

Within a few weeks Disney's animated film 'Finding Dory' will be released. Based on the first movie, 'Finding Nemo', the sequel undoubtedly will be of the highest quality and provide incredible fun and entertainment to everyone. Honestly, I can't wait to see the movie. However, there is a little 'but'...



With the release of 'Finding Dory' the industry fears an increase in the demand for *Paracanthurus hepatus*; the fish we know as Dory. Alas, Dory, or 'Letter Six' as it is known in Indonesia, is not yet reproduced in captivity. Taking care of these delicate fish is certainly not as easy as keeping Clownfish. And even though the IUCN states this species is not yet in danger (status: Least Concern); studies on the boundaries of its habitat are limited while the number of specimens in the wild remains unknown.

Scientists and professionals in the aquarium trade have reported that, due to the popularity of the first movie, sales numbers of Clownfish (*Amphiprion spec.*) increased 25%. As Clownfish are 'easy' to breed (note: for professionals and experienced hobbyists!), the additional sales hardly affected wild collection of the lovely clowns. A variety of fancy forms have been developed. Hobbyists therefor nicknamed the Clownfish 'Guppies of the sea', referring to the popular and very productive freshwater guppy. Despite this similarity, keeping Clownfish is not as easy as keeping Guppies. Taking care of a marine aquarium has become much easier during the last few years; however, a regular tropical aquarium with fresh water still is the best way to start this hobby.



SAIA (Sustainable Aquarium Industry Association) fears that the increase in demand, may effect local populations of 'Dory'. June 2015 SAIA already launched a campaign for awareness about Dory's situation and to warn about overfishing due to the expected popularity of the Disney movie. Please take a look at the documentary 'Searching for Letter Six', available on the SAIA website. [This movie tells it all...](#)



Letter six refers to the color pattern on the dorsal of the 'Palette Surgeon' (Wow! There really are many names for this fish!). The pattern resembles a perfect six.

This project intends to help raising awareness of the situation of *Paracanthurus hepatus*. My goal is to sell T-shirts and Mugs with the SOS-6 logo, asking you to help spreading this message on your social media. Except for the Tees and Mugs, I will create a limited number of handmade paintings, boxed in a glass frame. Yes, you can have your own fish without harming natural resources! (Note: every artwork is handmade, sand mixed with acrylics on paper, and includes the morse code "S.O.S. 6". Each item individually numbered and hand signed. Including a Certificate of Authenticity).

Enjoy watching the Disney movie, but remember the real Dory may be hard to find in the wild and, if nothing will be done, may become extinct at locations where fishermen catch aquarium specimens. Please spread this message on your social media (feel free to use my SOS-6 logo but don't cut off my signature); link it to the [SAIA-site](#) and show your concern by wearing an SOS-6 Tee.

The best way to obtain your own Letter Six?

Buy one of my unique, handmade artworks. Valuable collectibles, which do not harm or endanger wild populations!

