



# **Enforcement Working Group and Cyanide Detection Resolution**




**Report to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force  
May 4, 2006**





# Proposed Resolution

- **Form Enforcement Working Group**
    - Assist in fulfilling Resolution 14\_4 “Call for Building Enforcement Capacity” and other enforcement issues
  - **Utilize Task Force expertise to address illegal cyanide use**
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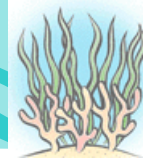
# **Cyanide Use: Destructive Fishing Practice**

- **Stuns fish for easier collection**
- **Physically harms the habitat, collectors, non-target species, target species, kills coral**
- **One of greatest threats to international reefs**
- **Widely used in live food fish and ornamental trade**
- **Use for fishing is illegal in most countries**
- **Contributes to illegal, unregulated, unreported trade**



# International Mandate

- **Executive Order #13089**
    - Assess and address U.S. role in international trade of reef species
    - Implement appropriate strategies and actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of reef resources worldwide
  - **National Coral Reef Action Strategy:**
    - Reduce threats to international reefs
    - Reduce impacts from international trade
  - **Resolution 11\_2 Continued International Leadership**
  - **Resolution 14\_4 Call for Building Enforcement Capacity**
    - Support enforcement efforts of International Coral Reef Initiative
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# **Trade in Coral Reef Animals and U.S. Role**


- **Live food fish trade** → to Asian markets  
**Medicinal/food trades**
- **Marine ornamental trade** → to U.S. markets

**U.S. major consumer for aquarium trade**  
- live coral, marine fishes, live rock

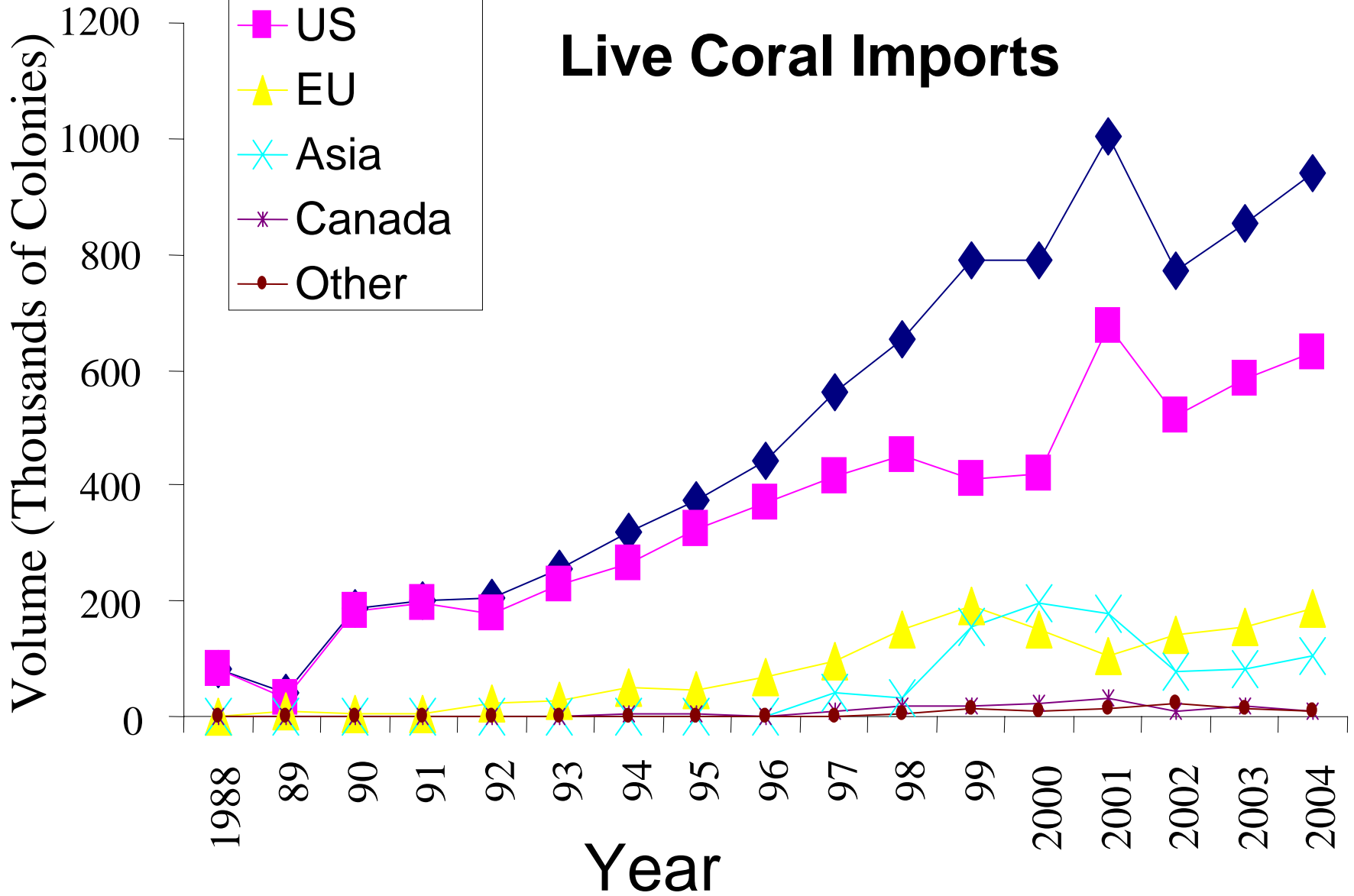
**U.S. major consumer for curio, jewelry trade**  
- coral skeletons, precious corals, shells



