



LEGISLATION IN HAWAII THREATENS SALTWATER AQUARIUM INDUSTRY

The Issue.

Legislation has been introduced in both the Hawaii Senate and House which would limit the number of ornamental fish a person can bag in one day. This legislation defines “ornamental fish” as “saltwater fish, usually found in or around reefs, that are commonly kept in aquariums”. The Department of Land & Natural Resources would be responsible for creating rules to enforce the proposed bag limits. If passed this legislation could have a detrimental effect on saltwater aquarium owners.

The Impact.

House Bill 3330 and Senate Bill 3225 propose a combined bag limit of **20 fish per person per day** of ornamental fish, including but not limited to the following:

- Yellow tang;
- Flame angels; and
- Butterfly

The combined bag limit may only include a maximum five yellow tang, and no person will be allowed to catch, net or trap more than the bag limit.

Also, these bills provide that no person may catch, net or trap certain ornamental fish in a no-take category, including but not limited to the following:

- All Puffer fish;
- All Box fish;
- Potter’s Angel;
- Cleaner Wrasse;
- All Coralvores; and
- All Eels

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

If this legislation is passed, the Department of Land and Natural Resources would be responsible for developing and adopting administrative rules regarding the creation and enforcement of bag limits on ornamental reef fish. A resolution has been introduced in the Senate (Concurrent Resolution 17)



dedicated to the department's responsibility of placing "appropriate and reasonable limits" on the collection of ornamental reef fish, and possibly adding other types of ornamental fish to the lists above.

Recommended Action.

This legislation introduces prohibitions on ornamental fish that could ultimately shut down the saltwater aquarium industry in Hawaii. This legislation allows the Department of Land & Natural Resources broad freedom to develop rules controlling this industry, and to prohibit other types of ornamental fish. The proposed Senate Resolution sets forth virtually no guidelines for the rulemaking and vaguely states the department will place "appropriate and reasonable limits" on the collection of ornamental reef fish. Again, this could have a huge impact on the ornamental fish industry in Hawaii and it is clear that additional types of ornamental fish will be prohibited.

We urge you to carefully read this legislation (see the PIJAC website for complete bill text) and contact committee members with any concerns. House Bill 3330 has been assigned to the House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, while Senate Bill 3225 has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Water and Land. Senate Concurrent Resolution 17 has yet to be assigned to committee.

If you have further questions concerning this bill please contact PIJAC's Michael Maddox by phone at 202-452-1525 or by email at mmaddox@pijac.org. Those who are not members of PIJAC and desire further information about membership may phone Nancy Knutson at 1-800-553-PETS (7387) or visit the PIJAC website at www.pijac.org.

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