



ORNAMENTAL AQUATIC TRADE ASSOCIATION LTD

"The voice of the ornamental fish industry"

Wessex House, 40 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3JN, UK

Telephone: (01373) 301353 Fax: +44(0)1373 301236

info@ornamentalfish.org www.ornamentalfish.org

9 March 2020

Fish used in cultural practices

We are aware that at certain times of the year wholesalers and retailers get requests from customers wanting to buy large amounts of fish (like goldfish, and also lobsters) to be used for cultural practices, e.g. temporary display or prayer release involving the release of animals into the wild.

OATA strongly recommends all members take a very firm line and never knowingly sell fish if they are to be used for these purposes, because of concerns about animal welfare or illegal release into the wild.

We are concerned about the welfare of the animals and in particular what happens to the animals after their temporary use because it encourages the attitude 'it's only a fish' and so does not count for much. We are also particularly concerned that the animals may be disposed of irresponsibly after use, which is both cruel and illegal.

We are pleased that our members who have contacted OATA with welfare concerns about this issue have not been prepared to sell fish if they are made aware that this is what the fish is being purchased for, and we will support them in this stance.

We would suggest other forms of celebration, such as donations to conservation charities like [The Pet Charity](#), [Shoal Conservation](#) or [Project Piaba](#).

ends