



News and events

International coral reef symposium

The 13th International Coral Reef Symposium is being held in Honolulu, 19–24 June 2016. The symposium's theme, "bridging science to policy," promises opportunities to share information and ideas about live reef fish fisheries. Information is available at: <https://sgmeet.com/icrs2016/>

Nemo and Dory in the movies and in the news

Two scientists look at the impact of the Nemo and Dory films on the demand for ornamentals, the appropriateness of harvesting those two species to meet demand, and the role of ornamental reef fish in conservation. *The Conversation*, 14 Jun 2016: <http://theconversation.com/finding-nemo-and-dory-is-easy-deciding-whether-they-should-be-pets-is-harder-60355>

Petition calls for United States to test imported ornamentals for cyanide

The Center for Biological Diversity, the Humane Society, and For the Fishes have petitioned the US government to take more action to deter imports of illegally caught ornamental fish, including testing imported fish for cyanide traces. *National Geographic*, 10 March 2016: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160310-aquarium-saltwater-tropical-fish-cyanide-coral-reefs/>

An app to distinguish "good fish" from "bad fish"

The non-profit organization, For the Fishes, has launched an app, called Tank Watch, for consumers to distinguish bred-in-captivity ornamental fish from those captured in the wild. *National Geographic*, 10 March 2016: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/160126-Wildlife-Crime-Tech-Challenge-technology/>

Sabah allows exports of cultured live tiger grouper and giant grouper

The government of Sabah has exempted certain species of cultured groupers from its ban on the export of live fish: *Daily Express*, 13 February 2016: <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=106744>

Hong Kong live reef food fish pictorial

This story is not much of a story, but it has a lot of pictures of live reef food fish in Hong Kong restaurants. *Jakarta Globe*: <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/multimedia/photos/eyewitness/reef-fish-trade-seafood/>

Using fish sounds to identify spawning aggregations

Researchers in the Caribbean are using underwater microphones to identify reef fish spawning aggregations. *U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration*, 26 February 2013: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130226_fishspawning.html

Live reef fish fisheries in the South China Sea

The live reef fish trade is mentioned in this article in reference to maritime disputes in the South China Sea. *The Diplomat*, 22 February 2015: <http://thediplomat.com/2015/02/china-and-the-south-china-sea-resource-grab/>

Australia working on culturing giant grouper

Researchers in Australia are working on breeding the Queensland groper, or giant grouper, one of the largest reef fish in the world. *The Cairns Post*, 17 February 2015: <http://www.cairnspost.com.au/news/cairns/super-grouper-fish-grown-in-cairns-attract-international-demand/news-story/fc721b1fac64bde16bba11ae86bb10d7>

Struggling to culture ornamental fish in Hawaii

Efforts continue in Hawaii to culture ornamental reef species, but it is not easy. *PBS Newshour*, 15 February 2015: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/cant-captive-breeding-saltwater-aquarium-fish-catch-2/>

Endangered species protection for Nemo?

In 2012, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the US government to list the orange clownfish (*Amphiprion percula*) and seven damselfish species under the US Endangered Species Act. Center for Biological Diversity, 20 September 2012: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2012/reef-fish-09-13-2012.html

In 2014, the US National Marine Fisheries Service announced that the orange clownfish – but none of the damselfishes – may warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act because of threats from global warming and ocean acidification (but apparently not specifically because of overharvesting or the marine aquarium trade): <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/09/03/2014-20955/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-90-day-finding-on-a-petition-to-list-seven-indo-pacific-species>

In 2015, the US National Marine Fisheries Service made its determination that the orange clownfish does not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/08/24/2015-20754/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-notice-of-12-month-finding-on-a-petition-to-list-the>

Fishing near marine protected areas

A study of the effects of marine protected areas on the social and economic well-being of fishers found positive effects, including in Hawaii, where ornamental fish collectors benefitted from rising prices of the yellow tang. *FIS United States*, 6 March 2013: <http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=59316&ndb=1&df=0>

Traceable farmed grouper from Taiwan sold in mainland China

Quick-frozen groupers farmed in Taiwan are sold in mainland China with traceability tags. *The Fish Site*, 15 January 2013: <http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/19239/traceable-taiwan-grouper-fish-now-being-sold-in-china>

Coral Triangle partners set aside areas to protect species in live reef fish trade

At a meeting in early 2013, six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam) signed a resolution to establish marine protected areas specifically for species involved in the live reef fish trade, and to take other actions to put the trade on a sustainable footing.

See these news items put out by the Coral Triangle Initiative: <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/news/coral-triangle-countries-agree-joint-actions-sustainably-manage-live-reef-fish-trade>; and USAID: <http://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/coral-triangle-reef-fish-agreement-casts-protective-net>.

A report of the meeting is available here: http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/sites/default/files/resources/LRFFTInter-GovernmentalForum31Jan-1Feb2013FullProceedingsReport_21Feb13_Final_V3.pdf

WWF calls for regional moratoria on trade and consumption of humphead wrasse

In releasing its report on legal and policy gaps in the live reef fish trade in the Coral Triangle (see Tsamenyi and Palma 2012 in the Noteworthy publications section of this bulletin), the World Wide Fund for Nature called for a regional moratorium on the trade and consumption of humphead wrasse. WWF, 5 September 2012: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?206125/Legal-and-Policy-Gaps-in-the-Management-of-the-Live-Reef-Food-Fish-Trade-in-the-Coral-Triangle.

Philippines role in the live reef fish trade

The Philippines is the center of this story on the trade in live reef food fish and ornamentals: *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 12 July 2012: <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/43917/ph-center-of-%E2%80%98illegal%E2%80%99-live-reef-aquarium-fish-trade>

Farming seahorses

Public aquaria in the United States are working on breeding seahorses and other marine species traded as ornamentals. *The Washington Post*, 15 April 2012: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/farming-aquarium-species-to-save-them/2012/04/15/gIQAvYxfJT_story.html

“Snorkel Bob” protests Petco’s sale of Hawaiian ornamentals

Parties are seeking to end the trade in ornamental reef fish harvested in Hawaii, the source of most yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) in the global market for marine ornamentals. *SFGATE*, 4 January 2012: <http://blog.sfgate.com/hawaii/2012/01/04/snorkel-bob-steps-up-protests-over-petcos-sale-of-reef-fish/>

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