



# Ornamental Fishes Trade In Mumbai City, Maharashtra, India

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**Abstract:** An artificial pond in which alive aquatic creatures or plants are kept is called an aquarium. Nowadays, aquariums are been considered a part of interior design in houses. Presently, the aquarium is a flourishing industry that is now growing day by day. In the present investigation, a total of 99 species of aquarium fishes from 36 families are has been reported from the different aquarium shops in Mumbai city. The Cichlidae is a dominant family with 22 species respectively. In this study, there are 2 species listed as critically endangered (CR), 2 species listed as endangered (EN), 7 species are vulnerable (VU), 4 species are near threatened (NT) and 45 species are the least concern (LC) categories, according to IUCN red list. Data from 35 species was not evaluated (NE) and data was deficit of 4 species (DD). Out of 99 species, 98 species were exotic and only 1 was indigenous species. Additional data concerning various aspects (e.g., natural environment, native range, common name, and conservation status) was collected from the Life Catalogue, Fish base, the IUCN red list, and scientific literature. In the final conclusion, the aquarium fish area in Mumbai city is practically uncontrolled given the presence of threatened species and species capable of establishing nonindigenous populations, if they are released into the wild.

**Index Terms - Ornamental fish, Aquarium trade, Exotic fishes, Threatened species, Mumbai.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ornamental fishes are called the jewels of the aquatic frame for their form, tiny size, and brilliant color (Banerjee, 2009). The wide collection of freshwater fishes for the aquarium trade has been considered an arguable issue (Ragwan et al., 2013). The facility of professional manpower, a nicely-established communicate network, worldwide airports, and an export merchandising zone (EPZ) inside the country, offer large scope for the promotion of ornamental fish change and export. (H. R. Bhatkar et. al., 2012). Decorative fish exchange is a multibillion-dollar industry where more than 125 nations. 99 % of the global marketplace is restricted to hobbyists and below 1% is used for public aquaria and research institutes (Manab Kumar saha et al, 2013). Neon tetras, angels, goldfish, danios, and discuss dominate the sector's decorative fish exchange. The industry is expected to grow by 8%, with the increasing demand for ornamental fishes supported by advances in filtration, aeration, and various smart accessories.

Indian ornamental fish area has tremendous opportunity for development, considering its widespread fish resources both the freshwater and marine fish species. (Karthick Raja et al., 2019). The export of aquarium ornamental fishes of India is worth only US\$0.2 million, which is not enough for the increasing demand for these attractive colored species in the global ornamental fish market. This may be attributed to the absence of involvement of technical people in ornamental fish farming [Rajan and N. Karpagam 2004]. 400 species of the ornamental fishes belonging to 175 genera and 50 families are recorded in Indian waters (Satheesh, 2002). Even though about 99% of the freshwater aquarium fish are cultured in captivity (Tlusty, 2002). The extensive majority of components in marine species are depending on wild sources regularly regarding illegal/destructive fishing practices (e.g. cyanide fishing in Southeast Asia) and a number of them are unassailable and some are critically endangered species which might be covered aquarium fishes (Andrews, 1990). Other negative outcomes of the aquarium fish trade consist of the unfolding of new diseases and parasites, together with the Koi carp herpes virus (Haenen et al., 2004). On other hand, in number of places, aquarium shop owner practically unrestricted and given the presence of threatened species and species capable of establishing non-indigenous populations, if they released into the wild (Yadav Rupesh & et. al. 2020).

## II. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

From October to December 2021, we conducted a survey to document ornamental species of fishes in the pet trade in Mumbai city. Totally 29 aquarium shops were visited for the data collection. The common names of all fishes were recorded at each location. A variety of fishes were readily available at the store. On special orders, they arrange those expensive fish. These dwelling jewels want now not always have bright colorings, every so often their precise characteristics together with body colour, morphology, and mode of taking meals (Chakravarty, 2012). Retail prices of fish were also recorded. Data collected for each species were classified based on conservation status, critical endangered (CR), near threatened (NT), least concern (LC), vulnerable (VU), and data deficient (DD) according to IUCN red list. In some cases, we observed that data on conservation status was not evaluated and data was not available.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

As we all know that aquarium trade is increasing, nowadays, which includes the import and export of fish. Presently, it is a growing and well-developing business. People are spending more and more to make their houses decorative, including the expenditure on aquariums to maintain the decor of the house. Aquarium fishing is the second-largest hobby after photography. In this, the minimum requirement of place and attention has to be given to the fish compared to other pets, this is also one of the reasons for establishing aquariums in houses. Setting up an aquarium is not so expensive, but can be installed at any place in the house.

