



## **Latin American and Caribbean countries discuss actions on the control of the invasive lionfish**

Havana, Cuba, 29 April 2014 – Over 50 experts from 14 countries met in Cuba to share experiences and move forward on the control of the invasive lionfish leading to strengthened collaboration and sharing of lessons learned in lionfish control.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of Cuba and officially opened by Mr Theodor Friedrich, FAO Representative, Cuba; Mr Roland Wiefels, General Director of INFOPESCA; Ms Helga Josupeit, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO Rome; Ms Nora Yong Mena, Director of International Relations, MINAL; and Mr Rafael Tizol Correa, Director of the Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras, Cuba.

During the first session, the workshop participants analysed the history and present reality of the invasion of lionfish in the Caribbean region and the species present in the region. There was an overview of recent technological developments on the design of traps for the capture of lionfish and the market potential for this species considering similar species. National experts presented their situations and experiences in lionfish control.

The main conclusions on the lionfish issues in the region were:

- wide endorsement of the REEF Strategy by regional fisheries bodies such as CRFM and WECAFC;
- the need to adapt national legislations to permit the capture of lionfish using adequate gears, particularly in marine protected areas and reserves;
- the importance of coordination to maximize efficiency in the use of limited resources;
- the need to adopt an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture for management and control of lionfish;
- the importance of reliable data;
- the inadequacy of the “one size fits all” approach to deal with the social, economic, cultural and political considerations of each country;
- the need to adopt a holistic approach to fisheries management;
- the importance of developing technologies to support the control of the invasive lionfish;
- the need to pool resources in the region to make the best use of available funding.