

Trade of Aquarium Fish in the EU

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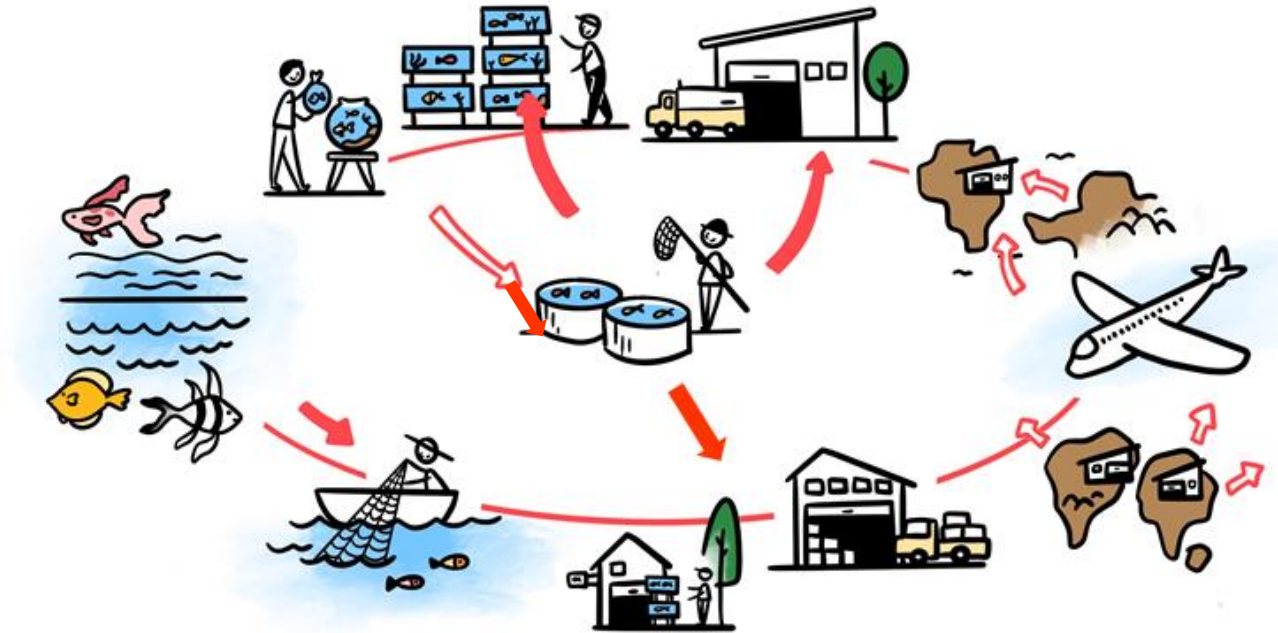
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The Global Supply Chain for Aquarium Fish Sector

- Global Supply chain, major source regions are Asia/Pacific, Africa, South America
- A large majority of ornamental fish are bred in captivity – for freshwater species this is around 90% of fish traded – an estimated 5,000 species of fish and 1.5 billion traded fish annually around the world
- Trade in marine species is still largely reliant on wild fisheries mainly from coral reef environments, with less than 5% cultured, but this is steadily increasing.



Important to note, the aquarium trade deals in live fish – fish health and disease prevention is a key to this.

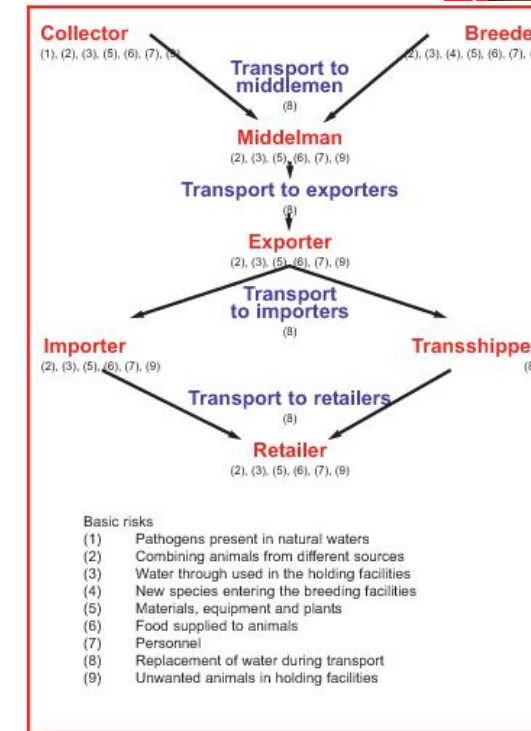
Sick fish have reduced chance of surviving the supply chain, so its an economic imperative to provide good fish health management and welfare for them.