Our survey recorded 99 fish species belonging to 20 orders, 36 families, and 85 genera (table no.1) in 29 aquarium stores. All species recorded were freshwater. Among all families, the family Cichlidae is dominant with 22 species. 26 families were representing only a single number of species of fish, while 3 families were representing 2 species, and the rest of the families were having 3 or more species.

According to the native ranges, out of 99 freshwater species, 98 were exotic and distributed worldwide in countries like Canada, United States, Mexico, Colombia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Russia, etc., Only 1 was reported as indigenous. According to their conservation status on IUCN red list, 2 species are under the category of endangered (EN) namely *Scleropages formosus* and *Bedotia geayi*, 7 species are vulnerable (VU) namely *Balantiocheilus melanopterus*, *Puntius titteya*, *Paratilapia pollen*, *Betta splendens*, *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Lutjanus campechanus*, and *Dasyatis Diptera*. 2 species were critically endangered (CR) namely *Epalzerhynchus bicolor* and *Ambystoma mexicanum* and 4 species are near threatened (NT) namely *Altalamprologus calvus*, *Trichopodus leery*, *Potamotrygon motoro* and *Neocaridina davidi*.

Our data revealed that 15 species are listed in the EN, VU, CR, and NT categories of the IUCN red list. More surprisingly, for the 40 remaining species recorded in the present survey, either the related data were missing to access their conservation status or they had not been assessed at all. Some of the species reported as the most popular ornamental fish variety in aquarium shops e.g., Fighting fish, Pearl gourami, Angelfish, Rainbowfish, Molly, Arowana, Goldfish, etc. due to their small body size, impressive color pattern, and accessible retail price (Except Arowana). Based on the data available for 162 fishes of 99 species, the price of 97 fish was between 30 to 1000 per pair. However, there were 65 fish with a price between 1000 to 250000.

It was also seen that; the size of fish also affects their cost. As the length of fish increases, the cost can increase up to twenty times more. The cost of baby fish is low as it has small in size while big fishes have a higher price as seen in table no.2. The Colour and texture of fish are a second reason for the cost fluctuation in aquarium fish. The import of fish also affects the cost.

Based on the current documented biodiversity of aquarium fishes in pet shops around Mumbai. We analyse that exotic species which are being imported into the country breed within each other causing a threat of extinction to the indigenous species. Precautionary measures and awareness among the general public should be made for the conservation of the indigenous species.

## IV. CONCLUSION:

The present study suggests that aquarium shops in Mumbai has 98% of fishes are exotic, when released into the wild will reproduce, causing a threat to indigenous species which can lead to extinction in future. In other hand, the aquarium shops in Mumbai, selling number of exotics threaten species of the fishes which is also one of threats to the aquarium fishes.

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Table no. 1 - Ornamental fish species reported in Mumbai aquarium stores.

