

Intro

Name : Michael Köck

Age: 45

Homeland: Austria

Education: Study of Zoology

Profession: Curator in the
„Haus des Meeres“

Aquaristic interests: Goodeids, Poeciliids

Goodeids since: 1998

Founder of the Goodeid Working Group



GWG - The oneliner:

The GWG is an **international working group**, focusing on breeding and conservation of **Goodeids** as well as spreading information about this group of fish.

Topic of this speech:

From a need to a structure:

The Goodeid Working Group in
Europe – origin, organisation, goals
and progress

Focus of the speech

- Need of Goodeid conservation
- Goodeids in Europe
- How it all began: Dawn and birth of the Goodeid Working Group
- Goals and progress

Is there a need for an
international working group to
conserve Goodeids?



The situation of Goodeids in the wild



That goes along with:

- **pollution** by industry (wastewater) and people (garbage)
- an **increased consumption of water** for agriculture and fast-growing cities
- **contamination** with fertilizers and pesticides
- **deforestation, habitat destruction**,...
- **exotic fish** (ornamental, food)

Development of threat



Hieronimus, 1995

Allodontichthys polylepis: not very rare

Allotoca dugesii: common

Neotoca bilineata: stock safe on long term

Xenoophorus captivus: stock safe on long term

At least 22 species „not very rare or common“

Lyons, 2011

Allodontichthys polylepis: EW? No records since 2000

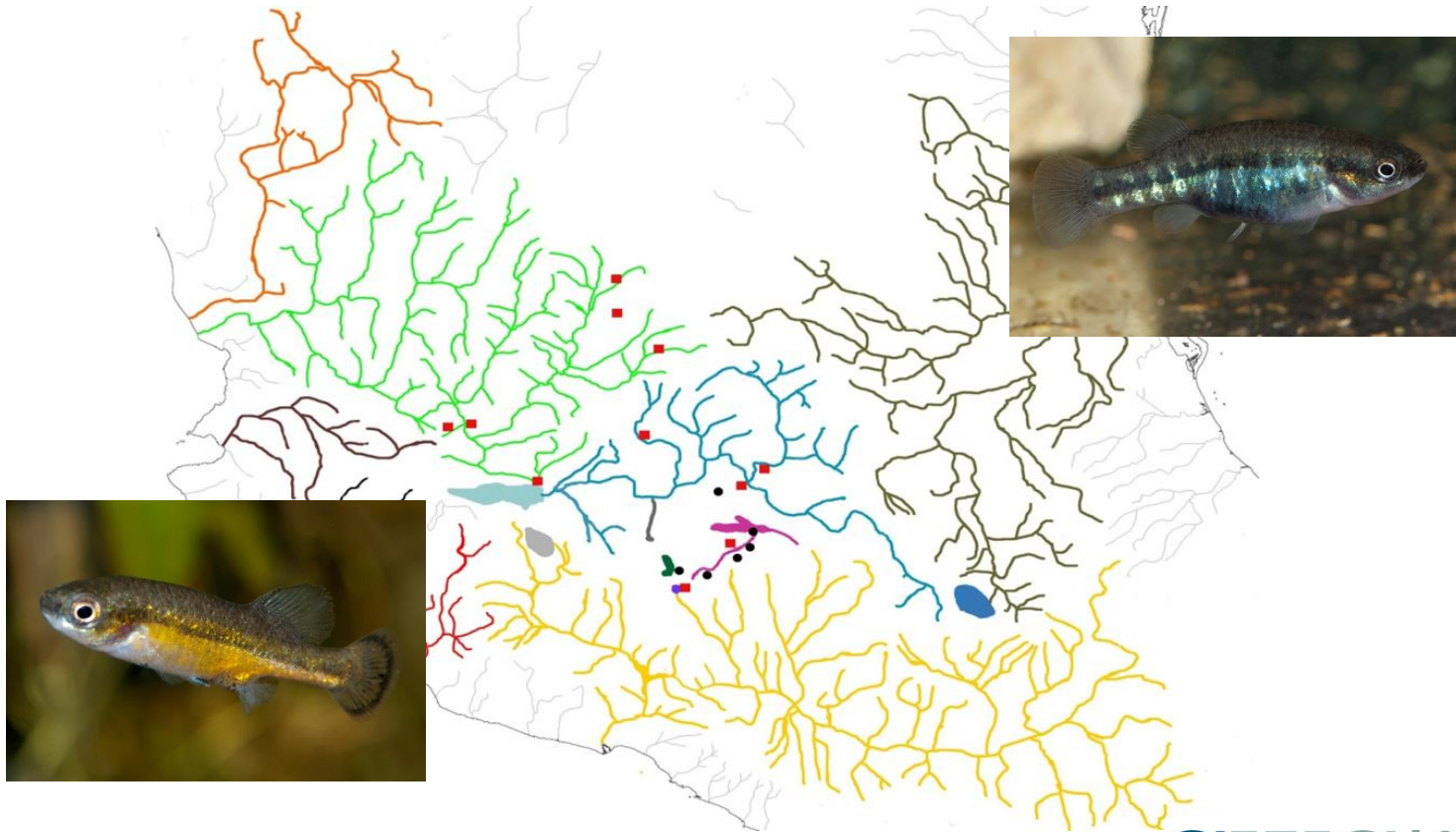
Allotoca dugesii: Endangered, declining

Neotoca bilineata: Critically endangered, declining

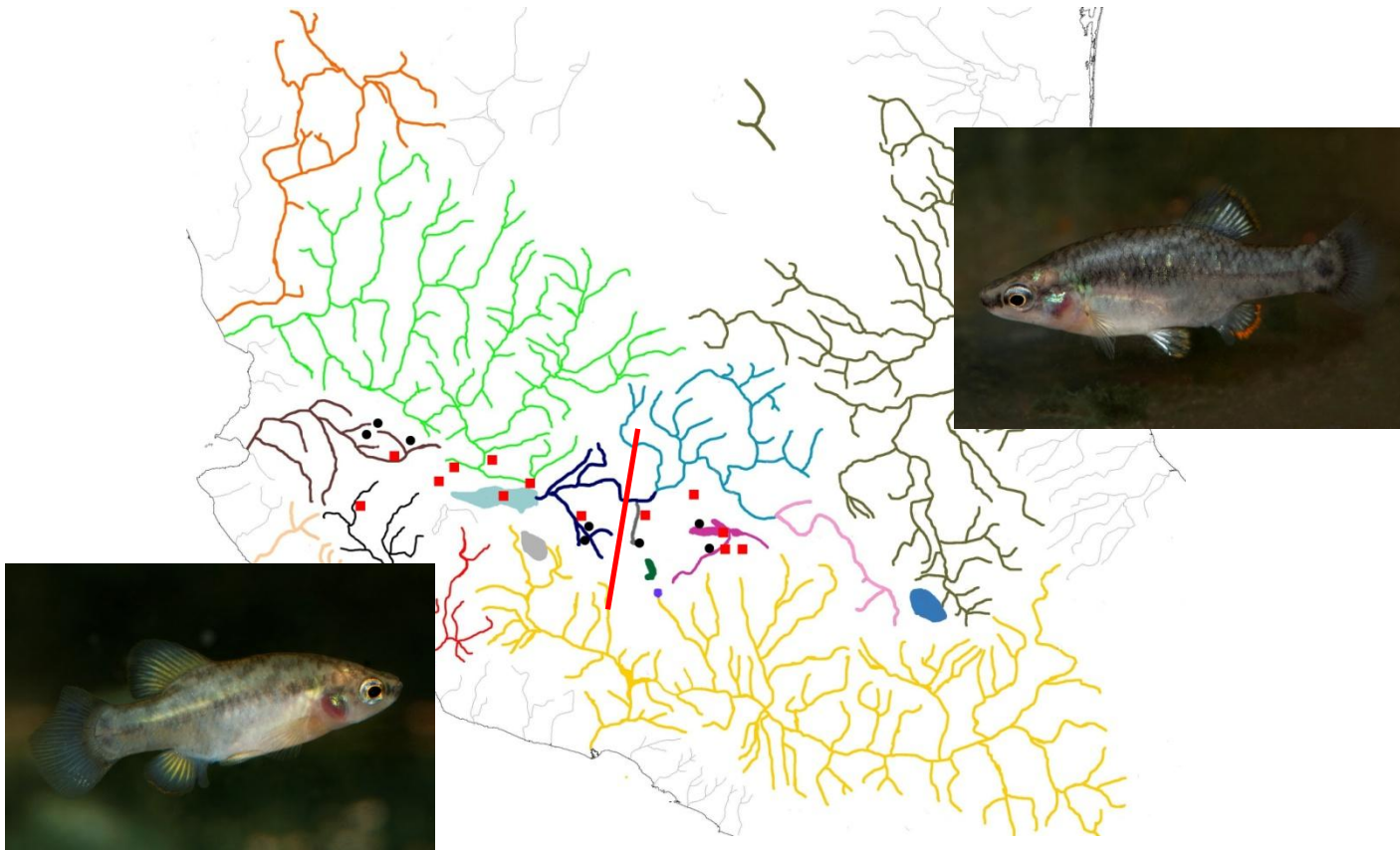
Xenoophorus captivus: Critically endangered, declining

