

We all care about animal welfare, not least the passionate fishkeepers who are saying #handsoffmyhobby. But there's also a human story behind the ornamental fish industry.

If you want to see the bigger picture about exotic pets – and why many people love them as pets – then please get in touch.

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# Wild caught & exotic fish



ORNAMENTAL  
AQUATIC TRADE  
ASSOCIATION

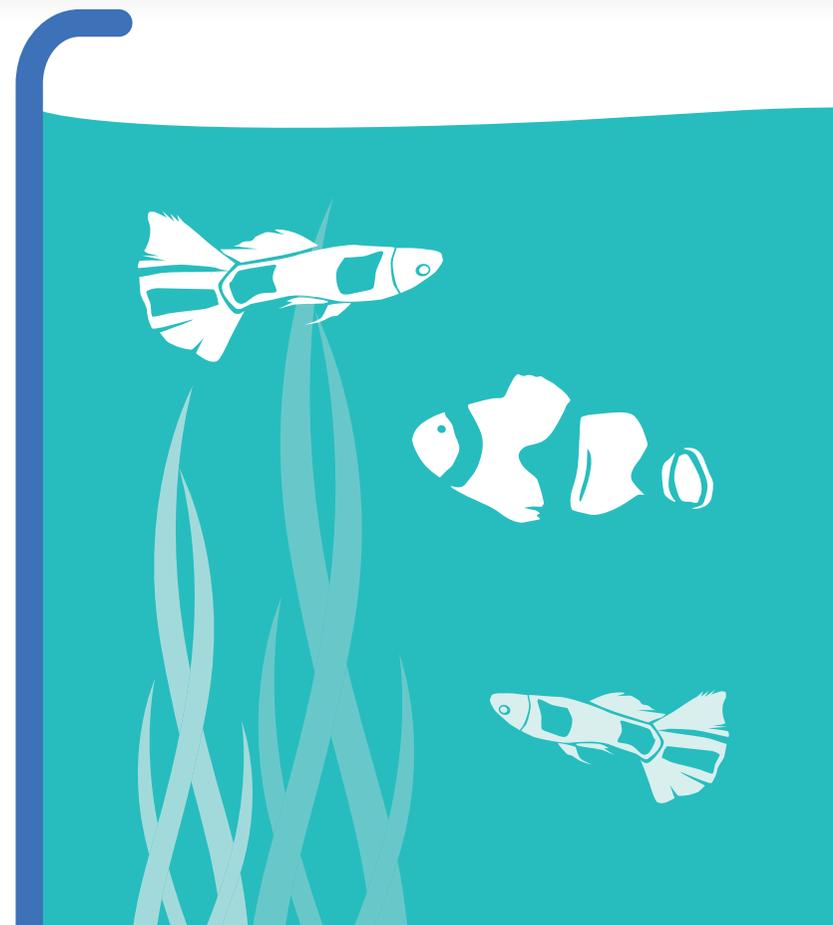
Good news for *everyone*

- 1 World Trade Organisation [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres97\\_e/ctd.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres97_e/ctd.htm)
- 2 From Ocean to Aquarium – the global trade in marine ornamental species. Colette Wabnitz, Michelle Taylor, Edmund Green and Tries Razak. 2003
- 3 The ornamental fish industry ready to help meet 2020 targets. Business 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity
- 4 [projectpiaba.org](http://projectpiaba.org)
- 5 Facts and Figures 2012 FEDIAF European Pet Food Industry report
- 6 OATA's UK Fishkeepers' Survey results Winter 2011/2012
- 7 Impact Assessment of an amendment to the Import of Live Fish Act 1980 Order. DEFRA November 2009
- 8 Based on information supplied by Kidsgrove Tropicals, Stoke-on-Trent



THE VOICE OF  
THE ORNAMENTAL  
FISH INDUSTRY

Produced by the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association  
– the 'voice' of the ornamental fish industry in the  
United Kingdom



# Why wild caught fish can be good for everyone



## Trade not Aid

**Many** of the world's least developed countries export live ornamental fish<sup>1</sup>

Income from catching ornamental fish is vital for remote river & coastal communities

It offers a more valuable livelihood to alternatives like food fishing or farming



## High value v low volume

Maldive fishermen get **\$500** a kilo for supplying live marine fish for the aquarium trade<sup>2</sup>

They would get just \$6 a kilo for the same fish if destined for the dinner table<sup>2</sup>

Supplying the aquarium trade is a high value but low volume industry



## Carbon, climate change & cardinal tetras

Nearly **3** billion tonnes of carbon are fixed in areas of the Amazonas forest where cardinal tetra fish are collected<sup>3</sup>

This captured carbon could otherwise be lost through logging, clearing land for farming or gold panning

These freshwater fish need pristine habitats so fishermen know how important it is to preserve the rainforest<sup>4</sup>



## Limited demand

It costs around **£1,000** to set up a basic marine aquarium at home<sup>8</sup>

It then costs up to £250 a month to run this type of set-up<sup>8</sup>

Investing in a marine tank is not a cheap hobby so demand for wild caught fish will always be limited



## No fish, no trade

**10,000** people work in the UK ornamental fish industry<sup>7</sup>

UK hobbyists spend around £400m on the hobby each year<sup>7</sup> but just a tiny percentage is spent on fish

Without fish there's no need for a tank, pumps, filters, food, plants, medicines etc so any ban on exotic/wild taken fish could jeopardise jobs



## Popular pets

More than **9** million homes across the EU have a fishtank<sup>5</sup>

OATA estimates there are between 117m to 134m fish kept in the UK<sup>6</sup> alone

Any EU ban on importing wild caught or exotic species, like ornamental fish, could see our most populous pets banned from sale

