



January 2011

President's Log

When going on a dive trip, we usually have a "wish list" of what we would like to see. We got home late last night from a two week trip to Puerto Rico, where I checked off everything from my wish list. I spotted Hogfish, Great Barracuda, Nurse Sharks, Spotted Drum, and Lion Fish. Wow, just after descent on dive one, my first Lion Fish, and I didn't even have to pay for a plane ticket to the Indo-Pacific! A few minutes later, another Lion Fish, then another, and another--- EVERY dive had Lion Fish. I know we have all read and heard horror stories of the invasion, but seeing it for yourself brings a new level of reality. I have nothing against other people spear fishing as long as they obey the game laws, but I just stopped doing it myself once Valerie got certified and I became an exclusive fish watcher. After seeing the infestation on our first dive, I started talking to our guide about the problem, and he mentioned he had his spear on board, and as we had the boat chartered, we gave him the green light to use it while diving with us. It is hard to believe, but we dove for two weeks with the same company only two years ago and did not spot a single Lion Fish. I spoke later with a diver who has been diving that area for six years and has noticed a large drop in the overall fish population in the last couple of years. Coincidence?

While in PR we read about a couple of success stories in overcoming invasive species. Unfortunately, we have not heard of any successful attempt to decimate the Lion Fish. The best we can hope for is a good market for Lion Fish meat, as that seems to be the best way for us humans to rid ourselves of an entire species.

In the meantime, just head to the Caribbean; enjoy the warm water, sunshine, great people, good food, good beer, and major relaxation. Oh yes, I almost forgot, enjoy some Lion Fish spearing while you are there! (See Erwan's photos of the invader in this issue.)

Brad

WHAT IS THIS?



Do you know this logo? Multiple choice would help? OK:

- **Paradise Dive Club former logo**
- **The World Underwater Federation**
- **The seal of the US Navy UDTs of the 1940's**
- **The Women Divers' Association**
- **The US Aquarobics Federation**

The answer is on page 3.

Valérie Lent



Photos by Erwan Lent

Deco Stop

The Friday the week after
the monthly club
meeting at 5:30 PM
Endless Summer Bar
and Grill on the
Waterfront



The logo page 1 is for:

**The World Underwater
Federation, also known
as the CMAS. It is based
in Rome. As a
recreational diver you
can take 5 levels of
certification and
become a 4-star diver.**

Valérie

Dive Club Officers

President	Brad Lent info@paradisediveclub.org
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Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Rich Cirincione
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PDC THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES!
TO FIND OUT WHERE THE GROUP
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TO THE NIGHT DIVE E-MAIL LIST,
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