

Attention Boaters

If you use your vessel to engage in aquarium fish collecting in the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, it must be registered and be clearly marked with "AQ" according to a new Hawaii Administrative Rule now in effect.

Section 13-60.4-7 Aquarium collecting vessel registration and marking requirements. All aquarium collecting vessels shall:

- 1) Be registered every year with the Division of Aquatic Resources West Hawai'i (DAR-Kona) office to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes within the West Hawai'i regional fishery management area. Each registration shall be valid for one year from the date of registration. The current vessel identification number issued by either the department or the United States Coast Guard shall serve as the registration number for each vessel;
- (2) Clearly display the capital letters "AQ" permanently affixed to both sides of the vessel, either near the top of the gunwales or on the superstructure. Unless otherwise specified, the "AQ" letters shall be no less than six inches high and three inches wide in either black or a color that contrasts with the background;
- (3) Fly a "stiffened" flag or pennant from the vessel with the letter "A" as specified by the department. The flag or pennant shall be provided at cost to aquarium permittees as specified by the department. The flag or pennant shall be displayed and clearly visible from both sides of the vessel at all times while aquarium collecting gear or collected aquarium marine life or both are onboard;
- (4) Display a dive flag at all times when divers are in the water; and
- (5) In the event an aquarium collecting vessel becomes inoperable, the operator of the vessel shall immediately notify the department's division of conservation and resources enforcement or United States Coast Guard or both by VHF radio or by cellular phone or both.