28 species at least endangered

Allotoca dugesii



Zoogoneticus



In most species, we have...

- (very) few habitats
- declining numbers (up to 70% over the last 10 – 25 years)
- many threats by different reasons
- no existing conservation program



SMALL FISH

Goodeids in Europe



Pioneers before WW II



Girardinichthys viviparus (1926, Lafrentz)
Neotoca bilineata (1935)
Goodea atripinnis (1937, Mayer)
maybe *Skiffia multipunctata* (1939, Waitze)

1970's – 1990's



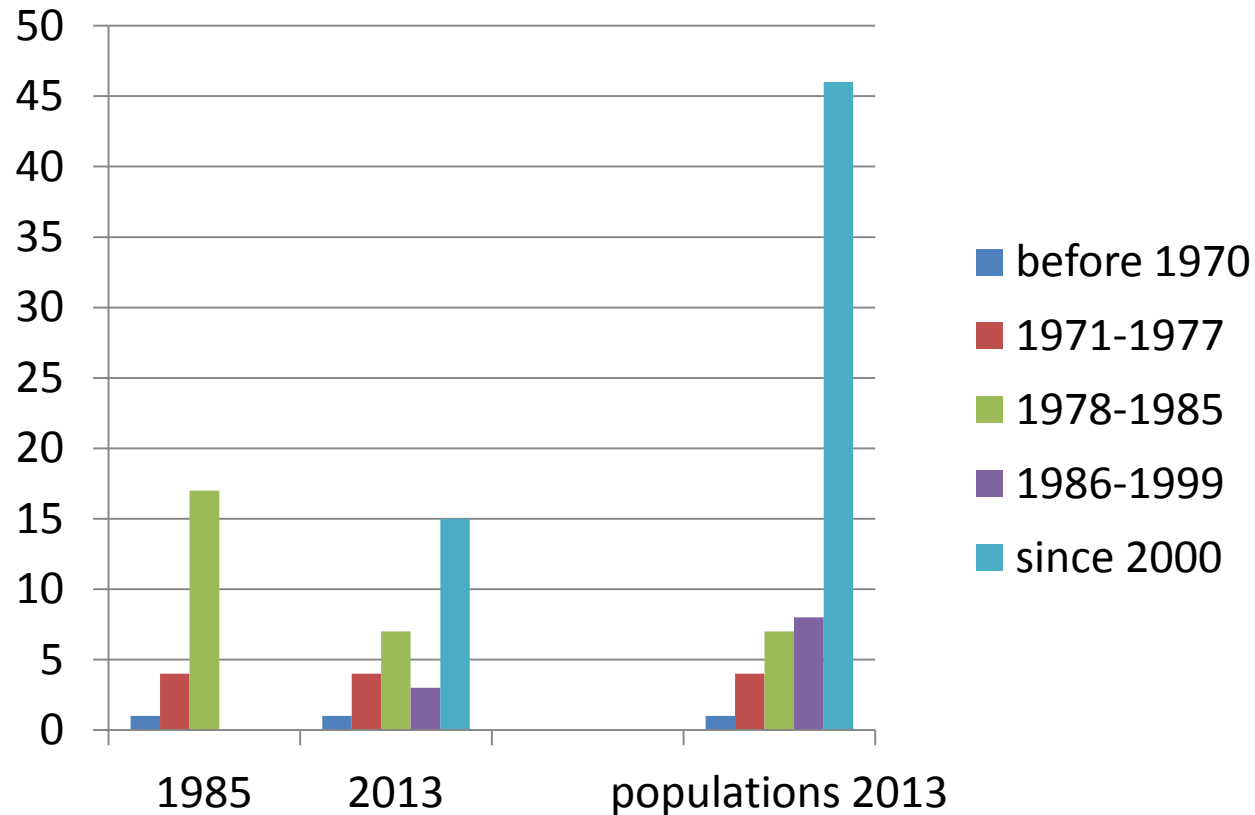
Imports from the USA (Dibble)
from the 1970's to 1980's
Sampling trips by Radda, Daul,
Georg, Hinz et al by the end of
1970's and during 1980's

