

Don't Release Me

Erin Spencer & Lad Akins
Ft Lauderdale, Florida
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Nearly **150 million exotic fishes** comprising 2,000 different species are imported into the United States annually for the aquarium trade.



Source: USGS

Currently, at least **185 different species** of exotic fish have been caught in US waters, with 75 known to have breeding populations

Over half of the introductions are from people releasing aquarium fish into the wild



Source: USGS



Mission

To **prevent the release** of non native pets
and subsequent ecological and economic
damages by promoting responsible pet
ownership



Goals

- * To **enable** owners to make wise choices in dealing with pets they are no longer able or willing to care for
- * To **educate** the general public in the severity of seemingly innocuous pet release behavior
- * To **join together** with other like-minded organizations to promote invasive species issues and pet release problems and solutions





Sponsors

**chemi-
pure**
www.chemi-pure.com



Orlando, FL
Reef  Palooza



www.dontrelease.me.org



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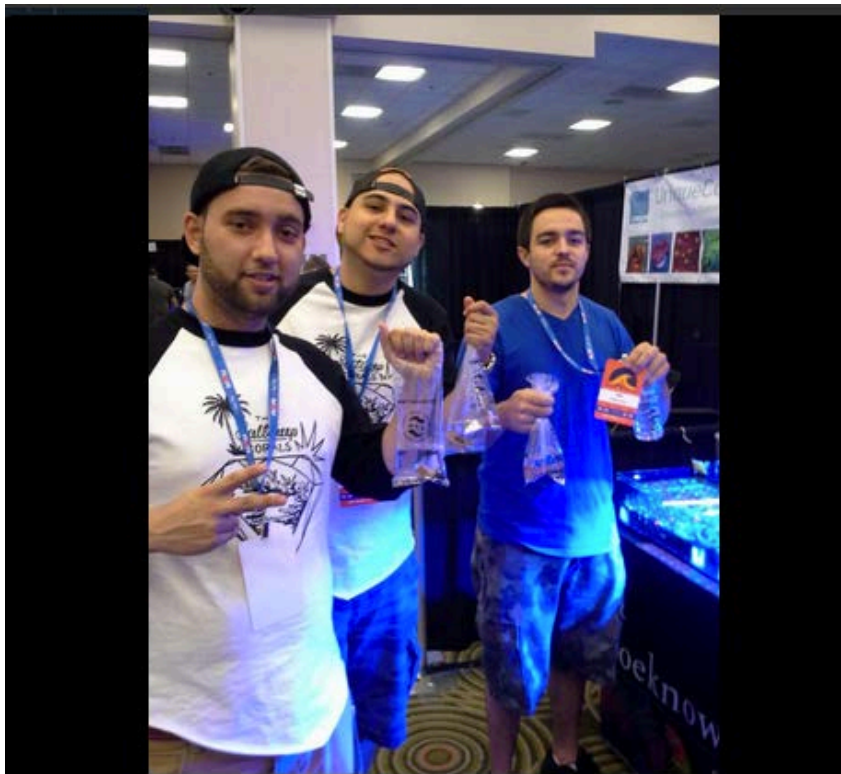
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Social Outreach



Don't Release Me @DontReleaseMe · Apr 12

Hey @ReefAPaloozaFL, have you picked up your #DontReleaseMe bags yet?



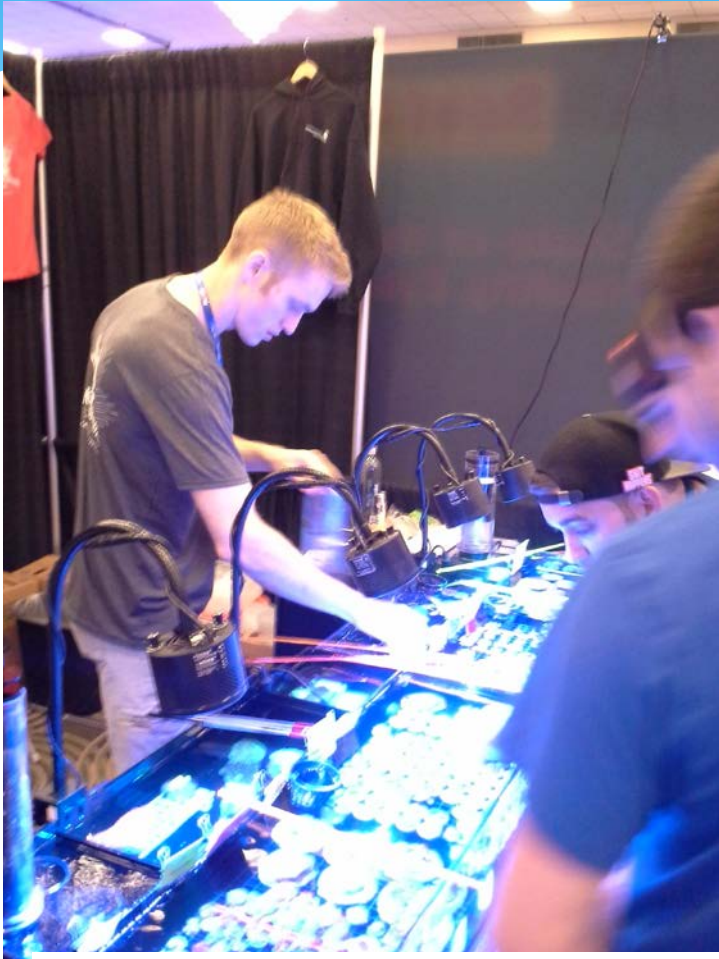
Don't Release Me

April 15 at 7:47pm · 🌐

Want to get involved with Don't Release Me? Check out our website to learn more!



Trial Run



Reef  Palooza

Orlando, FL

Future Initiatives:

- * Continue distribution of DRM bags
- * Consult with and confirm partnerships
- * Create pledge program with pet stores
- * Strengthen social media presence
- * Prepare for official launch at MACNA in September



Contact Us

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Thank you

