



Improving system resilience in the Australian aquarium supply industry

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Education and conservation awareness constitute the added value of aquarium displays. However, the value of aquarium supply fisheries is overlooked as politicians and NGOs lobby for ecosystem-scale marine protected areas. Suppliers on Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the distant Coral Sea nearly lost our coral fishery, were excluded from vast areas of the Great Barrier Reef, and were affected by the implementation of a network of marine protected areas throughout Australia's territorial waters.

Our members formed strategic partnerships in order to be recognised and to secure our tenure. We forged collaborative relationships with fishery and marine protected areas managers and researchers to achieve world-class fisheries – a process we call “improving system resilience”. Our Stewardship Action Plan applies industry standards to the collection of species identified in fishery Ecological Risk Assessments and those critical to reef resilience in a changing climate.

Through collaborative management and industry-driven continuous improvement, we have established a precedent and raised our profile to a point where we are no longer brushed aside when protected areas are considered. We are able to defend our fishery with facts and sound management in concert with our strategic partners.