



Marine ornamental fish and invertebrate trade: Market expectations, trends and challenges

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Abstract:

The trade in tropical marine organisms for the ornamental fish industry has grown extensively over the last four decades. In the same time frame, the global problems facing coral reefs have attracted increased attention to this trade from scientists, environmentalists and governments, as well as the general public.

The industry is actively looking at ways of securing and demonstrating that ornamental fish trade is a high value, low volume trade that can be done sustainably. Properly and adequately regulated the harvest and aquaculture of ornamental organisms also provide good income opportunities and a valuable incentive for local communities to actively manage their local reefs resources.

The present lecture discusses the historical development of the aquarium industry and hobby, with particular emphasize on modern reef aquarium keeping. Basic marine aquarium technique, including water chemistry control, water movement and filtration, lighting and biological based set-up, is explained. Examples are given on popular organisms in trade, along with current and developing sources for these.

Current trends in trade volume, value and market expectations are discussed, and the likely effects of these in export- and import countries, are evaluated. Current international regulations through CITES, and expected upcoming regulations on biosafety and access & benefit sharing under CBD, are discussed.

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