

Name _____

Lionfish: Predator with a Big Impact

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. It is important for scientists to study lionfish so they can understand their impact on ecosystems and find ways to protect coral reefs.
2. In their native habitats, lionfish help maintain balance, but in invasive areas, they harm coral reefs by eating too many small fish that keep the ecosystem healthy.
3. If lionfish populations continue to grow, coral reefs could suffer from overgrown algae and a lack of small fish, leading to the collapse of the ecosystem.
4. Turning lionfish into a food source encourages people to catch them, which helps reduce their population and protects coral reefs.