

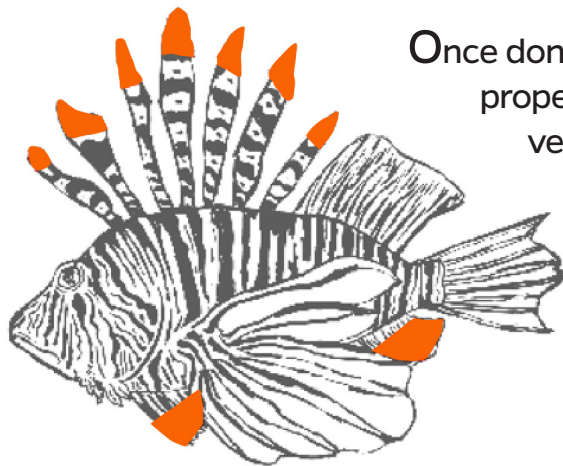


# LIONFISH HANDLING

When handling lionfish, wear heavy puncture-proof gloves and **do not touch the tips of the venomous spines, highlighted below in orange.**

The smaller the lionfish, the sharper the spines.

To avoid being stung, hold the fish by the head. You can cut off the spines with scissors. If you want to keep the fish whole, make sure the spines lie flat as you work with the fish.



Once done with the fish, make sure to dispose of the spines properly to prevent any accidental contact. The spines are still venomous even after being removed from the body. Their venom is only neutralized by being cooked. A puncture-proof bag should be used when diving or on the boat. Spines can be thrown into the ocean or thrown (carefully) into the trash.





# LIONFISH STING TREATMENT

If stung by a lionfish, remain calm.

**There have been no recorded deaths related to lionfish stings.**



**If you are stung follow these steps:**

1. If diving, stay calm and surface slowly. Decompression sickness is more dangerous than a lionfish sting.
2. Once at the surface, remove any spines stuck to your skin.
3. Place the sting under hot (not scalding) water for about 30 minutes or apply a heat pack. This helps to draw out the venom.
4. Take medication if so desired. Over-the-counter pain killers will help with the pain. Benadryl® can control the swelling.
5. Monitor the sting. If the swelling becomes excessive or you begin to have labored breathing, seek medical treatment. In the event that your throat begins to close, seek medical help immediately.

For more information: <http://wb.md/2rITNEs>

