Monitoring the trade in marine ornamental fishes in Europe



- The **trade is 100 years old** and effect on targeted species remains largely unknown.
- Trade consists **almost exclusively of wild species**; a very low number of captive breeding.
- Coral reefs host over 4,000 species of coral fishes (potential marine ornamental fishes), today over 2,300 species are already in trade.
- 24 species in commercial numbers in trade in the US, 338 species at research stage (Pouil et al., 2020).
- Globally: 15-30 million specimens/year.
- **High mortality** can occur in supply chain depending on species.







Coral reefs are endangered



*Souter et al. 2021. Status of coral reefs of the world: 2020 executive summary international coral reef initiative.

- Coral reefs cover only <0.1% of ocean floors; important habitat as nursery ground for food fishes.
- 50% died in last 30 years (climate change causing coral bleaching and acidification)*. IPCC, 2018: decline by 70-90% at 1.5°C, virtually all at 2°C; UN report, 2023: headed for 2.5-2.9°C.
- As the habitat is endangered, coral reef fishes (marine ornamental fishes) are per se also threatened.
- Coral fish species can be brought to the brink of extinction through trade: For example, the Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*). Possible import/export ban in USA.
- A lot of species are still **not assessed** through the IUCN Red List.
 15 of the 20 most traded species listed had been last evaluated ≥10 years ago. Populations declining.





PRO



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The supply chain

Example from Nothern Bali:

- The supply chain is **extremely fragmented**, and diffuse.
- The many players are disorganized and informally linked between thousands of collectors, traders, exporters, importers and retail dealers.

Amos & Clausen, 2009: Certification as a Conservation Tool in the Marine Aquarium Trade: Challenges to Effectiveness

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The EU monitors the trade in marine ornamental fishes through TRACES



- Europe is the largest importer by value, followed by the USA, China and East Asia & Pacific.
- The **USA is the largest importer by numbers,** followed by the EU. It is unclear how big the trade is in Asian, South American or in African markets are.
- Marine ornamental fishes imported are shipped by air freight, mostly from southeast Asia (Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka).
- All imported marine ornamental fishes **must clear customs** once landed in the EU.
- The EU has **a monitoring system, TRACES**, for the import of live animals (90 countries, 55,000 users, 39 languages). For other regions, the monitoring system is unknown. TRACES is similar to LEMIS in USA.
- All traders have to be registered with TRACES and record all imports.

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Paper documents

LV	ersender/Ausführer	AFT Gemeinsame	2. GVDE-Referenzar.	Lokale Referenznummer
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Ricardo Calado, PhD, University Aveiro, Portugal Francisco Aguayo, economist, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Méx Monica Biondo, PhD, Fondation Franz Weber • Import documents for **HS 03011900** (Live ornamental fish [excl. freshwater])

Example of accompanying document, list of species:

					Exporter of Tropica	I Freshwater & Marine Fi	shes, Inverteb	rates, Soft Cora	ils & Aquatic P
SHIP	VIA	FROM	DEST	INATION	AIR WAY BILL NO.	DATE	CURRENO	CY TER	MS OF PAYI
(LX) SWIS	CODE	SINGAPORE		DESCRIPTIC	IN	αι	ANTITY UN	IT PRICE	AMOUNT
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TRACES interface from 2014-2019

▼ Consignment	t i						
▶ References	▶ Traders	▶ Animals	▶ Transport	▶ Route	▶ Purpose		
etails of Consig	nment Prese	nted: Select S	Species				
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v						T	
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Abudefduf b	engalensis			Abudefd	uf hoefleri		Abudefduf luridus
Abudefduf m	nargariteus			Abudefd	uf natalensis		Abudefduf saxatilis
Abudefduf se	eptemfasciatu	5		Abudefd	uf sexfasciatus		Abudefduf sordidus
Abudefduf sp	paroides			Abudefd	uf taurus		Abudefduf troschelii
Abudefduf va	aigiensis			Abudefd	uf whitleyi		Acanthemblemaria aspera
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Acanthurus o	dussumieri			Acanthu	rus fowleri		Acanthurus gahhm
Acanthurus g	guttatus			Acanthu	rus japonicus		Acanthurus leucocheilus
Acanthurus I	eucopareius			Acanthu	rus leucosternon		Acanthurus lineatus
Acanthurus r	maculiceps			Acanthu	rus mata		Acanthurus monroviae
Acanthurus r	nigricans			Acanthu	rus nigricauda		Acanthurus nigrofuscus
Acanthurus r	nigroris			Acanthu	rus nubilus		Acanthurus olivaceus

Until December 2019

Positive:

• > 1,800 species

Negative:

 Selectable at family or species level

amily pecies

UNAM

universidade

de aveiro



New TRACES interface since 2019

#1 Commodity * 0301 19 00	Species / EPPO code * Quantity * Invasive / Allowed Chromis 51 Unit -	Country of Origin *	Species *	-
	Chromis varideroliu Chromis verater Chromis viridis	Quantity	r totals	
	Chromis weberi Speci	es	I.34. Total Gross Weight: *	Unit 🕶
	Chromis xanthopterygia Chromis weberi		I.34. Total gross volume:I.33. Total quantity:	0 Unit →

					* Hide optional columns
#1 Commodity * 0301 19 00	Species / EPPO code * Invasive / Allowed	Quantity * Package count	Country of Origin *	Region of Origin	Individual identification number
	Agonidae Alopiidae		Quantity totals		
	Alopias Anguillidae	—— Genus nam	e _{1.34.}	Total Gross Weight: *	Unit -
	Anguilla	Family nam	<mark>е</mark> .	34. Total gross volume:	Unit -
	Anguilliformes	Order name	2	133 Total quantity:	N L Inite

Beginning in 2019

Positive:

- Pull-down menu
- Import as excel files possible Negative:
- Selectable at species, genus, family and even order level

Other (small) problems:

- -> freshwater fish, even amphibians
- -> double names of country: UK and UK (Northern Ireland), The Netherlands and Netherlands
- -> possibility to use '-', '/'

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TRACES data quality

	2014-2021							
	Rows		Specimens					
	#	%	#	%				
Marine ornamental fishes	282,226	94.9	25,503,345	59.9				
Not marine ornamental fishes*	15,186	5.1	17,094,782	40.2				
Total	297,412	100.0	42,573,041	100.0				

- Data quality 'deminished' with the new interface.
- Over 40 % were not marine ornamental fishes.
- Positive: Possibility to import excel files.







Two easy ways to adapt TRACES



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• Only allow the use of genus species (two words); i.e. eliminate all one-word-words.

Country of Origin *

• Only allow marine ornamental fishes, i. e. coral reef fishes according to www.marinespecies.org

Quantity totals



Two easy ways to adapt TRACES



2. Specify source

- Exact source: origin of capture (not hub such as Singapore).
- Specify wild sourced or captive bred (facility name, country).



captive-bred (dejongmarinelife.nl)

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An updated review of the marine ornamental fish trade in the European Union: 2014 - 2021



- From 2014-2021 an average of 3.25 million specimens annually from 1,452 species.
- 30 % of shipments are NOT at specieslevel, but at family-level.



FONDATION

WEBER

Marine ornamental fishes in trade in Europe



• From 2014-2021 an average **120 families** (between 2014-2017 imports came from 86, between 2018-2021 from 119 families).

- The top **2 families accounted for 92.4%** of all traded marine ornamental fishes in Europe (specimens).
- Family Labridae featured the highest number of imported species: 210 species.
- **Pomacentridae** was the most traded family in number of specimens : 7.2 million.

imported species per family in parentheses # on top of the bar representing millions of specimens







Marine ornamental fishes in trade in Europe



- **30 European countries** imported marine ornamental fishes between 2014-2021 including Iceland, Norway and Switzerland which are not part of the EU.
- Between 2014-2020 the United Kingdom was the primary importer of marine ornamental fishes; except for 2021 (left EU),
- followed by The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and France.
- These **five countries** imported **80.5%** of all marine ornamental fishes.









Marine ornamental fishes in trade in Europe

	Shi	pments		Specimens			Value of imports (€)			
Country of origin	AVG	SD	%	AVG	SD	%	AVG	SD	%	
Indonesia	1,823.6	436.8	33.5	1,394,208	393,487	43.7	3,621,793	527,884	38.1	
Philippines	663.5	183.6	12.2	529,076	100,105	16.6	888,489	133,226	9.3	
Sri Lanka	883.3	175.6	16.2	266,945	62,842	8.4	863,273	80,583	9.1	
United States	441.8	162.6	8.1	221,012	131,618	6.9	1,235,212	384,862	13.0	
Kenya	391.0	74.7	7.2	197,073	21,001	6.2	791,417	300,613	8.3	
Maldives	198.8	66.9	3.6	118,709	26,912	3.7	234,698	50,275	2.5	
Singapore	356.8	123.4	6.5	107,222	103,373	3.4	118,618	44,016	1.3	
Israel	236.6	91.8	4.3	86,151	31,104	2.7	146,374	43,452	1.5	
Niji	58.3	23.9	1.1	46,633	21,231	1.5	51,124	15,433	0.5	
Dominican Republic	57.5	28.1	1.1	37,638	31,289	1.2	26,789	18,208	0.3	
Other	12.4		6.2	6,756		5.7	1,531,137		16.1	
Total			100.0			100.0			100.0	

