

How many Dorys are there in the sea?

The Sustainable Aquarium Industry Association (SAIA) has launched an extensive campaign to protect the palette surgeonfish on the occasion of the release of Disney's animated feature film *Finding Dory* on June 17th, 2016. Learning from 'Finding Nemo', we fear that demand for the palette surgeonfish will rise similarly to that for clownfish in 2003. Unlike clownfish, palette surgeonfish cannot be bred commercially yet. Thus local populations in major source countries like Indonesia and the Philippines could be threatened by overfishing.

IUCN lists the species globally as Least Concern, because of its wide range and naturally rare occurrence. However, no data for populations in Indonesia or the Philippines exist and can be assessed. Given the biology of the species and its natural rarity, local declines and perhaps extirpations are possible.

Therefore SAIA intends to start a project in collaboration with scientists researching the status of *P. hepatus* populations in Indonesia and in the Philippines to produce the following results:

- a) Documentation of collection areas and its *P. hepatus* population status over time (for previously used and now abandoned areas, anecdotal evidence and assessments to be carried out; for current collection areas, assessments before/during/after and outside the spawning season to be carried out over a period of 1-2 years).
- b) Documentation of *P. hepatus* status in remote reefs with no aquarium fishery (control).

Results of the project will bring clarity on the *P. hepatus* status in major source countries of the MAT and will help the aquarium industry and hobbyists as well as any new Dory lovers to make an informed buying decision.

Findings of the study should also be used to make the case for and support sustainable management of the aquarium fishery and its resources.

Research needs funding

Marine Aquarium Traders and Hobbyists!

In the movie 'Finding Dory', it is Nemo helping Dory in its search. So why not dedicate a fraction of the price of each sold/bought Nemo to support our project of 'Finding Dory's family'?*

Turn your love to marine wildlife into support for a meaningful project that ensures we don't love wild animals to death and use marine resources sustainably.

This is your chance as industry player, marine hobbyist or Ocean lover to really support Dory in finding out about her family in the wilderness of our oceans.

*Larger sponsors have an opportunity to be associated with the project and put their name on it as well. ESAIA e.V. can provide assistance in advertising your contribution to this project.