This millenium



Scandinavians (Grum-Schwensen, Quist)
Germans (Teichmann, Mück), French
(Grioche), Dutch (de Jong, de Moree)
British (Lambert, Mc Allister), Czechs and
Slovakians (Murko, Slaboch)

What happened to the fish?



Hard facts:

- From 1985 to 2000, Europeans had lost to 50% of the species!
- Only 1/3 of the populations is older than about 15 years, 1/5 older than 30!
- About 30 populations collected in the 1980's and 1990's disappeared within 15 years!

How it all began...



Dawn of the GWG

Xenotoca italiana non parlano
danese!



Allotoca sind Futter, keine Freunde!



Imaš *Ataeniobius*?



The situation in Europe in 2008

- Distinctive regionality (languages)
- Few long-term breeders, few „consumers“
- Little information about the threat in the wild
- No European database of species

The first ideas...

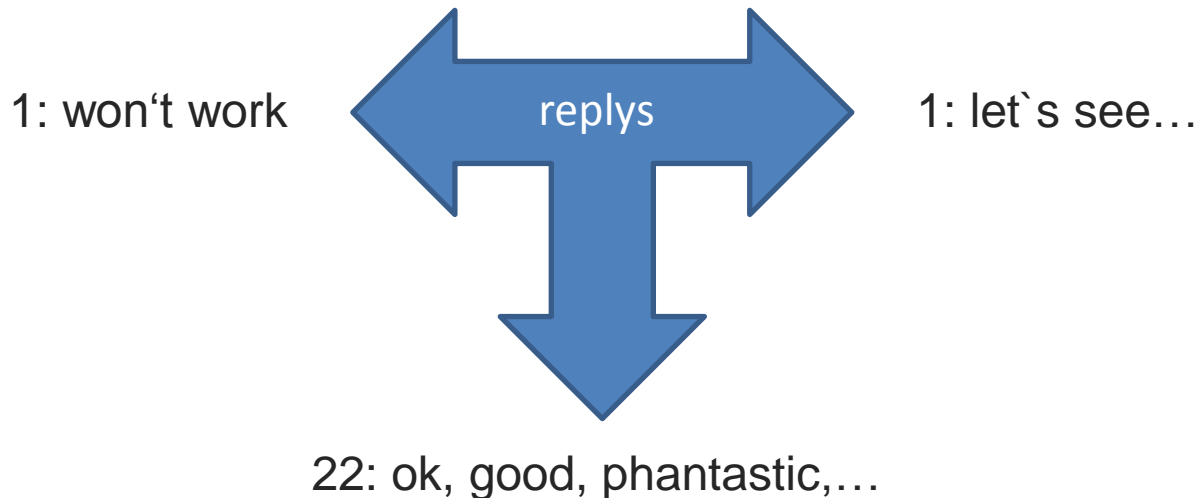
- An international group of volunteers, forming a network of privates, zoos and institutes interested in preserving Goodeids from extinction, should be established.
- A species database should be created.

The core-idea...

- One species is monitored by one coordinator with support by a small number of volunteers. These group of people is called core-group.
- Splitting the responsibility should reduce the time exposure of each member to a minimum.

The start of the talks in 2008

24 specialists have been asked about their opinion



GWG - the birth



The Goodeid Working Group has been founded on May, 1st 2009 in Stoholm, Denmark.

Colin Grist, Chester Zoo, UK

Brian Zimmerman, London Zoo, UK

Michael Köck, Haus des Meeres, A

Thue Grum-Schwensen, Poecilia
Scandinavia

Kees de Jong, Poecilia Nederland

The first 6 months

Difficult, but by approaching people directly, it speeded up

Decision for an [annual meeting](#)