# Volume of U.S. Imports


- **Imports in live ornamental fish? ~ 16 M**
    - NMFS analysis of USFWS invoices
    - Twice as high as original estimate
  - **Most coral reef fish are NOT on CITES**
    - Little trend data – use CITES coral data as proxy
  - **Trade in live corals increased 400% since 1988**
  - **Trade in live reef rock increased 1700% since 1988**
  - **Aquarium trade continues to increase by 10-30% /yr**
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# Live Coral Imports






# **USG Efforts to Address Destructive Cyanide Use**

- **Diplomatic, educational and awareness raising efforts**
  - **Capacity building in coastal management**
  - **Support to NGOs and source country governments to establish cyanide detection facilities**
  - **Support to voluntary certification efforts**
    - **Cyanide use continues to undermine sustainable management efforts**
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# Cyanide Detection Tests

- **Urgent need for detection tests that are:**
    - **Fast, of reliable use, convenient**
  - **For enforcement use in source countries**
  - **For enforcement use by US through the Lacey Act**
    - **Prohibits imports taken illegally in source country**
  - **To “level the playing field” within aquarium industry**
  - **To reduce negative impacts on international reefs**
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# Proposed Resolution

- **Form working group on enforcement**
  - **Identify and recommend specific experts in law enforcement, field forensics, toxicology/biomarkers from Task Force agencies**
  - **Utilize expertise to identify existing or potential cyanide detection methods/tests**
  - **Explore usefulness and need to convene broader expert panel; if needed, assist in convening expert panel**
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# Protecting Reefs, Conserving Biodiversity, Helping People



# International Trade



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CORAL AND CORAL REEF SPECIES:  
THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES**



All photos by Andrew Bruckner

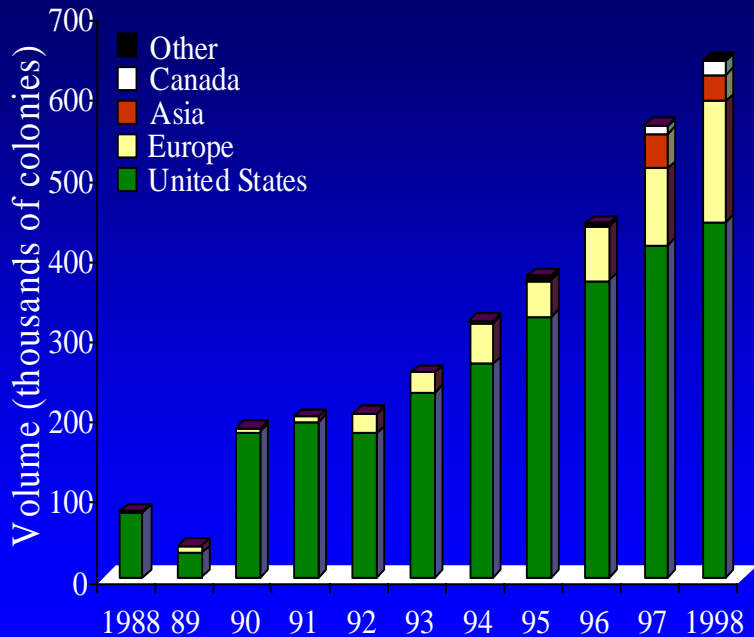


*March 2, 2000  
Washington, D.C.*

**Report of the Trade Subgroup of the International Working Group  
to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force**

# U.S. Role in Aquarium Trade

## Trade in Live Coral: Importing Countries



## U.S. imports:

~ 80% of all live corals.

~ 95% of the “live rock”

~ 50% (8 million) marine aquarium fish per year.

~ **Concerns:** over fishing, cyanide, handling, transport practices.



# Major Issues Identified

- **Trade drives destructive practices and overfishing**
  - Use of poisons (cyanide)
  - Removal of reef base (live rock), essential fish habitat (coral)
  - Unsustainable collection, targeted groups, rare animals
- **Collecting from deeper reefs - beyond management**
- **Expanding ornamental trade, commercial uses**
  - home, office, restaurant, public aquaria
  - over 2000 species in trade
- **Ethical concerns - wild animal and pet trade**
- **Largely unregulated trade; illegal, unreported**