



News and events

Palau prohibits export of live reef food fish

After many years of off-and-on engagement in the live reef food fish trade, Palau has decided to prohibit the export of live food fish. Some of the events leading up to the new law are recounted in these news items:

- <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2007/11/30/blog-site-claims-live-catch-operations-threatening-reef-fish-stock> (Pacific Magazine, 30 November 2007)
- <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2008/01/03/chiefs-impose-10000-fine-for-violating-fishing-ban> (Pacific Magazine, 3 January 2008)
- http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=9123&format=html (Marianas Variety, 1 April 2008)
- http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=11177&format=html (Marianas Variety, 13 May 2008)

Spawning closures relaxed on Australia's Great Barrier Reef

The government of Queensland has found that its fishery closures have been overly cautious, and will remove the nine-day closure in December, leaving the October and November spawning-focused closures intact. See this story by ABC Rural (12 November 2008): <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200811/s2417568.htm>

Live fish shipment intercepted at Palawan airport

According to Inquirer.net (31 December 2007), an illegal shipment involving 71 live red groupers was intercepted by enforcement authorities at Puerto Princesa International Airport. The Mayor of Puerto Princesa City suspended three of the city's enforcement personnel on the suspicion that they conspired with the shipper of the fish, and ordered that the fish be released immediately into Puerto Princesa Bay. See the story at: http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/regions/view_article.php?article_id=109676

Cargo of live whale sharks intercepted

A story in Inquirer.net (7 April 2008) relates how a task force of provincial fishery officials and environmentalists intercepted a cargo that included whale sharks among the live groupers and ornamental fishes that were likely headed for export via Manila. See the story at: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breaking-news/regions/view/20080407-128932/Quezon-task-force-seizes-cargo-of-alleged-young-whale-sharks>

Catch of humphead wrasse in Northern Mariana Islands triggers controversy

According to a 5 February 2008 story in the Saipan Tribune, an employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands found himself having to defend his catch of two humphead wrasse, in spite of not being accused of any legal wrongdoing. See the story at: <http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?newsID=76728&cat=1>

Live reef food fish trade in the news in Malaysia

It appears from several news stories that the live reef food fish trade, particularly the humphead wrasse, is gaining public and government attention in Malaysia. For example, see:

- <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=55698> (Daily Express, 4 February 2008)
- <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/4/8/lifefocus/20080407202246&sec=lifefocus> (the star online, 8 April 2008)
- <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/4/8/lifefocus/20843352&sec=lifefocus> (the star online, 8 April 2008)

Fate of marine ornamental species of concern in Thailand

The Phuket Marine Biological Research Institute is breeding harlequin shrimp and other marine ornamental species because of concerns that they might become extinct, according to this story from the Thai News Agency (26 June 2008): <http://enews.mcot.net/view.php?id=4935>

Clownfish in trouble?

Five years after its release, the hit movie "Finding Nemo" is being blamed for dramatic declines in clownfish populations, according to the Times Online (26 June 2008): <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4220496.ece>



Noteworthy publications

- Hair C., Warren R., Tewaki A. and Posalo R. 2007. Postlarval fish capture and grow-out: A practical guide to catching and rearing reef-fish and crustaceans for the aquarium trade. ACIAR Monograph No. 127. Canberra: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. 33 p. [also available at: <http://www.aciar.gov.au/node/2388>]
- Lecaillon G. et Lourié S.M. 2007. La PCC: Un outil pour la conservation et la valorisation de la biodiversité. Moana Initiative. 76 p. [also available at: <http://www.ecocean.fr/reference.html>]
- Pomeroy R.S., Pido M.D., Pontillas J.F.A., Francisco B.S., White A.T., Ponce De Leon E.M.C. and Silvestre G.T. 2008. Evaluation of policy options for the live reef food fish trade in the province of Palawan, Western Philippines. *Marine Policy* 32(1):55–65.
- Rhodes K.L. and Tupper M.H. 2007. A preliminary market-based analysis of the Pohnpei, Micronesia, grouper (*Serranidae: Epinephelinae*) fishery reveals unsustainable fishing practices. *Coral Reefs* 26:335–344. [also available at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/t671m6g62n155u33/>]
- Russ G.R., Cheal A.J., Dolman A.M., Emslie M.J., Evans R.D., Miller I., Sweatman H. and Williamson D.H. 2008. Rapid increase in fish numbers follows creation of world's largest marine reserve network. *Current Biology* 18(12): R514–R515.
- Sadovy de Mitcheson, Y., Cornish A., Domeier M., Colin P.L., Russell M. and Lindeman K.C. 2008. A global baseline for spawning aggregations of reef fishes. *Conservation Biology* 22(5):1233–1244. [also available at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121382439/abstract>]
- Sheriff N., Little D.C. and Tantikamton K. 2008. Aquaculture and the poor – Is the culture of high-value fish a viable livelihood option for the poor? *Marine Policy* 32(6):1094–1102.
- Teitelbaum A. (2008). Updates on post-larval fish capture and culture technology transfer between Cook Islands and French Polynesia. *SPC Fisheries Newsletter* 124:46–49. [also available at: http://www.spc.int/coastfish/News/Fish_News/124/Newsletter_124.htm]

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