



A new e-mail discussion group on the Live Reef Fish Trade

by Tim Adams

Director, Marine Resources Division, SPC

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has just set up an e-mail discussion group to service its 'Live Reef Fish' (LRF) network—a special interest group covering the live reef fish trade. This network originally set up to cover the LRF trade in the Pacific Islands only but now covers a much broader area.

The *Live Reef Fish Information Bulletin* is published by SPC on a 6-monthly schedule and, whilst it is an excellent resource for substantial news items and primary information, it cannot possibly respond rapidly enough to cover some of the shorter-term issues arising in this rapidly-moving trade. This e-mail discussion group has been set up at the SPC hub to provide a more immediate way of exchanging news and information between members of the network, and to enable a more rapid response to issues arising.

The purpose of the list is to provide a way of disseminating announcements and information quickly amongst a group of like minded people; a way of asking questions in the reasonable hope of getting a useful response from someone who is reasonably expert; and of generally arguing with each other about the best way of doing things.

If you send an e-mail message to the list address it will be automatically copied to everyone else on the list. It is very simple in principle but can be remarkably effective.

You can subscribe to the list by sending an e-mail to the address join-live-reef-fish@lyris.spc.int and the list-server computer will automatically add your name to the group and send you an e-mail with instructions on how to send messages to the group, unsubscribe, or find out who else has joined the group, etc.

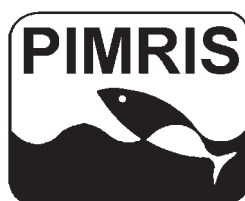
Alternatively you can enter the address <http://www.spc.org.nc/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=live-reef-fish> in your web-browser's address bar and follow the instructions on the page.

SPC is the figurehead of the 'Pacific Islands Live Reef Fishery Initiative' a loose association of organisations devoting part of their capacity to the LRF issue in the Pacific. SPC's particular interest is in assisting and advising its Pacific Island member countries and territories to assess, develop and manage fisheries in an environmentally and economically sustainable way, and the live reef fish trade is naturally a topical subject in many islands, particularly in the west and north of the region. SPC recently entered into an understanding with The Nature Conservancy, the International Marinelife Alliance and the World Resources Institute about more formally implementing part of this 'Pacific Islands Live Reef Fishery Initiative', supported by funding from each organisation and, in the coming months, through a project of the Asian Development Bank as well.

There are several other agencies associated with SPC in the family of Pacific Island regional inter-governmental organisations called 'CROP' (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific), and other CROP agencies, including the University of the South Pacific, the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, have roles within the Initiative. The Forum Secretariat, for example, is collaborating with the Marine Aquarium Council to investigate the potential role of consumer-targeted sustainability certification in the aquarium fishery. Other organisations actively associated with the Initiative include the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) South Pacific branch, which is carrying out research on reef fish larvae.



PIMRIS is a joint project of 5 international organisations concerned with fisheries and marine resource development in the Pacific Islands region. The project is executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). This bulletin is produced by SPC as part of its commitment to PIMRIS. The aim of PIMRIS is to improve



Pacific Islands Marine Resources
Information System

the availability of information on marine resources to users in the region, so as to support their rational development and management. PIMRIS activities include: the active collection, cataloguing and archiving of technical documents, especially ephemera ('grey literature'); evaluation, repackaging and dissemination of information; provision of literature searches, question-and-answer services and bibliographic support; and assistance with the development of in-country reference collections and databases on marine resources.