

7. CONCLUSIONS

- The aquarium fish collecting industry is expanding but still underdeveloped (locally and internationally).
- Aquarium fish are imported into Australia principally from the Philippines, but also from Singapore, Fiji and Indonesia. Many of the species involved also occur on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Some aquarium species endemic to Australia are exported, although this is limited almost entirely to America and West Germany.
- There are known to be approximately 16 commercial collectors in the Far North and Cairns Sections, about 10 operating from the Townsville and Mackay areas, and 10 in the Capricorn and Capricornia Sections. An unknown number of amateur collectors also operate in the Great Barrier Reef Region.
- Some work on the biology of target species has been undertaken but the results are inconclusive. Natural population fluctuations are observed and detailed studies must be undertaken to demonstrate the differences (if any) between the effects of natural variation and collection.
- To refine management policy and regulations with respect to the industry and reef conservation, more information is essential.