Chapter 40

Collecting and shipping live coral: Techniques, tips and headaches

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Abstract
With the advent of modern air travel and an increase in flight connections to remote tropical locations, the transport of live coral across the world is now a commonplace event. However, there are still hurdles to overcome and not every type of coral responds equally to the stress of shipping. This paper will cover some of the most common methods used today to transport live coral fragments, both hard and soft, via boat, truck or air. Topics will include collection and handling concerns, pre-shipment preparation, packing techniques and acclimation. In addition, the importance of proper collecting protocols and acquiring the necessary permits also are discussed.