

# PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT!



**Diamondback puffer**  
*Lagocephalus guentheri*  
(ALIEN to Maltese waters)

**Blunthead puffer**  
*Sphoeroides pachygaster*  
(NATIVE to Maltese waters)



**Oceanic puffer**  
*Lagocephalus lagocephalus*  
(NATIVE to Maltese waters)

**Silver-cheeked toadfish**  
*Lagocephalus sceleratus*  
(ALIEN to Maltese waters)

## THE PROBLEM

These are species of pufferfish which have been already caught within Maltese waters. They are all highly toxic and should NOT be consumed, either raw nor cooked, since cooking/heat does NOT eliminate the toxin (known as TTX) contained within the flesh. All body parts of the fish can be toxic if ingested and, sometimes, even if simply touched.

## THE SOLUTION

- RETAIN (do NOT throw back into the sea) any individuals belonging to these 4 species or to any other pufferfish species and contact the Spot the Alien Fish campaign at the University of Malta (contacts below) for a SPEEDY RECOVERY.
- Do NOT consume any parts of the fish.
- Do NOT consume any other fish which came in direct contact with any of these toxic pufferfish species.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling any of these 4 fish species.
- Seek immediate medical assistance if any health complications arise within the first 24hrs after handling these fish species. Useful contacts include Mater Dei Emergency (25450000), the National Poisons Centre (1774) and the Superintendence of Public Health (2595 3302).

# AVVIŻ TAS-SAĦĦA

# PUBBLIKA!



**Diamondback puffer**  
*Lagocephalus guentheri*  
(Aljen fl-ibħra Maltin)

**Fenek (Blunthead puffer)**  
*Sphoeroides pachygaster*  
(Indiġenu fl-ibħra Maltin)



**Minfaħ (Oceanic puffer)**  
*Lagocephalus lagocephalus*  
(Indiġenu fl-ibħra Maltin)

**Silver-cheeked toadfish**  
*Lagocephalus sceleratus*  
(Aljen fl-ibħra Maltin)

## IL-PROBLEMA

Dawn huma speċi ta' pufferfish li diġà nqabdu fl-ibħra Maltin. Huma kollha tossiċi ħafna u M'GHANDHOMX jiġu kkunsmati, la nejja u lanqas imsajjra, peress li t-tisjir/sħana MA jeliminawx it-tossina (magħrufa bħala TTX) li tinsab fil-laħam. Il-partijiet kollha tal-ġisem tal-ħut jistgħu jkunu tossiċi jekk jinbelgħu u, xi kultant, anke jekk sempliċement jintmessu.

## IS-SOLUZZJONI

- ŻOMM (TARMIX lura fil-baħar) kwalunkwe individwu li jappartjeni għal dawn l-4 speċi jew għal kwalunkwe speċi oħra ta' pufferfish u kkuntattja l-kampanja Spot the Alien Fish fl-Università ta' Malta (kuntatti hawn taħt) għal IRKUPRU MALAJR.
- TIKKUNSMAX xi partijiet mill-ħut.
- TIKKUNSMAX xi ħuta oħra li għet f'kuntatt dirett ma' xi waħda minn dawn l-ispeċi tossiċi ta' pufferfish.
- Aħsel idejk sewwa wara li timmaniġġja xi waħda minn dawn l-4 speċi ta' ħut.
- Fittex assistenza medika immedjata jekk jinqalgħu xi kumplikazzjonijiet tas-saħħa fl-ewwel 24 siegħa wara li timmaniġġja dawn l-ispeċi ta' ħut. Kuntatti utli jinkludu l-Emerġenza ta' Mater Dei (25450000), National Poisons Centre (1774) u s-Sovrintendenza tas-Saħħa Pubblika (2595 3302).

**A million thanks in advance for helping us track better these toxic species!**

**Caught one of these pufferfish species or any other alien fish species? Then contact the Spot the Alien Fish campaign so as to assist in ongoing research on the topic as follows:**

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY:



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SCAN ME

