

## IMPORT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORNAMENTAL FISH

On the 11th May 2007 the GM Inspectorate and the Fish Health Inspectorate issued a notice alerting importers and retailers of tropical fish that genetically modified zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) were illegally available for sale in the UK. All importers and retailers were informed that they must not release or market fish meeting the description of 'coral pink danio' or anything sounding similar, e.g. red danio, or any other recently available coloured or fluorescent danio varieties, unless they were certain that these fish were not genetically modified.

This notice is to inform all importers and retailers that genetically modified zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) have again recently been imported and illegally offered for sale in England. These fish were described as 'yellow red zebra danios'.

All importers and retailers are reminded that it is an offence for any person to release or market any genetically modified (GM) organisms within Great Britain without the consent of the Secretary of State, the Welsh Assembly Government or the Scottish Executive, as provided by Section 111 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990. There are currently no GM fish authorised for release or marketing in Europe or Great Britain, consequently anyone who knowingly releases or markets such fish is committing an offence under this legislation.

'Marketing' includes making GM fish available to other persons, whether or not for payment, so once imported it will be an offence to make available GM fish to anyone else. Monitoring activities are in place and any fish suspected to be genetically modified may be seized. Anyone appearing to breach these requirements may be prosecuted.

Genetic modifications that make danios glow red, green, blue, cyan and yellow are known. These make the fish appear very brightly coloured even under ordinary light. Further information and pictures of genetically modified zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) can be found on the GM Inspectorate website at <http://www.gm-inspectorate.gov.uk/gmfish/> and <http://www.glofish.com/>.

Anyone who believes they have taken possession of genetically modified fish, or who requires further information, or who is able to furnish additional information on the availability of coloured danios should contact either:

The GM Inspectorate at the Food and Environment Research Agency on 01904 462223, or email [gm-inspectorate@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gm-inspectorate@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

Or the Fish Health Inspectorate at Cefas Weymouth on 01305 206700, or email [fhi@cefas.co.uk](mailto:fhi@cefas.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hugo  
Head of GM Inspectorate  
19th August 2010