Biosecurity – a priority for the sector

- Biosecurity is therefore important – as in any intensive animal system this needs to be carefully managed
- Common misconception that our sector does nothing for biosecurity
- Poor biosecurity = poor profitability, loss of customers
- Companies spend considerable resources, most importers and wholesalers have in-house aquatic disease specialists and/or aquatic veterinarians and lab facilities
- OFI develop Best Practice manuals and has organized workshops on Biosecurity



OFI educational publication 4



Species in Trade

- Its estimated there are over some 5,300 freshwater finfish species and almost 2,300 marine finfish species that have been kept in aquariums.
- However, the majority are not regularly kept, and most of the trade is in approximately 250 species of freshwater and 200 species of marine fish.
 - Tropical Freshwater species approx. 50% of trade
 - Coldwater Freshwater Species approx. 40% of trade
 - Tropical marine approx. 10%
- Popular groups include:
 - Anabantids, Barbs and Carps, Catfish, Cichlids, Loaches, Tetras, Poeciliid or livebearers



Standard names for
marine fishes,
crustaceans and mollusks in
the Ornamental Aquatic Industry



OFI educational publication 6

Standard names for
freshwater fishes in the
Ornamental Aquatic Industry



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The EU Aquarium Fish Sector

- The EU is the single largest market block for aquarium fish, The value of the EU aquarium fish market is estimated to be around €1 billion per year. This includes the sale of ornamental fish, invertebrates, plants, and aquarium equipment.
- Imports of aquarium fish for 2022 - USD\$52.6 million FW, USD\$8.5 million for marine species
- There is significant aquaculture production within the EU across countries such as Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain
- Species produced include tropical and temperate freshwater species, aquatic plants, tropical marine species like Clownfish and corals – little data on numbers of fish actually produced
- Many EU member states require aquarium producers to be licensed – same/similar regulations to aquaculture



EU Regulatory Environment

- The aquarium sector is generally considered a part of the larger aquaculture industry, legislation changes within the EU that affect the aquaculture industry, also impact the aquarium sector:
 - Animal Health Law
 - Plant Health Law (for aquatic plant species)
 - Animal Welfare
 - Invasive Alien Species
 - CITES and Wildlife Trade
 - Medication use
 - Feed use
 - Sustainability
- Member states will also have varying regulation that applies to the aquarium sector

EU Regulation – Closed Facility

- Import and trade of aquarium fish to the EU previously regulated under: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R1251>
- This legislation identified that majority of aquarium fish operators were closed facility which had reduced biosecurity risk
- A closed facility is defined as a holding facility without any direct contact with natural waters of the Community **or** one which is equipped with an effluent treatment system which is capable of killing fish pathogens.
- Import conditions for Ornamental aquatic animals intended for closed ornamental facilities
 - 1. Ornamental fish of species susceptible to one or more of the diseases listed in the Directive shall only be imported into the Community from approved third countries.
 - 2. Ornamental fish which are not of susceptible species to any of the diseases listed in the Directive shall only be imported into the Community from third countries or territories that are members of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
 - 3. Consignments of the animals referred to in paragraphs shall be accompanied by an animal health certificate and comply with the animal health requirements set out in the model