- **61 countries exported** marine ornamental fishes to Europe.
- Three main exporting countries: Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. They accounted for 61.9% of shipments and 68.7% of species.
- Together with the United States, Kenya, the Maldives, Singapore and Israel they summed up 91.7% of all shipments and 91.6% of all specimens of marine ornamental fishes entering.
- These eight countries represented **83.1% of the import value: Indonesia followed by the USA.**







Watchlist and Watchlist+

nk	Species	Common nam e	Family	IUCN Red List status	Overal I score	Median volume score	Slope score	IUCN score	Vulnerability score	• W in
\leq	Chromis viridis	Blue green damselfish	Pomacentridae	LC	210	100	100	0	10	CC
2	Amphiprion ocellaris	Clown anemonefish	Pomacentridae	LC	157	62	84	0	10	
3	Chelmon rostratus	Cupperband butterfyfish	Chaetodontidae	LC	67	23	34	0	10	in
4	Acanthurus achilles	Achilles tang	Acanthuridae	LC	68	14	41	0	14	111
5	Zebrasoma flavescens	Yellow tang	Acanthuridae	LC	88	13	18	0	57	
6	Chrysiptera parasema	Goldtail demoiselle	Pomacentridae	LC	42	9	23	0	10	
7	Chrysiptera cyanea	Sapphire devil	Pomacentridae	LC	28	6	13	0	10	
8	Nemateleotris magnifica	Fire goby	Gobiidae	LC	21	5	6	0	10	
9	Centropyge loriculus	Flame angel	Pomacanthidae	LC	25	5	10	0	10	
10	Zebrasoma velifer	Sailfin tang	Acanthuridae	LC	59	4	19	0	37	
11	Centropyge acanthops	Orangeback angelfish	Pomacanthidae	LC	28	4	14	0	10	
12	Acanthurus japonicus	Japan surgeonfish	Acanthuridae	LC	27	3	13	0	11	
13	Pomacanthus annularis	Bluering angelfish	Pomacanthidae	LC	44	3	6	0	35	
14	Naso lituratus	Orangespine unicornfish	Acanthuridae	LC	39	2	3	0	34	
15	Pomacentrus alleni	Adaman damsel	Pomacentridae Pseudochromida	LC	16	2	4	0	10	
16	Pseudochromis fridmani	Orchid dottyback	e	LC	15	2	3	0	10	
17	Centropyge tibicen	Keyhole angelfish	Pomacanthidae	LC	17	2	5	0	10	
18	Centropyge potteri	Russet angelfish	Pomacanthidae	LC	17	2	5	0	10	In nu
19	Halichoeres chrysus	Canary wrasse	Labridae	LC	14	2	2	0	10	
20	Dascyllus aruanus	Whitetail dascyllus	Pomacentridae	LC	31	1	3	0	26	• Bl
21	Amphiprion polymnus	Saddleback clownfish	Pomacentridae	LC	16	1	4	0	10	_
22	Dascyllus trimaculatus	Treespot dascyllus	Pomacentridae	LC	16	1	5	0	10	in
23	Ecsenius bicolor	Bicolor blenny	Blenniidae	LC	13	1	2	0	10	
24	Chaetodon auriga	Threadfin butterflyfish	Chaetodontidae	LC	32	1	7	0	23	ar
25	Dascyllus melanurus	Blacktail humbug	Pomacentridae	LC	15	1	4	0	10	
26	Pomacentrus coelestis	Neon damselfish	Pomacentridae	LC	13	1	2	0	10	ar
27	Neosynchiropus ocellatus	Ocellated dragonet	Callionymidae	N.E.	54	1	2	40	10	+0
28	Synchiropus picturatus	Picturesque dragonet	Callionymidae	LC	13	1	2	0	10	lÜ
29	Heniochus acuminatus	Pennant coralfish	Chaetodontidae	LC	20	1	4	0	15	
30	Acanthurus olivaceus	Orangespot surgeonfish	Acanthuridae	LC	20	1	1	0	18	
31	Amblygobius phalaena	Whitebarred goby	Gobiidae	LC	13	1	2	0	10	
32	Canthigaster valentini	Valentin's sharpnose puffer	Tetraodontidae	LC	12	1	1	0	10	
33	Haemulon flavolineatum	Frenchg grunt	Haemulidae	LC	44	1	12	0	32	
34	Pterois volitans	Red lionfish	Scorpaenidae	LC	37	1	2	0	34	do Másic-
35	Odonus niger	Red-toothed triggerfish	Balistidae	LC	42	1	1	0	40	ue iviexico
26	Holacanthus ciliaris	Quoon angolfish	Pomacanthidao	10	20	0	2	0	25	

