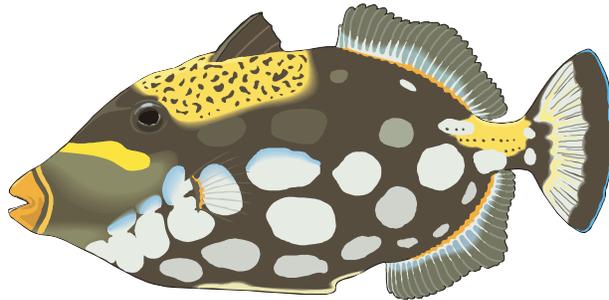


Special Adaptations of Tropical Fish

Jay Nelson
Don MacKinlay



International Congress on the Biology of Fish
Towson University, Baltimore MD July 26-30, 1998

***Special Adaptations
of Tropical Fish***

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

Jay Nelson

Don MacKinlay

*International Congress on the Biology of Fish
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PREFACE

The aquatic ecosystems of the tropics are being degraded by human activity. Because of the amazing diversity of tropical fishes, this habitat degradation endangers many fish species and, with them, a wealth of unique biology and evolutionary history. This symposium has two goals: 1) to update the audience on the status of some Neotropical aquatic ecosystems and various anthropogenic

threats faced by the fishes occupying them and, 2) to expose the audience to the interesting biology of tropical fishes.

This symposium expands upon recent symposia organized by Adalberto and Vera Val held in Manaus, Brazil in 1994 and 1997 and by Adalberto Val, Dave Randall and Don MacKinlay at the Fish Biology Congress in San Francisco in 1996. These venues have provided a forum for our rudimentary, but expanding, knowledge of the mechanistic biology of tropical fishes. We hope that attendees leave the current symposium with an appreciation of the magnitude of interesting biology yet to be discovered in the fishes of the tropics and with a sense of urgency both for studying tropical fishes and for preserving their habitats. The generous support of this symposium by the National Aquarium in Baltimore is gratefully acknowledged.

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CONGRESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Don MacKinlay
Congress Chair

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