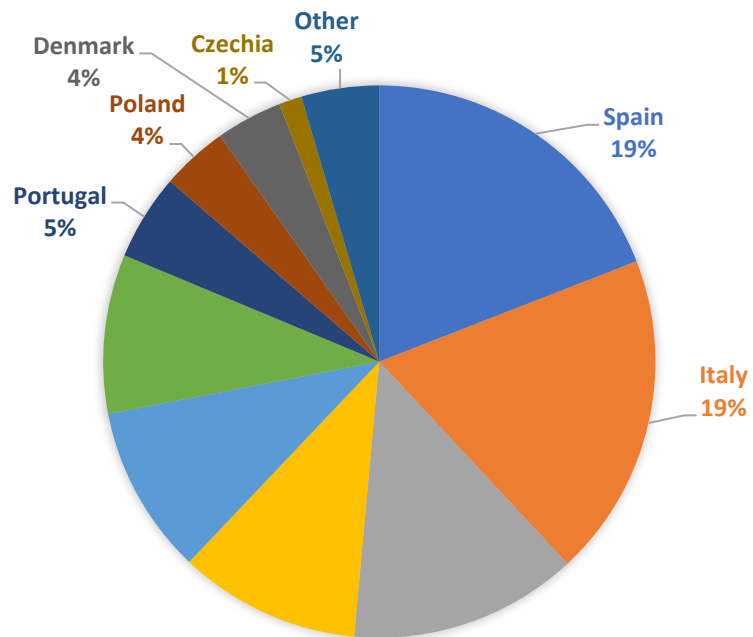
EU Regulations – Current Situation

- Current under the EU regulation ONLY sets up one aquatic disease with a direct to the ornamental aquatic trade under the EU AHL, with the Koi Herpes Virus as a CATEGORY E disease – i.e. notification and surveillance- with as vector species the Goldfish and Koi Carp.
- In practice:
 - All species need a HC to enter into the EU, but for these two vector species specific EU actions (i.e. notification and surveillance) are required as per the EU AHL.
 - Each Member State can also set up additional requirements for the entry into its jurisdiction of some ornamental species – this varies but in general refers to the OIE listed diseases.
- Member states apply various controls to importers and commercial traders including:
 - Registration / licensing of commercial operations
 - Minimum standards for water disposal and other biosecurity measures
 - Use of medications and veterinarian chemicals

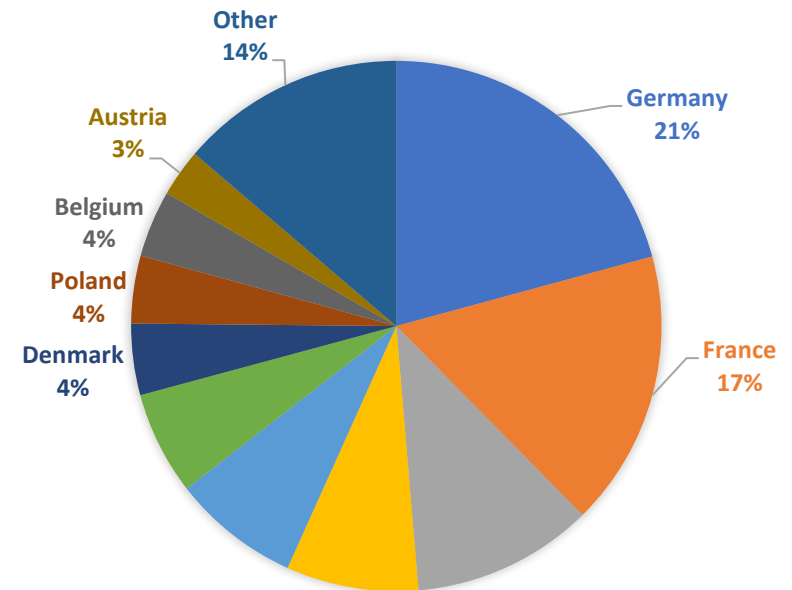
Main Importers within EU

- Freshwater Aquarium species USD\$52.6 million of imports, marines USD\$17.6 million
- 33 Source countries – top 10 accounted for 64% of imports

