

# SPOT THE ALIEN FISH

## 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](mailto:aliensmalta@gmail.com)  
 Send a message over social media through <https://www.facebook.com/aliensmalta>  
 or as a private message to Prof. Alan Deidun



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

**RETICULATED LEATHERJACK**  
(EDIBLE)



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

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



IMAGE CREDIT: RANDALL

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



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

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



IMAGE CREDIT: DEIDUN

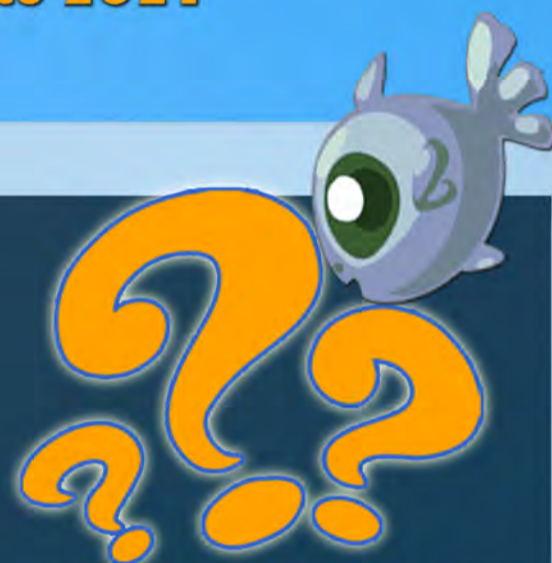
**SERGEANT MAJOR**  
(EDIBLE)



IMAGE CREDIT: AGUIS

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

## Most invasive alien fish species in Malta waters up to 2021



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 to 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:



GVERN TA' MALTA  
MINISTERU GRALL-AGRIKOLTURA, IS-SAJD,  
L-IKEL U D-DRITTIJET TAL-ANNIMALI

MAY 2021

# SPOT THE ALIEN FISH

## WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE THE LIONFISH INVADER



### 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 GHAX GEJJIN MILL-OCEJAN PACIFIKU U 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 JISTGHU JIPRODUCU SA ŻEWG MILJUN BAJDA FIS-SENA, SA MILL-ETA' TA SENA, U JISTGHU JGHIXU SA' 15-IL SENA

3. LIONFISH ARE AVID PREDATORS THEMSELVES, LEADING TO A SHARP DECLINE IN NATIVE BIODIVERSITY LEVELS

IL-LIONFISH HUMA KACCATURI KBAR HUMA NNIFISHOM U GHALHEKK JWASSLU GHALL-TNAQQIS FIL-HUT U FIL-BIJODIVERSITA'

4. LIONFISH ARE VENOMOUS CREATURES WHICH STING AND INJURE NUMEROUS FISHERS AND DIVERS EACH YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

IL-LIONFISH TNIGGEŻ MINHABBA X-XEWK LI GHANDHA FUQ RASHA U MAL-GARGI LI MINHABBA FIDOM JWEGGHU HAFNA DIVERS U SAJJIEDA KULL SENA.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE LIONFISH IS CONSIDERED AN INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS) GHALL DAWN IR-RAGUNIJIET, IL-LIONFISH HIJA KKUNSIDRATA BHALA SPECI INVAŻIVA.

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

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=7W0OU\\_UGD2K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W0OU_UGD2k)

### 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 FIN (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-HUTA HAJ. NEHHI (BILLI TUŻA PAR IMQASS JEW TNALJI) IX-XEWK DORSALI (DAWK LI JINSABU TUL DAHRU, FUQ RASU) U DAWK PETTORALI (DAWK MADWAR IL-GARGI). UŻA PAR INGWANTI KULL DARBA LI TMISS L-HUTA.

### 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 TOWELLETTES;
- 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 (MOTRIN) OR ACETAMINOPHEN (TYLENOL);
- 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.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CATCH OR SPOT ONE?

KEEP THE CAUGHT INDIVIDUAL FROZEN IF DEAD OR IN A BUCKET WITH SEAWATER 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 7!

### X'GHANDI NAGHMEL JEKK NAQBAD JEW NARA WAHDA?

ŻOMM L-INDIVIDWU MAQBUD IFFRIŻAT JEKK MEJJET JEW GO BARMIL BL-ILMA BAHAR JEKK HAJ. JEKK TINNOTA WAHDA WAQT LI TKUN QIEGHED TGHADDAS, TAGHMEL SNORKELING JEW TGHUM, IPPROVA HU RITRATT TAJJEB (B'RIŻOLUZZJONI GHOLJA) U PERESS LI L-EWWEL REKORD IKKONFERMAT TA L-ILJUN MILL-IBHRA MALTIN TERBAH GOPRO 7 GDIDA!

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