



## CoP20 Doc. 92 – Marine ornamental fishes (MOF)

### Summary

[CoP20 Doc. 92](#) presents the outcomes of the process initiated at CoP19 on the international trade in marine ornamental fishes (primarily reef fishes not listed in CITES):

- A global technical workshop (Brisbane, May 2024) brought together 140 participants (range States, exporters, importers, experts, NGOs, industry) and produced:
  - A **catalogue of 2,105 ornamental fishes species** in international trade.
  - **22 recommendations** ([AC33 Doc. 44 \(Rev. 2\)](#)) to improve trade monitoring, address data gaps, and promote good management practices.
- The Animals Committee (AC32) endorsed these recommendations and now proposes that CoP20 adopt a new package of Decisions ([CoP20 Doc. 92 \(20.AA–20.EE\)](#)) and delete Decisions 19.237 and 19.238 (now implemented).

### Recommendation

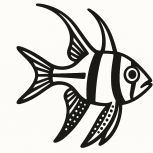
### SUPPORT with amendments

**Adopt** the draft decisions with the following **amendments**:

- Direct the Secretariat to circulate the list of at-risk MOF species to Parties via Notification urging Parties to consider Appendix III listings for nationally protected species that meet criteria and encourage consideration for listing at CoP21; and
- In Decisions 20.DD and 20.EE, change “invite” to “urge”.

### Key points

- **Actionable and cost-effective:** The draft decisions provide practical, immediately applicable solutions to fill major data gaps currently preventing sustainable management of the marine ornamental fish trade.
- **Efficient use of existing systems:** They build on existing monitoring tools such as **TRACES (EU)** and **LEMIS (USA)**, avoiding the need for costly new infrastructure while allowing adaptation or **creation of similar systems elsewhere**.
- Adoption of Doc. 92 would create globally comparable, **reliable data**, forming the basis for future CITES listings, Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), and sustainable management.
- Parties to consider **Appendix III listings** for nationally protected species that meet criteria and consider **species listing at CoP21**.



## Background

### A massive but opaque trade

- Estimated 15–30 million reef fish traded annually (possibly up to 150 million).

### Mostly wild-caught

- Less than 1 % of traded species are bred in captivity at viable commercial levels. Potential of high mortality throughout the supply chain.

### Coral reefs in crisis

- Coral reefs support **one-third of marine species** and 600 million people worldwide.
- 99 % of coral reefs could disappear by 2100 if global temperatures exceed +2 °C (**IPCC, 2018**).
- The **Tipping Point Report 2025** warns that warm-water reefs have already passed a critical threshold and will collapse unless temperatures fall toward 1.2 °C above pre-industrial levels.

### Urgent need for reliable data

- No data available for several major regions (e.g. China, Central/South America, Africa).
- **Species-level monitoring needed**, including country and site of **origin**, and **source (wild vs. captive-bred)**.

### Immediate solutions available

- Systems such as **TRACES** and **LEMIS** show that species-level traceability is feasible and scalable.

More information on the marine ornamental fish trade: [www.procoralfish.org](http://www.procoralfish.org)