

COLLECTING

By Bill Scoggins

The following guidelines to greater conservation of our native fishes represents the contributions of many NANFA members. Their respect or reverence for native fishes has led them to certain guidelines in order to insure the survival of native species for future generations of fish watchers.

1. CONSULT LOCAL LAWS CONCERNING FISHES: You may need a license or permit from your state Fish and Game Department.
2. OBTAIN A LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES so you can avoid collecting these species.
3. DON'T BE GREEDY; take only as many fish as you can house.
4. Avoid over collecting a single source or area.*
5. After netting, immediately return unwanted species back to the water.

DISCARDING YOUR UNWANTED AQUARIUM FISHES

1. DON'T DUMP NATIVE OR TROPICAL FISHES INTO A LOCAL LAKE OR STREAM. This can lead to an ecological disaster.**
2. Trade or give your fish to another aquarist. Someone maybe looking for the fish you don't want anymore. Advertise in your club or association bulletin.
3. Donate unwanted fishes to a local aquarium society for their raffle or auction.
4. Donate fishes to your area public aquarium or museum.
5. Donate fishes to your local elementary, high school, or college biology department.
6. Sell fishes to a local aquarium shop dealer.
7. Destroy unwanted fishes, as a last resort, if they can not be returned to the exact place where they were collected.
8. If you decide to return them to the exact place of origin, do so only if the fish are healthy and are not disease carriers or suspected carriers.

For a better understanding of the need for the above guidelines, read the following articles written by Daniel Koste, NANFA Conservation Chairman:

- * American Currents, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 12.
- ** American Currents, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 21.