AZA Position on Sustainability Considerations for Developing an Aquatic Invertebrate & Fish Collection Plan

Approved by the AZA Board of Directors 12 January 2016

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) believes that the acquisition of aquatic invertebrates and fishes should be conducted in a manner that maintains or, if warranted, increases the genetic diversity of these populations in the care of zoos and aquariums but does not reduce the long-term sustainability of these populations in their natural ranges. Therefore, it is recommended that AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and certified related facilities (AZA member institutions) exhibiting these animals develop, implement, and maintain an Aquatic Invertebrate & Fish Collection Plan that assists curators in continuing to advance fish survivability and in making the most appropriate acquisition decisions possible to achieve these goals. By acquiring aquatic invertebrates and fishes in a sustainable manner, AZA member institutions will be able to continue fulfilling their important missions of conservation, education, and science with these animals long into the future and will set a leadership example for related industries.