Sr. No.	Order	Family	Genus	Species	Common Name	IUCN Status	Exotic/ Indigenous	
1	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	<i>Carassius</i>	<i>auratus</i>	Gold fish	LC	Exotic	
2			<i>Cyprinus</i>	<i>rubrofuscus</i>	Big koi	LC	Exotic	
3			<i>Danio</i>	<i>rerio</i>	Zebra danio	LC	Exotic	
4			<i>Epalzeorhynchos</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	Red-tailed black shark	CR	Exotic	
5				<i>frenatum</i>	Rainbow shark	LC	Exotic	
6			<i>Balantiocheilos</i>	<i>melanopterus</i>	Bala shark	VU	Exotic	
7			<i>Puntigrus</i>	<i>tetrazona</i>	Tiger barb	LC	Exotic	
8			<i>Haludaria</i>	<i>fasciata</i>	Melon barb	LC	Exotic	
9			<i>Crossocheilus</i>	<i>oblongus</i>	Siamese algae eater	LC	Exotic	
10			<i>Puntius</i>	<i>titteya</i>	Cherry barb	VU	Exotic	
11			Catostomidae	<i>Catostomus</i>	<i>commersonii</i>	White sucker	LC	Exotic
12			Gyrinocheilidae	<i>Gyrinocheilus</i>	<i>aymonieri</i>	Golden algae eater	LC	Exotic
13	Cyprinodontiformes	Poeciliidae	<i>Poecilia</i>	<i>sphenops</i>	Common molly	LC	Exotic	
14				<i>reticulata</i>	Guppy	LC	Exotic	
15				<i>wingei</i>	Endler's livebearer	NE	Exotic	
16			<i>Xiphophorus</i>	<i>maculatus</i>	Sourthen platyfish	DD	Exotic	
17				<i>hellerii</i>	Green sword tail	LC	Exotic	

18	Characiformes	Characidae	<i>Salminus</i>	<i>brasiliensis</i>	Golden dorado	NE	Exotic	
19			<i>Paracheirodon</i>	<i>innesi</i>	Neon tetra	NE	Exotic	
20				<i>axelrodi</i>	Cardinal tetra	NE	Exotic	
21			<i>Hyphessobrycon</i>	<i>sweglesi</i>	Red phantom tetra	LC	Exotic	
22				<i>flammeus</i>	Flame tetra	NE	Exotic	
23				<i>amandae</i>	Ember tetra	NE	Exotic	
24			<i>Metynnis</i>	<i>argenteus</i>	Single band dollar	LC	Exotic	
25				<i>lippincottianus</i>	Spotted dollar	NE	Exotic	
26			<i>Myleus</i>	<i>schomburgkii</i>	Black berred myleus	NE	Exotic	
27			<i>Aphyocharax</i>	<i>anisitsi</i>	Bloodfin tetra	NE	Exotic	
28			<i>Thayeria</i>	<i>boehlkei</i>	Blackline penguinfish	NE	Exotic	
29			<i>Gymnocorymbus</i>	<i>ternetzi</i>	Black tetra	NE	Exotic	
30			<i>Pristella</i>	<i>maxillaris</i>	X-ray tetra	LC	Exotic	
31			<i>Piaractus</i>	<i>brachypomus</i>	Pirapitinga	NE	Exotic	
32			Serrasalminidae	<i>Serrasalmus</i>	<i>rhombus</i>	Red eye piranha	NE	Exotic
33			ChalCRidae	<i>Chalceus</i>	<i>macrolepidotus</i>	Pinktail chalceus	NE	Exotic
34			Cynodontidae	<i>Hydrolycus</i>	<i>neblinae</i>	Payara	NE	Exotic
35			Altestidae	<i>Phenacogrammus</i>	<i>interruptus</i>	Congo tetra	LC	Exotic
36	<i>Hydrocynus</i>	<i>forskahlii</i>		African tigerfish	LC	Exotic		
37	Pimelodidae	<i>Brachyplatystoma</i>	<i>rousseauixii</i>	Dorado catfish	LC	Exotic		
38	Hepsetidae	<i>Hepsetus</i>	<i>Odoe</i>	African pike	LC	Exotic		

