

3. CURRENT REGULATION OF COLLECTING

Different license/permit conditions exist, depending on whether the collection is for commercial or recreational purposes, and whether the collection of aquarium fish is occurring in zoned areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or not. Permits, licences, and Queensland and Commonwealth legislation for commercial collectors and vessels are currently (1986) being revised.

3.1 Professional collectors:

- unzoned areas of the Marine Park

Master Fishermans licence (if collection of aquarium fish is only part of the commercial operation).

Fish and Marine Products Permit (\$58 per permit) (where aquarium fish are collected exclusively).

Commercial Fishing Vessel licence.

Assistant Fishermans licence - for offsidiers (needed only on the Master Fishermans Licence as the Marine Products Permit covers more than one person).

Commonwealth Licences - required when collecting in Commonwealth waters (rarely issued).

separate licences may also be required for collection of coral and other sedimentary organisms.

The above licences are issued through the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI); some details of collection are required before licencing.

- zoned areas of the Marine Park

(Cairns, Far Northern and Capricornia Sections)

- General Use 'A' and 'B' Zones:

licences/Permits as applicable above, plus
GBRMPA Collecting Permit (through Q.NPWS)

- Other Zones:

no recreational or commercial collection
permitted.

3.2 Amateur collectors:

- unzoned areas of the Marine Park
 - no licences or permits required from either QFMA or GBRMPA
- zoned areas of the Marine Park (Cairns, Far Northern and Capricornia Sections)
 - General Use 'A' and 'B' Zones:
 - licences/Permits as applicable above
 - GBRMPA Collection Permit (through Q.NPWS)
 - Other Zones:
 - no collection permitted (except for scientific purposes and then only with a GBRMPA Research Permit suitably endorsed)

These regulations have been instigated to ensure conservation of the reef while allowing reasonable collecting and to separate conflicts of use. The scientific evidence regarding limits on numbers collected to prevent overexploitation is currently inconclusive.