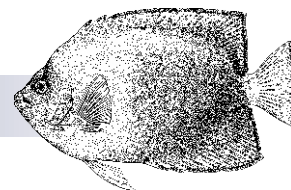
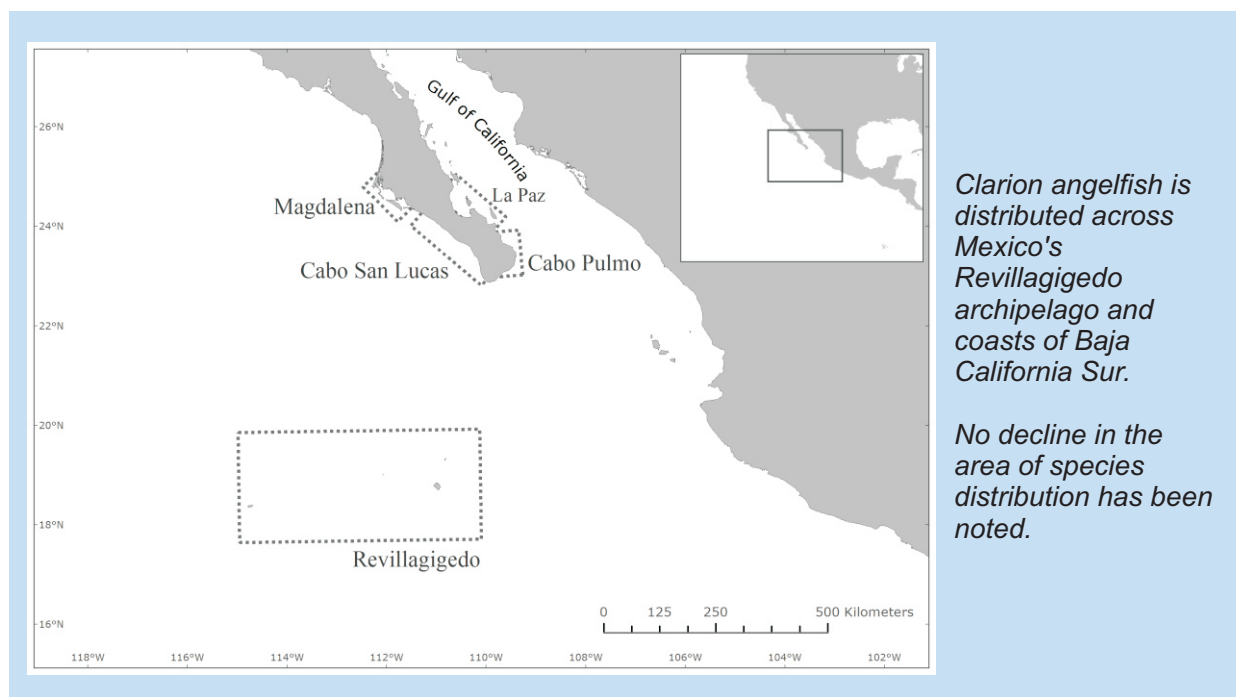




Clarion angelfish *Holacanthus clarionensis*



Does Not Meet CITES Listing Criteria



Scientific assessment in accordance with CITES biological listing criteria

The Clarion angelfish, *Holacanthus clarionensis* is a medium productivity fish that is endemic to Mexico's Revillagigedo archipelago. Small numbers of the species also found along the coasts of Baja California Sur.

The Proposal references an article to show that fishing in the Revillagigedo archipelago depleted Clarion angelfish populations in the 1990's. The Panel noted that the author of the initial article refuted the inference, stating this was a localised decline following a period of fishing. In reviewing

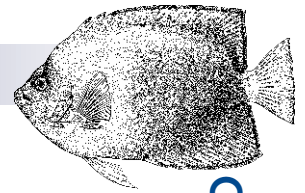
the Proposal, the Panel also noted discrepancies in the estimation of Clarion angelfish population that was based on fish counts and measures of suitable habitat, and questioned the methods used for field observations as juveniles and adults of the species are typically difficult to enumerate simultaneously, using the same survey methodology.

In the Proposal, the authors report a 260 percent *increase* in the population of Clarion angelfish at Revillagigedo archipelago between 2010

and 2013, where 82–99 percent of the species is found. Other data in the Proposal gives no evidence of any decline in the size of the population anywhere within the Clarion angelfish's known range, albeit the populations in Baja California Sur show signs of strong fluctuation in population densities through the year and between years.

In summary the Proposal fails to demonstrate that Clarion angelfish meets the criteria for listing in CITES Appendix II, as no decline in the overall population was demonstrated.

Clarion angelfish *Holacanthus clarionensis*



Comments on technical aspects in relation to management, trade and implementation

Management

Harvest of Clarion angelfish is prohibited in Mexico, and the Panel noted that the species is largely found

within designated 'no take' MPA's where commercial fishing is prohibited; the Revillagigedo Archipelago

Biosphere Reserve and Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park natural protected areas.

Trade

Trade in wild specimens of Clarion angelfish from Mexico was active between 2008–2015 (authorized between 2007 and 2015), with a total of 2 751 individual specimens exported. Collectors and traders involved in this trade

claim that to their knowledge there has been no other collection, legal or illegal, since 2015.

Today there is no known export from Mexico, and no recent evidence of illegal trade.

In addition, captive bred specimens from Indonesia now adequately supply the total demand of the international aquarium market.

LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION

Clarion angelfish has a distribution restricted largely to the Revillagigedo archipelago and the coasts of Baja California Sur. In these locations this medium productivity fish is predominantly found within designated MPA's and no collection or export has been registered or reported since 2015.

No decline in the population size of Clarion angelfish has been documented.

The Proposal notes that the abundance in the Revillagigedo archipelago,

where most fish are found is increasing, while captive breeding is able to supply the total demand of the international market.

There is no indication that illegal harvest is a major threat to the species, or that the data presented in the Proposal could in any way qualify the species for CITES Appendix II listing, nor that management needs support from a CITES listing.

If trade or illegal trade was an issue in the future and Clarion angelfish were listed

under CITES Appendix II, it would provide a control to ensure that products entering international trade were derived from legal and sustainable sources. It is noted that if properly implemented, a CITES Appendix II listing would be expected to result in better monitoring and reporting of any future wild caught Clarion angelfish entering international trade, and that this could provide data to enhance assessments of the status of Clarion angelfish stocks.