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PRESENT INVOLVEMENT OF QUARANTINE SERVICES FOR THE ORNAMENTAL FISH EXPORT INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

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INTRODUCTION

Quarantine means the compulsory detention in isolation of any animal or any article. Any fish which is kept or reared for its pet or hobby qualities is known as ornamental fish. The involvement of Animal Quarantine Service is in the issuing for International Export Health Certificates. This service is governed under the Department of Animal Production & Health. Issuing of health certificates is authorized by the Animal Disease Act No.59 of 1992. According to the statistics of 2001, this industry has earned Rs.531 million of foreign exchange (Customs, 1993). The contribution of Sri Lanka for the world ornamental fish supply is about 1%. Major destinations of current ornamental fish exporters are United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Australia, Holland, Spain and Portugal. The contribution of fresh water, marine and brackish water fish species are respectively 87%, 10% and 3%. The overall impact on wild fish population also cannot be ignored.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This project was done in Animal Quarantine Office, Bandaranaike International airport, Katunayake. The data were obtained from the invoices, packing lists and other documents in the Quarantine Office. Relevant Ordinances, Acts and Gazettes were referred to identify the legal background.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, 53 ornamental fish exporters were identified. Of this, six were major exporters. Sri Lanka ornamental fishes are exported to 47 countries in the world. UK, Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Australia are the major exporting countries. A fluctuation in number of ornamental fish consignments can be identified within the year. A significant reduction can be observed in April and July months. Fresh water and marine fish ratios in export consignments are respectively 96% and 4%. Guppy, Molly, Platy and Sword tails are the common fish species found in exports.