TOP 10 IMPORTERS OF MARINE AQUARIUM FISH IN EU 2022

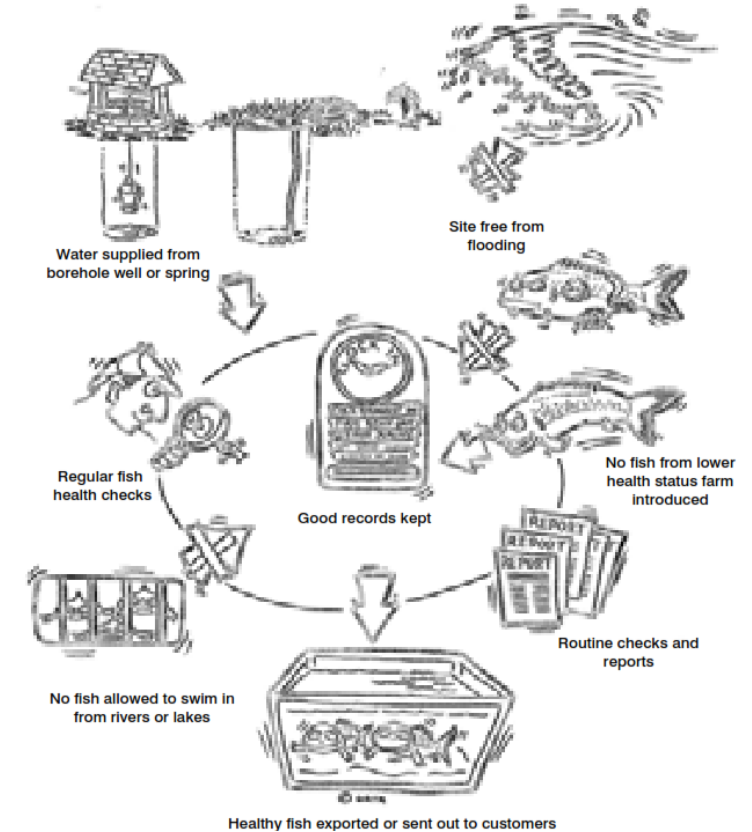


TOP 10 IMPORTERS OF FW AQUARIUM FISH IN EU 2022



Exporters

- To be able to export to the EU, exporters must meet minimum requirements to be able to export to EU – EU authorities will audit exporting Competent Authority and farms to ensure compliance
- In the past there have been instances of EU banning imports from certain countries that don't meet these requirements
 - Current ban of coldwater fish (Koi Carp & Goldfish) from Malaysia due to SVC status
- Farms need to be registered and monitored by local Competent Authority, including disease surveillance inline with OIE standards