39	Cichliformes	Cichlidae	<i>Astronotus</i>	<i>ocellatus</i>	Oscar	NE	Exotic
40			<i>Pterophyllum</i>	<i>scalare</i>	Freshwater angelfish	NE	Exotic
41			<i>Cyphotilapia</i>	<i>frontosa</i>	Zaire blue frontosa	LC	Exotic
42			<i>Vieja</i>	<i>melanurus</i>	Red head cichlid	DD	Exotic
43				<i>argentea</i>	Silver cichlid	LC	Exotic
44			<i>Altolamprologus</i>	<i>calvus</i>	Black calvus	NT	Exotic
45			<i>Cyprichromis</i>	<i>leptosoma</i>	Sardine Cichlid	LC	Exotic
46			<i>Reganochromis</i>	<i>calliurus</i>	Lamprolagus	LC	Exotic
47			<i>Cichla</i>	<i>ocellaris</i>	Peacock bass	NE	Exotic
48			<i>Paratilapia</i>	<i>polleni</i>	Polleni cichlid	VU	Exotic
49			<i>Herichthys</i>	<i>carpintis</i>	Escondido	LC	Exotic
50			<i>Guianacara</i>	<i>ocellaris</i>	Guinicara oweti	NE	Exotic
51			<i>Heros</i>	<i>efasciatus</i>	Rotkeill severum	NE	Exotic
52			<i>Cichlasoma</i>	<i>sp.</i>	Flower horn	LC	Exotic
53			<i>Thorichthys</i>	<i>meekei</i>	Firemouth	LC	Exotic
54			<i>Hemichromis</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>	Banded jewelfish	LC	Exotic
55			<i>Krobia</i>	<i>xinguensis</i>	Krobia	NE	Exotic
56			<i>Crenicichla</i>	<i>lugubris</i>	Red atabapo pike	NE	Exotic
57			<i>Amatitlania</i>	<i>nigrofasciata</i>	Zebra convict cichlid	DD	Exotic
58			<i>Mikrogeophagus</i>	<i>ramirezi</i>	Ram cichlid	NE	Exotic
59	<i>Andinocara</i>	<i>pulcher</i>	Blue Acara	LC	Exotic		

60			<i>Scianochromis</i>	<i>Ahli</i>	Electric blue base	LC	Exotic
61	Decapoda	Atyidae	<i>Caridina</i>	<i>multidentata</i>	Amano shrimp	LC	Exotic
62				<i>serrata</i>	Tiger shrimp	NE	Exotic
63			<i>Neocaridina</i>	<i>davidi</i>	Red/cherry shrimp	NT	Exotic
64	Anabantiformes	Osphronemidae	<i>Trichogaster</i>	<i>trichopterus</i>	Three spot gourami	LC	Exotic
65			<i>Trichopodus</i>	<i>Leerii</i>	Pearl gourami	NT	Exotic
66			<i>Osphronemus</i>	<i>goramy</i>	Giant Gourami	LC	Exotic
67			<i>Betta</i>	<i>splendens</i>	White betta	VU	Exotic
68		Helostomatidae	<i>Helostoma</i>	<i>temminckii</i>	Kissing gourami	LC	Exotic
69	Lamniformes	Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon</i>	<i>carcharias</i>	Great white shark	VU	Exotic
70	Siluriformes	Loricariidae	<i>Otocinclus</i>	<i>vestitus</i>	Dwarf sucker	NE	Exotic
71			<i>Hypostomus</i>	<i>plecostomus</i>	Suckermouth catfish	NE	Exotic
72			<i>Panaque</i>	<i>nigrolineatus</i>	L-191 Pleco	NE	Exotic
73			<i>Hemiancistrus</i>	<i>guahiborum</i>	L-106 Pleco	NE	Exotic
74		Mochokidae	<i>Synodontis</i>	<i>petricola</i>	Cuckoo catfish	LC	Exotic
75		Doradidae	<i>oxydoras</i>	<i>Niger</i>	Ripsaw catfish	NE	Exotic
76		Pimelodidae	<i>Phractocephalus</i>	<i>hemiolepterus</i>	Redtail catfish	NE	Exotic
77			<i>Platystomatichthys</i>	<i>Sturio</i>	Sturgeon catfish	NE	Exotic
78	Spariformes	Datnioididae	<i>Datinoides</i>	<i>microlepis</i>	Indonesian tiger perch	LC	Exotic
79	Perciformes	Monodactylidae	<i>Monodactylus</i>	<i>argenteus</i>	Mono angel	LC	Indigenous
80		Lutjanidae	<i>Lujanus</i>	<i>campechanus</i>	Northern red snapper	VU	Exotic

