

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)



Proudly brought to you by

Lewis Philips signature books

[Email](#)

Recommended Resources

- [Web Site Hosting Service](#)
- [Internet Marketing](#)
- [Affiliate Program](#)

Please Read This **First**

Terms of Use

No alteration by anyone to the appearance, format or content of this ebook as supplied by eBookwholesaler is allowed. This electronic book is Copyright © 2014 eBookwholesaler. All rights are reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright holder(s).

You must not distribute any part of this ebook in any way.

eBookwholesaler Members are the sole distributors and must abide by the [eBookwholesaler page for Terms of Use](#). No-one may offer or distribute this book through eBay or any type of auction. This book is published by eBookwholesaler and no-one else may claim to be the publisher.

Disclaimer

The advice contained in this material might be suitable for everyone. The author got information from sources believed to be reliable and from personal experience, but does not imply nor offer any guarantee of accuracy.

The author, publisher and distributors never give legal, accounting, medical or any other type of professional advice. The reader must always seek those services from competent professionals that can review their own particular circumstances.

The author, publisher and distributors particularly disclaim any liability, loss, or risk taken by individuals who act on the information here. All readers must accept full responsibility for their use of this material.

All pictures used in this book are for illustration only. No link or endorsement between the people pictured and the book, author or publisher is implied and should not be assumed. All pictures must not be used for anything else without the rights holder's prior written permission.

Images © 2014 Jupiterimages Corporation, a Getty Images company.

Contents

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST	2
<i>Terms of Use</i>	2
<i>Disclaimer</i>	2
CONTENTS	3
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	5
INTRODUCTION	6
SELECTING A SALT WATER TANK?	7
<i>Should You Start with a Small Tank?</i>	7
<i>What Type of Tank</i>	8
LOCATION OF YOUR TANK.....	8
<i>Space</i>	8
<i>Water</i>	8
<i>What Shape Should Your Tank Be?</i>	9
<i>Designer Shaped Tanks</i>	9
<i>The Tank Stand</i>	9
SET UP A QUARANTINE TANK.....	10
HOW TO ACCLIMATIZE A FISH.....	11
<i>Sick Fish Acclimatization</i>	11
<i>New Fish Acclimatization</i>	11
<i>Introducing Other Livestock</i>	13
SYMPTOMS AND FALSE ALARMS	15
<i>Symptoms which are worth checking with any fish</i>	15
<i>Specific advice for certain species</i>	15
TESTING	17
<i>Why test our salt water for its pH?</i>	17
FEEDING YOUR FISH.....	18
<i>Dry Foods</i>	18
<i>Frozen Foods</i>	18
<i>Algae Sheets</i>	19
<i>Live Food</i>	20
<i>Freeze-dried Foods</i>	20
WARNINGS.....	21

BEST FISH FOR NEW OWNERS 23

Fairy Basslet 23

Betta 23

Raccoon Butterfly Fish 24

Clownfish 24

Chromis 25

Damselfish 25

One Spot FoxFace Rabbitfish 25

FISH FOES AND FRIENDS 27

FILTERS 28

Mechanical filters 28

SMALL SUCCESS TIPS 29

DEALERS AND CLUBS 30

RESOURCES 31

CLUBS 31

International 31

Canada 31

U.S.A. 31

Australia 32

United Kingdom 32

WELCOME TO THE SALT WATER AQUARIUM WORLD 33

About the Author

Ben Grant has been a fish hobbyist from time to time since his parents gave him a goldfish in a bowl at a fairly early age.

Ben said, "My friends had dogs and cats but we had very limited space and the fish was great fun."

"I've enjoyed my experience with the fish and other creatures. It's a great hobby and the people I've met through this have been very interesting and helpful."

Ben said that there are many ways to enjoy this great hobby and it does cost a bit to get started and maintain everything. The information I share will help you to budget for the things you need and avoid spending money on what you really don't!

"On the other hand, the aquarium owner needs to put time and some effort into maintaining everything."

"But, the effort is repaid many times over when you have your own water world in your home."

"I've focused this book on people that are just starting with this wonderful hobby. It will give them the basic information they need to know."

"I hope that it will help to save them many times the cost of the book by avoiding problems in the set-up and operation of their first one or two tanks."

"There's no secret way to have everything in place overnight. But, I can guarantee that they will enjoy every day they have a salt water aquarium of their own."

"And it's great to be able to share this interest with your family and friends."

"Doctors often recommend watching fish and other aquatic creatures for relaxation."

"Your Salt Water Aquarium" will smooth your progress and increase your enjoyment."

Introduction

I want to help you set up your first salt water aquarium.

I've set it out to be understandable even if you have never had a fish tank of any sort before.

All successful aquarium owners have gone this route, a step at a time.

A good salt water set-up will always be more expensive and require more maintenance than a good fresh water set-up.

Either will give you much enjoyment.

I will help you as much as I can but no-one can guarantee your results because of the delicate nature of the creatures we have in our care and the wide variety of factors which can affect the outcomes.

So, patience is essential if you want to succeed with a salt water aquarium. It will have some disappointments but I will help you to ensure that you will have more high points than low and you will build a tank which will be a feature of your home and enjoyable to watch and care for.

This book cannot give you all the answers to every readers' questions. There are so many aspects to the hobby, but we will get you started and help you become confident about your future with your fish.

Selecting a Salt water Tank?

Before you look at any tanks, you need to work out where is the best location for a tank in your home.

It must be where your family and guests will be able to be comfortable while watching the aquarium's inhabitants and where the fish and other creatures will be able to go about their lives comfortably co-existing with whatever other activities happen in that area.

The location of your tank is worth taking time over because it will be a major undertaking if you ever have to disassemble everything, then safely transport the fish and equipment to another area and set it all up again.

