An International Workshop on the Ethical Acquisition Of Marine Aquarium Fish

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WHY FOCUS ON WHERE OUR ANIMALS COME FROM

Internal considerations

- Delivery of **Vision** and **Mission** of our institutes
- Start of the **animal welfare** journey

External pressures

- Changing legislative and regulative environment
- Public perception







BACKGROUND

COMPLEXITY

- More than 40 exporting countries
- Over **2600 species** of marine animals
- 110 species account for about 50% of the trade
- Many fisheries have long supply chains

OPPORTUNITY

- 700 Million visitors to zoos and aquariums
- 7 million people home aquariums
- Public aquariums & marine aquarium trade interested in and require change









COORDINATED APPROACH TO CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDARDS

- Zoo and Aquarium Associations have varying Guidelines
- Many organisations have own initiatives
 - SEA LIFE Supplier Accreditation
- Great examples of Codes of conducts / standards in other closely related sectors

Our **OPPORTUNITY** is to **SET** the **STANDARD** as a **COMMUNITY!**

Third party confirmation via Audit of Conformity:

- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- Marine Aquarium Council (MAC, 1998-2008)





Consumer recommendations based on stock assessments, environmental impact:

Seafood Watch











ETHICAL ACQUISITIONS OF MARINE AQUARIUM FISH WORKSHOP



17 & 18 January 2024, Chessington World of Adventures Resort, UK
Attended by 28 representatives & 30 virtual participants

Hosted by:





Kindly supported by:





THE WORKSHOP

Hosted by SEA LIFE and Shedd aquariums - January 2024

Kindly supported by Herschend Family Entertainment

Keynotes - Dan Ashe AZA, Sam Fanshawe Blue Marine

Foundation

Facilitated by:

- Melanie Siggs, Director Global Seafood Alliance -Experienced Executive Strategic Advisor, Program and Project Director, specialist in natural capital and food systems.
- Mike Platt, Consultant and Auditor over 35 years' experience with standards and improvement strategies for the Seafood industry globally.

ATTENDEES

AQUARIUMS

















SUPPLIERS & TRADE ORGANISATIONS













ACADEMIA & NGO's

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANISATIONS















FOCUS OF THE WORKSHOP AROUND FOUR PILLARS

COMMUNITY

- Considering entire supply chain's impact on developing and developed countries
- Challenges noted: lack of data, overfishing, lack of educational programs

SOURCES & CAPTURE

- Marine fish ethical sourcing and capture, stressing the need for sustainable practices and trackability
- Challenges noted: elimination of harmful fishing methods



- Welfare of marine fish during transport, reducing mortalities and improve overall fish care
- Challenges notes: lack of education, training, and independent certification

TRACEABILITY

- Accurate traceability in the marine aquarium fishery
- Challenges noted: Long supply chains, standardization of data collection methods







COMPLEXITY OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER NETWORK



Communities - Fishers, Aquariums, Hobbyists, Public



Environment - Aquariums, LINI, RARE, other NGOs



Academia - Universities, Fisheries Societies, IUCN



Supplier Trade Associations - OATA, OFI, Provision GBR, Florida Marine Life Association



Public Aquarium Association - AZA, EAZA, ZAA, WAZA, IAC, EUAC



Governance - Import: USFWS, UK- CEFAS Export: Countries and States of Origin, CITES



ETHICAL ACQUISITION OF MARINE AQUARIUM FISH WORKSHOP

Report and Recommendations:

AGREE

 On best practices for acquisition using models of standards creation which are recognised to develop authentic, meaningful and usable outcomes

AGREE

 How to use those best practice standards and commit to following the process

PILOT

• Priority species in specific regions

ADOPT

• A shared model of best practice and how to follow them and share results and learnings Ethical acquisition of marine fish Report of an international workshop on the ethical acquisition of marine aquarium fish Chessington World of Adventures (UK) 17 & 18 January 2024 Compiled by Melanie Siggs & Mike Platt (UK) Edited by Chris Andrews (US) 22 March 2024



ANIMAL ETHICAL ACQUISITION OF MARINE FISH

Project road map:

Involvement of WAZA aquarium committee to assist

Gain further engagement with public aquarium network

AZA, EUAC, WAZA, IAC

Continue engagement with supplier network

Share best practise models as developed

Proposal for certification/recommendation development

Mid 2024

Now

Ongoing

Ongoing

Early 2025





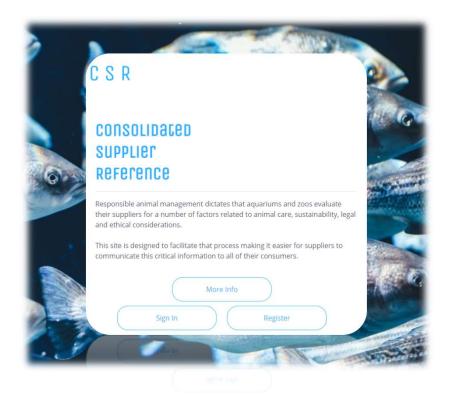


FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS AND OUR FACILITIES

You are invited to get involved:

- · Let us know you are interested
- Verification of **your** supply chains
- Advocate for greater understanding of supply chains in regional organisations
- Share and adopt best practise
- Support initiatives that train and educate

local fishers





EXAMPLE - PILOT IN PRIORITY REGION, INDONESIA

IndoReefFish

Value Chain identify and analysis, for specific species of Indonesian marine fishery:

- Mapping the chain
- Governance
- Relationships and linkages











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