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### Complex management of a multispecific fishery: the exploitation of coral reef fish larvae

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The capturing methods of adult reef fishes targeting the aquarium trade contribute to stocks depletion and threaten the reef habitat. In comparison, the catching methods of reef fish postlarvae colonizing the reef, have much less impact on fish populations and environment. The collection of larvae in the wild represents therefore an interesting alternative.

The stationary net is a very performing tool for the collection of a high diversity of reef species: several thousands were already collected in the Indo-Pacific region (Reunion Island, Australia, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis).

The efficiency of the collection techniques of postlarvae and the diversity of captures allow perspectives for the development of aquarium trade but also for growing species dedicated to consumption or replenishment of harmed ecosystems. However, the exploitation of such a multispecific fishery is difficult:

- the species identification is sometimes extremely complex ;
- the maintenance of fishes requires a thorough knowledge of biology and behaviour of species ;
- there is a discrepancy between the diversity of production and the standards required by aquarium fish traders or markets based on very focused fisheries, even monospecific.

Further investigations should therefore focus on:

- development of identification keys for postlarvae ;
- availability of knowledge on biology and behaviour of the species ;
- development of an eco-friendly label promoting the postlarvae industry aiming at replacing adult based operations.