81	Osteoglossioforms	Osteoglossidae	<i>scleropages</i>	<i>formosus</i>	Asian arowana	EN	Exotic
82			<i>osteoglossum</i>	<i>bicirrhosum</i>	Silver arowana	NE	Exotic
83			<i>Arapima</i>	<i>gigas</i>	Arapaima	DD	Exotic
84		Pantodontidae	<i>Pantodon</i>	<i>buchholzi</i>	African butterfly fish	LC	Exotic
85	Dipnoi	Lepidosirenidae	<i>Protopterus</i>	<i>aethiopicus</i>	Marble lungfish	LC	Exotic
86				<i>dolloi</i>	Slender lungfish	LC	Exotic
87	Lepisosteiformes	Lepisosteidae	<i>Lepisostetus</i>	<i>platyrhincus</i>	Marble florida gar	LC	Exotic
88	Urodela	Ambystomidae	<i>Ambystoma</i>	<i>mexicanum</i>	Axolotl	CR	Exotic
89	Anura	Pipidae	<i>Xenopus</i>	<i>laevis</i>	African clawed frog	LC	Exotic
90	Gymnotiformes	Hypopomidae	<i>Hypopygus</i>	<i>neblinae</i>	Marble knife fish	NE	Exotic
91		Apteronotidae	<i>Apteronotus</i>	<i>albifrons</i>	Black ghost	NE	Exotic
92	Myliobatiformes	Patamotrygonidae	<i>Potamotrygon</i>	<i>motoro</i>	Ocellate river stingray	NT	Exotic
93		Dasyatidae	<i>Dasyatis</i> CR	<i>diptera</i>	Black diamond stingray	VU	Exotic
94	Polypteriformes	Polypteridae	<i>polypterus</i>	<i>palmas</i>	Marbled bichir	LC	Exotic
95				<i>endlicherii</i>	Saddled bichir	LC	Exotic
96				<i>senegalus</i>	Gray bichir	LC	Exotic
97				<i>lapradei</i>	Nile bichir	LC	Exotic
98	Arcida	Arcidae	<i>Tegillarca</i>	<i>granosa</i>	Red sushi (red clam)	NE	Exotic
99	Atheriniformes	Melanotaeniidae	<i>Bedotia</i>	<i>geayi</i>	Madagascar Rainbow	EN	Exotic



Table No. 2: Price of the ornamental fishes in in Mumbai aquarium stores.

Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price	Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price	Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price
1	Oranda	200	28	Red female guppy	40	55	Albino congo tetra	400
2	Red carp oranda	190	29	Full black guppy	100	56	African tiger fish (4")	10000
3	Gold fish	120	30	Tiger endler guppy	120	57	Platinum dorado catfish	18000
4	Small goldfish	40	31	Platy	40	58	African pike (5"-6")	4000
5	Ryukin gold fish	2500	32	Hi-fin platy	60	59	Tiger osar (3"+)	350
6	Calico ryukin	2500	33	Santa claus sword tail	100	60	Red chilli Oscar (3")	550
7	Red and white ryukin	2700	34	Pineapple sword tail	60	61	Copper Oscar (3"+)	400
8	Black moor	180	35	Golden dorado(5"-6")	10,000	62	Albino Oscar (3"+)	350
9	Big koi	350	36	Neon tetra	50	63	Scar angel	60
10	Milky koi	100	37	Cardinal tetra	100	64	Marble angel	60
11	Koi	150	38	Red phantom tetra	80	65	Red eye angel	400
12	Small koi	80	39	Flame tetra	60	66	BSP angel	750
13	Tricolor koi (6")	1200	40	Ember tetra	80	67	Mono angel (medium)	150
14	Zebra danio	370	41	Single band dollar (3"+)	2800	68	Mono angel (small)	80
15	Yellow zebra	40	42	Single band dollar (2")	2500	69	Zaire blue frontosa (5")	15000
16	Red tailed black shark	100	43	Spotted dollar (3"+)	2600	70	Blackwidow frontosa (2")	3500
17	Rainbow shark	150	44	Five band dollar (3"+)	2900	71	Cichlid	250
18	Tiger barb	50	45	Black berry dollar (2")	4500	72	White cichlid (2")	550
19	Melon barb	60	46	Bloodfin tetra	50	73	Black calvus (3"-4")	6000
20	Siamese algae eater	80	47	Blackline penguinfish	50	74	Redhead cichlid (6"-8")	3000
21	Cherry barb	50	48	Yellow widow	100	75	Sardine cichlid (3")	6000
22	White sucker	80	49	Green widow	100	76	Golden calvus (3"-4")	6000
23	Golden algae eater	80	50	Purple widow	100	77	Lamprolagus (4")	6000
24	Common Molly	40	51	Red widow	200	78	Peacock bass (8"-10")	15000
25	Molly	80	52	White piranha	200	79	Polleni cichlid (5"-6")	2500
26	Guppy	450	53	Pinktail chalceus	150	80	Escondido (3")	1000
27	Full red guppy	180	54	Payara (67")	8000	81	Guinicara oweti (2"+)	100

Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price	Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price	Sr. No.	Name of the fish	Price
82	Rotkeill severum	450	109	Big tiger shark	100	136	Arapaima (6"-7")	12000
83	Flower horn	6000	110	Silver shark	120	137	African butterfly fish(4")	1200
84	Firemouth	100	111	Big silver shark	1300	138	Marble lungfish(13"-14")	35000
85	Krobia (2.5")	2000	112	Suckermouth catfish	60	139	Slender lungfish(8"-9")	2500
86	Red atabapo pike (6"-7")	15000	113	Dwarf sucker	350	140	Marble florida gar (10")	250000
87	Zebra convict cichlid	60	114	L-191 pleco	6000	141	Axolotl (5"-6")	4500
88	Ram cichlid	150	115	L-106 pleco	6000	142	Albino frog (2"+)	500
89	Neon/blue acara	450	116	Cuckoo catfish (2")	400	143	Marble knife fish(6"-8")	3000
90	Electric bluebase (8"-10")	80000	117	Ripsaw catfish (5"-6")	7000	144	Black ghost (3"+)	350
91	Amano shrimp	240	118	Red tail catfish (2")	200	145	Black ghost (4"-5")	400
92	Red/cherry shrimp	80	119	Red tail catfish (2.5")	300	146	Black ghost (8"-12")	3200
93	Yellow sakura shrimp	100	120	Sturgeon catfish (5")	4000	147	Blackdiamond stingray(7")	55000
94	Orange sakura shrimp	120	121	Indo-tiger perch (7"-8")	12000	148	Motoro stingray(4"-5")	15000
95	Golden line shrimp	120	122	RTG arowana (6"-7")	22000	149	Hybrid stingray(5"-6")	30000
96	Dream blue	120	123	Super high back (6"-7")	28000	150	Bichir turkana (20"-22")	60000
97	Aura blue shrimp	120	124	Super high back (18")	110000	151	Parinari (10"-12")	5000
98	Snow white shrimp	120	125	High back (6"-7")	22000	152	Gray bichir (10"-12")	5000
99	Black choco shrimp	120	126	Highback arowana (6"-7")	35000	153	Armoured bichir (3"-4")	1200
100	Gourami	50	127	Highback arowana (18")	100000	154	Saddled bichir (3"-4")	1200
101	Pearl gourami	100	128	Cross back (8"-10")	80000	155	Nile bichir (16"-18")	35000
102	Copper gourami	60	129	24K arowana (8"-10")	65000	156	Red sushi	120
103	Black eye giant (3")	300	130	24K arowana (6"-7")	55000	157	Orange sushi	120
104	Red eye giant (4")	600	131	Super red chilli (8"-10")	190000	158	Madagascar rainbow	300
105	Kissing gourami (medium)	100	132	Silver arowana (3")	1000	159	Albino pacu (2.5")	350
106	Kissing gourami (small)	60	133	Silver arowana (5"-6")	1500	160	Albino pacu (3")	450
107	Great white shark	60	134	Silver arowana (6"-7")	2000	161	Albino pacu (4"-5")	600
108	Tiger shark	50	135	Silver arowana (7"-8")	4000	162	Redjewel cichlidballoon (5")	12000