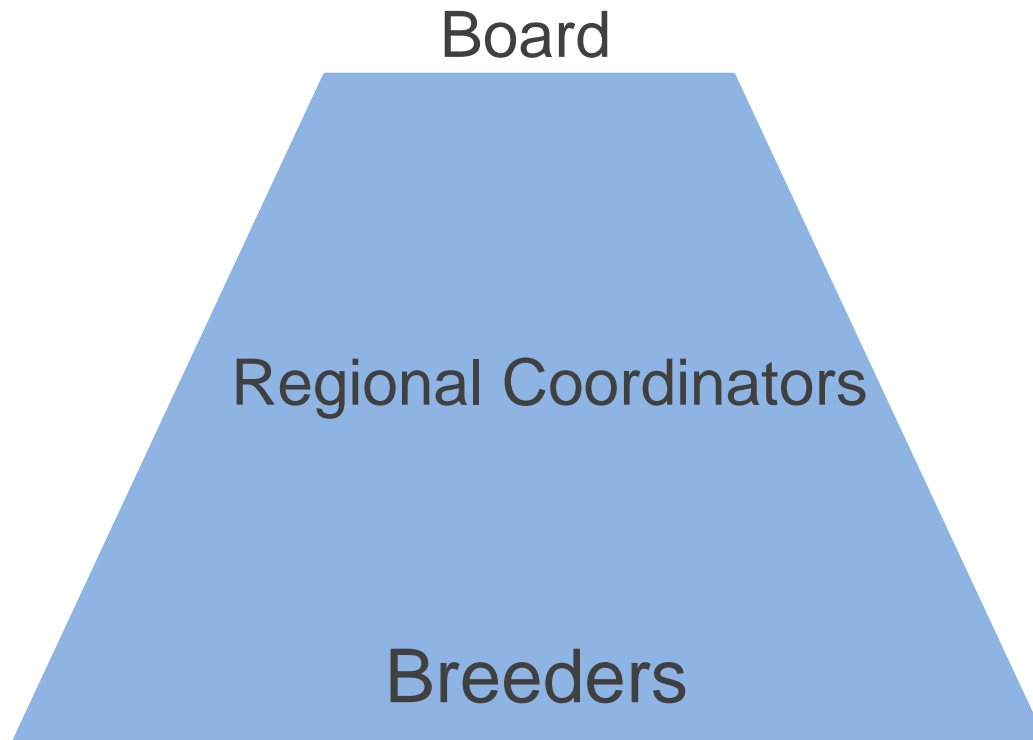
Decision for an own [Website](#)

Organisation changed

RG's, **Regional Groups** became established instead of core-groups.

Later by wishing to include more key-persons, establishing of a **board**.

Organisation 2012



European RG's



Regional groups are coloured dark blue.

Goals and progress



The primary goal

The primary goal of the Goodeid Working Group is a **collaboration** between hobbyists, universities, public aquaria, zoos, museums and conservation projects in order to **maintain aquarium populations** of Goodeids while assisting in preservation of remaining natural habitats.