- Watchlist based on number of specimens traded, import trends, and vulnerability index (FishBase) and conservation status (IUCN Red List) and Watchlist+ including linear regression.
 - One example: The blue green damselfish Chromis viridis tops the rankings in the Watchlist+ with 70% decline in trade numbers. It was evaluated and listed by the IUCN Red List in 2022 as 'least concern'. Its populations are declining.

In numbers:

Blue green damselfish *Chromis viridis* is the most imported species, comprising **12.4%**, the Clown anemonefish *Amphiprion ocellaris* 10% and Bicolor angelfish *Centropyge bicolor* makes up 9.4% of the total number of specimens.







PRO

Data on value



 $\begin{array}{c}
45 \\
40 \\
35 \\
30 \\
20 \\
20 \\
R^2 = 0.0034 \\
15 \\
10 \\
5 \\
- \\
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 \\
\end{array}$

Ricardo Calado, PhD, University Aveiro, Portugal Francisco Aguayo, economist, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Monica Biondo, PhD, Fondation Franz Weber **UN Comtrade data** to assess the annual import by region of the global trade in marine ornamental fishes:

- Global value: 70 million Euros
- European trade: 25 million Euro
- -> Globally increasing





27 March 2024

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Data on value



Europe is the largest player:

Share (%) of import value by region in 2021:

- The EU accounted for 35% (25 million Euro) ۲
- USA, China and East Asia and Pacific •

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PRO

FISH

Value and number of specimens



- For example: Although the number of specimens from Indonesia has decreased between 2018 and 2021, their overall value increased.
- For Kenya, the number of specimens exported increased but not in the same proportion as their value.







Value, number of specimens/shipment

Country of origin	Specimens/shi pment	€/ specimen		
Indonesia	765	2.6		
Philippines	797	1.7		
Sri Lanka	302	3.2		
United States	333	5.6		
Kenya	504	4.0		
Maldives	597	2.0		
Singapore	301	1.1		
Israel	364	1.7		
Fiji	801	1.1		
Dominican Republic	655	0.7		

 Average number of specimens per shipment and average price per specimen in € (2020 prices) of the top eight exporting countries between 2014 and 2021; EuroStat.

Example:



Fishermen receives pro Banggai cardinalfish arriving alive in Bali **5 US cents**



In Europe the same fish fetches 50 US\$

This is a 1000-fold gain.









In summary



TRACES is a good monitoring tool with regards to the import of marine ornamental fishes to Europe. TRACES supplies **number of specimens** (we supply trends), species and origin. But

TRACES needs a few tweaks:

- Compulsory requirement for species-level information (genus, species).
- Source country (geographical origin).
- Clarification if fishes are captive-bred (breeding facility name) or wild-caught.
- The aquarium industry has clearly stated its interest in using a tool such as TRACES (EU Consultation paper, 2008).
- All data from the industry has already been registered with TRACES.

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In summary



All species of coral reef fishes need to be (re-) evaluated by the **IUCN Red List**.

 Using parameters from TRACES, FishBase and IUCN Red List, the Watchlists could determine whether a species requires monitoring through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

For example: The most trade species in Europe and Unite States: *Chromis viridis:*

• Its strong decline in the European trade of 70% between 2014 to 2021, may warrant monitoring through CITES.

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PRO

ORAI

FISH

Inputs with regards to WCMC and Species 360

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN NON-CITES LISTED MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISH

International trade, conservation status, management and legislation for non-CITES marine ornamental fish in support of the implementation of Decision 18.296

CoP19, Inf. Doc. 99, WCMC

Marine Ornamental Fish

Providing Data to Inform CITES Decisions and Recommendations to Manage the International Trade of Marine Ornamental Fish

SKI Species360

CoP19, Inf. Doc. 99, WCMC:

- The number of fishes is calculated by **weight**. This **includes the water**!
- Only found 33 species in TRACES?

Species360, Species Knowledge Initiative SKI

- Quality data with number of specimens for the US, but newest data from 2011.
- Species come from different databases (not only US data), illicit trade & confiscation which do not give numbers of specimens.

Consolidated species lists: TRACES: 1,452 WCMC: 2,106 (Unique: TRACES + WCMC = 2,338) Species360: 2,622 **TOTAL: 3,066**

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