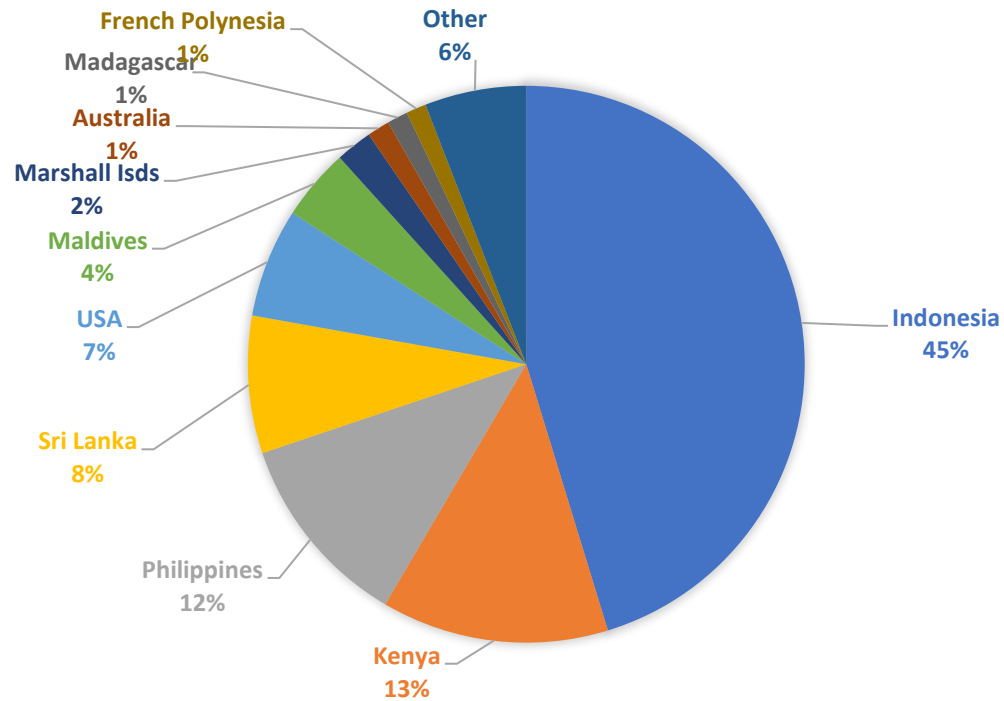


Exporters

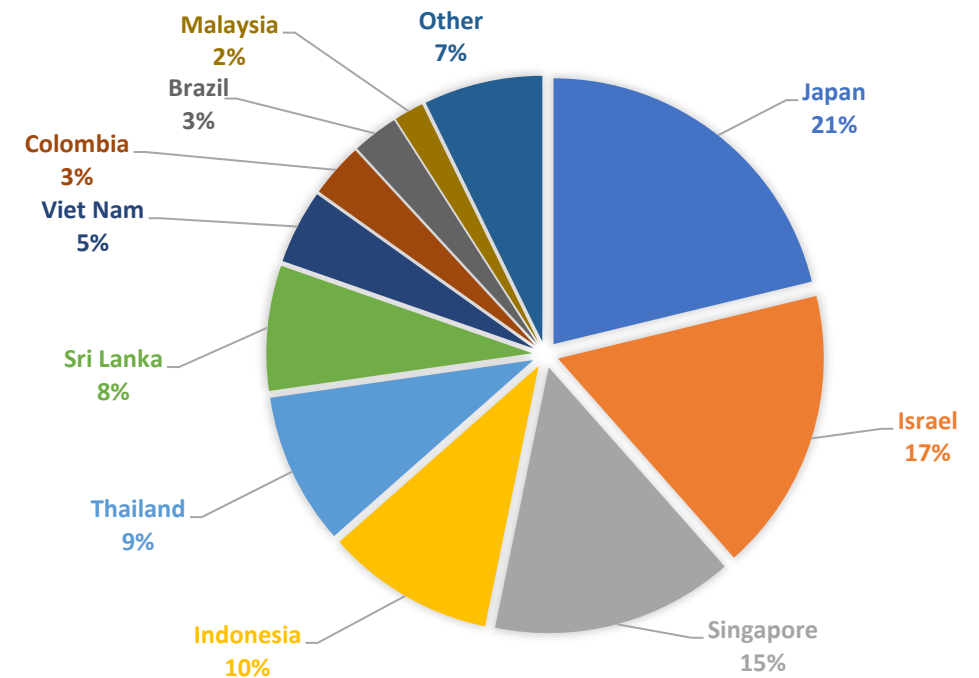
- A summary of general requirements for approval for export
 - Facilities must be secure
 - Secure water source - Water for the farm is supplied directly from a borehole, spring or well which does not constitute a source of infection. Alternatively water may be disinfected by a means that completely inactivates or is known to exclude named pathogens
 - Fish and vector species are prevented entry to the farm through adjacent waterways and flooding. No fish or eggs in the last two years from a farm of lower health status.
 - Farm is part of disease surveillance program for at least two years by the official authorities to ensure the absence of specified pathogens. The site has to be inspected by vets or fish health experts at a time of year a particular disease might be expected to be seen.
 - The farm keeps updated records of incidence of disease, mortalities, live fish or eggs entering or leaving the site, including both their source and destination. Sites should report any abnormal mortalities, or clinical signs of disease, that caused a significant impact.
 - Shipments are checked, samples of fish may be tested and are also visually inspected prior to issue of Health Certificates. There is no abnormal mortality or other clinical signs of disease on the day of packing.

Main Exporters to EU

TOP 10 SOURCE COUNTRIES FOR MARINE AQUARIUM FISH IMPORTS FOR THE EU 2022



TOP 10 SOURCE COUNTRIES FOR FW AQUARIUM FISH IMPORTS FOR THE EU 2022



Summary

- Ornamental fish are kept in aquariums or ponds - and as the presentation has highlighted biosecurity measures, health and welfare matters are at the core of the ornamental aquatic trade and keeping.
- Good Fish Health Management and Biosecurity is an economic imperative for our industry as we supply live fish to market
- As noted in the OFI Charter we promote the implementing of the highest standards, latest scientific evidences, and of course no release of fish.



ORNAMENTAL FISH INTERNATIONAL

secretariat@ofish.org, www.ofish.org

Ornamental Fish International is a worldwide organization representing all sectors of the ornamental aquatic industry

OFI Charter

- OFI members promote and support captive breeding, farming and collection of ornamental aquatic animals (hereunder, fish and invertebrates) and aquatic plants with respect for natural populations, the environment and the contribution made to socio- economic benefits for the local population;
- OFI members only trade in fishes, corals, other invertebrates, plants, etc. that are legal in their country; they respect national and international laws and regulations;
- OFI members prevent the release of specimens into the wild, except for specific nature conservation projects;
- OFI uses the latest science for defining its standards and supports scientific work relating to our industry; OFI members apply proper scientific names to the best of current knowledge;
- OFI supports the careful collection of freshwater and marine fish and invertebrates;
- OFI supports the education and training of breeders, farmers and collectors to further improve appropriate handling, animal health and welfare protocols, and promoting diver safety (e.g. OFI condemns the use of cyanide or other poisons, coral breaking or trenching, etc., for the collection of marine organisms);
- OFI promotes trade and handling of ornamental aquatic animals with respect for their wellbeing; OFI members pack and transport aquatic animals in accordance with national and international legislation (see OFI Educational Publication 7).
- OFI promotes the addressing of biosecurity risks in our facilities and the training of staff in biosecurity practices (see OFI Educational Publication 4); after longdistance transport, or when needed, importers will see to it that fish receive adequate quarantine.
- OFI members undertake to make every effort to maintain the health of aquatic ornamental animals. They provide proper water quality, implement adequate treatment and feeding protocols and organize regular health inspections. OFI members restrict the use of antibiotics as much as possible, and in accordance with relevant national legislation.
- OFI members operate in a spirit of cooperation with each other and according to honorable standards of trading, both between each other and with non- members of the organization.
- OFI members agree to settle legitimate complaints promptly and satisfactorily.



ORNAMENTAL FISH INTERNATIONAL