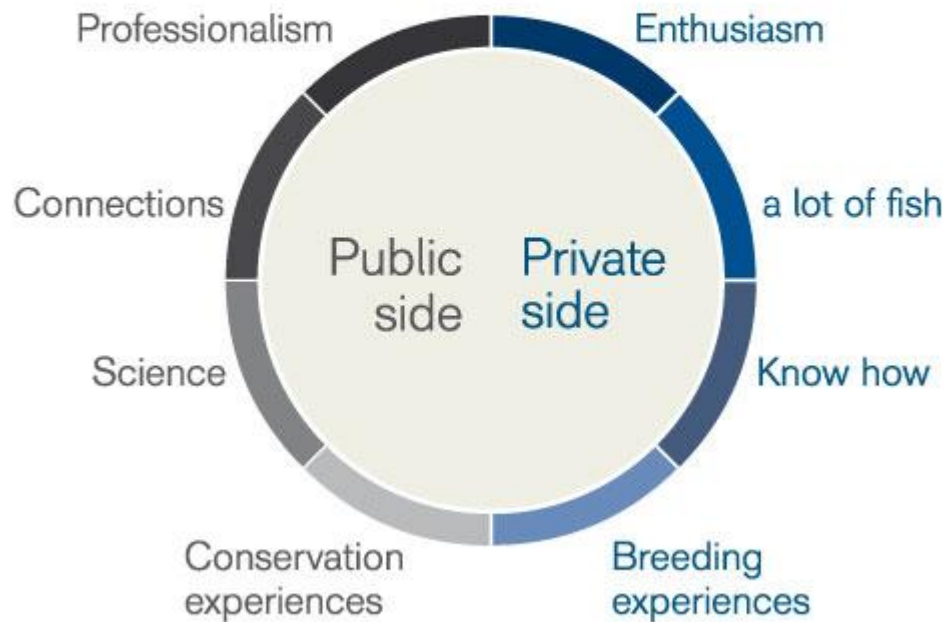
Head and tail of the fish

Public side Private side



Zoos Hobbyists
Aquaria
Museum
Universities

What both sides put into balance



Some cornerstones of the GWG

- Run on a 100% voluntary basis
- Distributing rare species
- Knowledge via practical experiences
- Creating a comprehensive database
- Support of scientific studies
- Cooperation in conservation work

The 1st Meeting

Barcelona, Spain, November 2010

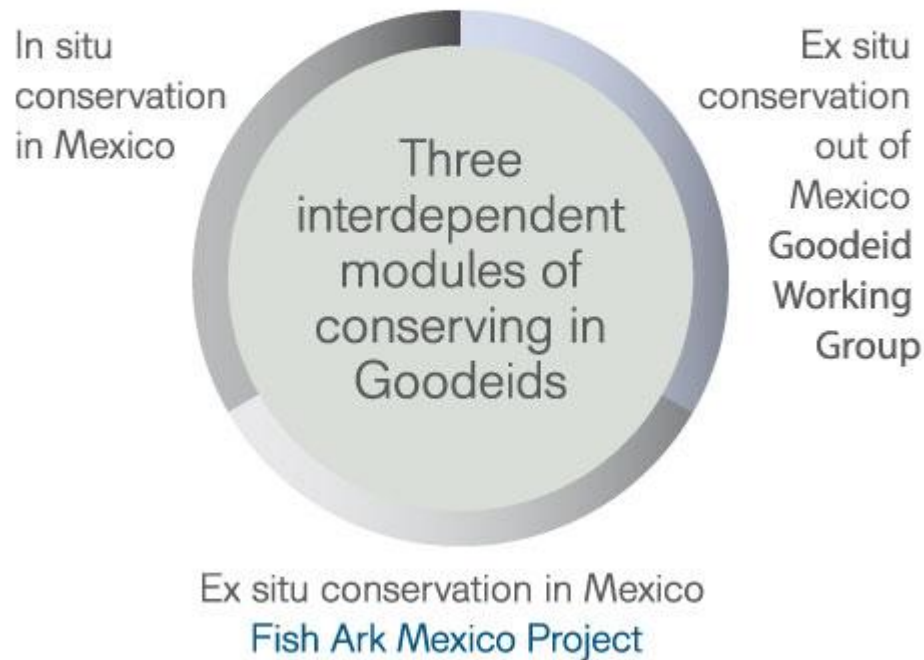
Participants: 17



Results:

- Cooperation Fish Ark – GWG
- Management system (TSR)
- Methods of distribution

Interlinking different modules



2011

- [New Website](#) including photos, detailed information on the species.
- Getting slowly [notice of the bad situation](#) of some species in [captivity](#)

The 2nd Meeting

Pont L'Eveque, France, October 2011

Participants: 25

Results:

- Cooperation with Fish Ark didn't work, therefore own projects:
X-mas for Characodon, Viva tequila
- Decision to speed up with database
- Very big Goodeid exhibition (more than 70 tanks)
- New species in Europe (e.g. A. meeki, H. turneri) via Aqualab

2012

Putting **effort in database**

Dietmar Kunath, Berlin, collected 1.200 publications for **literature database**

We achieved a **worldwide population-list**

Downer: **projects had no bite**

The 3rd Meeting

Vienna, Austria, September 2012

Participants: 33



Results:

- Participation of the Mexican ambassador
- First talks about 2 chapters
- Discussing a new way with Fish Ark
- Bringing in discussion a meeting 2015 in Mexico

Concerning fish...



Allotoca meeki:
50 specimen went to
5 new breeders



Allotoca catarinae:
40 specimen went to
5 new breeders



Allotoca zacapuensis:
30 specimen went to
3 new breeders



New species came to
Europe, e.g.:
Neoophorus regalis

What will come 2013?

- Database
- NA-GWG and E-GWG
- New start of Fish Ark through the GWG
- 4th Meeting in Asperen, Netherlands in September
- A sister group (CWG) for cyprinodontids
- Transport axis USA-Europe (hopefully)

Thank you very much

