

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM GBRMPA-TM-13

AQUARIUM FISHES AND THEIR COLLECTION  
IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION

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SUMMARY

The size and nature of the aquarium fish industry in the Great Barrier Reef Region makes it both economically and ecologically important. The industry is expanding fast, yet little information is available. Existing information on the operation of the industry and the biology of target species has been collated, and has shown that:

Both locally and internationally, the Great Barrier Reef aquarium fish industry remains relatively underdeveloped.

In 1985, 10 commercial operators are known to collect from Capricornia section reefs, Up to 16 commercial operators are known to collect from reefs in the Cairns Section, and about 10 from Townsville and Mackay reefs.

An unknown number of amateurs collect throughout the Great Barrier Reef Region.

The information on numbers of target species is insufficient to distinguish between natural population fluctuations, and fluctuation due to collecting.

Potential areas of conflict exist but further research is required to identify them.

KEYWORDS: aquarium fish, collecting, GBR, management, impacts

Technical memoranda are of a preliminary nature, and represent the views of the author, not necessarily those of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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Please address all comments and requests for copies to:

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