? **Q:** Have you (or someone you know) been stung by a LF? How does it feel like? How did it happen?

Control

Q: How is LF managed in (MPA)? **Probing:** Who participates and how? What do you think about the way LF is managed in (MPA)? **Q:** Have you ever captured a LF? Why/not? **Probing:** Who are the main groups involved in management? Do you need a permit to capture LF? Where is LF capture allowed in (MPA)? With what kind of gear? Is there sustained interest in LF tournaments/derbies? In LF workshops/trainings (required to apply for a capture permit in Florida Keys)?

Q: What can you tell me about the commercialization of LF? **Probing:** Have you eaten LF? Do you like it? How does it taste like? Who is harvesting LF commercially? Who is not, and why? How many LF are harvested for consumption? What do you think about this development? What can you tell me about ciguatera risk in (MPA)?