When you decide the location, you will be able to work out the size of tank which you can install there.

Make sure that you take account of the equipment, including filters, light, hood and other pieces which may be installed on the back or the top of your tank.

Should You Start with a Small Tank?

I recommend that you buy the largest tank which you can afford. Some new aquarium owners think it wise to buy a smaller tank to keep costs down, partly because they might give up on the idea later on.

But, most intend to be long-term owners or they would not make the initial investment.

But, they feel it's better to get a smaller tank and then get a larger one when they have some experience.

That would be one way to go if you have enough space that you could use the smaller tank later on as a hospital tank.

If you don't have the space, you would probably have to find a buyer for it and write off the cost as a learning expense.

A 50 gallon tank is considered a good size but some people have smaller tanks and get great enjoyment and satisfaction from using them.

I would not put a salt water set-up into a tank of less than 20 gallons capacity because I don't think it would suit the needs of most of the fish.

What Type of Tank

Glass and acrylic are the most popular materials at his time.

They both have qualities and potential drawbacks.

Glass is fairly scratch resistant. It is heavier and more likely to break.

Tempered glass is stronger but most people cannot drill it if they want to fit a filtration system's pipes or other equipment through the glass.

Acrylic is stronger and does not crack or break as easily. But, the surface is easily scratched which will spoil the appearance and resale value of the tank as well as making viewing the inhabitants less enjoyable.

Location of Your Tank

The selected area must be well-ventilated and not subject to high temperatures.

Avoid areas where variable natural light affects the tank.

Use artificial light so that you have full control of light conditions. You need to be able to set it to keep your fish and other creatures comfortable.

Space

Space around the tank is a major consideration. You don't just need the space for the stand and the tank. More space is needed for the electronic equipment and storage of gear and supplies.

Many stands are hollow with shelves for the supplies and space for some equipment.

You need to allow enough space around the tank area so you can get past without difficulty or causing any disturbance to the creatures in the tank.

Water

You might use actual sea water which is your best choice. You will have to treat any other water to remove chemicals and other substances to ensure it will support and not kill the fish and other occupants.

What Shape Should Your Tank Be?

Each dimension of the tank you choose or decide to have made is important for you and the livestock.

The width is critical to the health of the fish because they need it wide enough to be able to get reasonable exercise swimming from side to side.

The depth (front to back) controls the amount and placement of your live rock or other adornments.

If you want to use live rock for the health of your fish, but your tank has little depth, you will have to stack up the live rock.

That will mean it could fall at some stage and hurt the fish. Also your smaller livestock would not be able to find hiding places in or between the pieces of live rock.

Designer Shaped Tanks

Many tanks available today are shaped differently to the traditional oblong design.

These may intrigue you but always keep in mind the comfort of your fish and also how the shape might affect your interaction with them.

Check that whatever design you choose will give sufficient room for the fish you want to get to set up territorial areas, have places to hide and enough space to swim about.

A tank with a non-standard design may also be more difficult to clean and there may be areas where waste collects without you being aware of it.

The suppliers of some tanks will make a tank to your design. That could be useful if you need to fit your tank into a non-standard shaped area.

The Tank Stand

The stand for your tank needs to be strong enough to support the weight of the full tank and hold it at a height which gives you and your friends a good viewing platform.

A large tank can put a lot of weight on your floor. They are usually placed near a load-bearing wall for safety reasons.

Set Up a Quarantine Tank

As you get deeper into this engrossing hobby, you will want to set up a smaller tank for use as a quarantine area when you have a fish that appears unwell, so that there is less risk of any problem it has affecting your other fish.

Some such problem is almost inevitable. If you have the forethought to set this up and study the signs of the most common problems for the species which you keep, you will be able to reduce the mortality among them and also have less stress, expense and strain yourself.

The tank will need to just be big enough to support the largest type of fish which you have. Usually, one about 15 gallons capacity will be enough, unless you have more than one which is sick at the same time.

If you use the same source materials for the water in the quarantine tank as your main tank, you should have no problem if you quickly but carefully net the patient in your main tank and then gently release it in the quarantine tank.

If you used different materials to set up the quarantine tank, you will need to help the sick fish adjust to the new conditions.

How to Acclimatize a Fish

When you get a new fish or have to move a possibly sick fish to your quarantine tank, and it is used to a different water mixture, it will probably just drop to the bottom of the tank and lay there.

You may think that the fish is dying but it usually just suffering extreme stress.

You need to take time and care to help the fish adjust to the new conditions.

Get a bucket or other container which you know has nothing in it which might contaminate your fish or the water you use for the acclimatization.

Sick Fish Acclimatization

Put some water from the large tank in the container and put it near the quarantine tank, but lower down.

Make sure that it can't move or tip. Get a tube and clamp one end into the water in the quarantine tank. Start a siphon action by gently sucking on the other end of the tube and then clamp the tube to the container with the end in the water with your sick fish.

Make sure that the siphon is very slow, about 5 drips a second. A gang valve in the tube could help you regulate the flow or use the most narrow tube you can find. When the amount of water in the container has doubled, it's time to test it.

If the pH and other readings are very close to those of the water in the quarantine tank and the temperature is nearly the same, you can gently introduce the fish to the new tank.

If not, continue the siphoning until there is 50% more water in the container and then test again.

That is usually enough.

New Fish Acclimatization

The main factors which your fish has to adjust to when introduced to the environment you prepared for it will probably differ in some of these important aspects:

pH: This probably won't differ much from what it's used to but you can't take a chance. And, their pH will have reduced due to the effects of their traveling even if you bought them locally.

If their **salinity level** is near optimum, this will make your transfer a bit easier.

Temperature will probably be different to their ideal level. Take care and time to let them adjust properly.

Don't try to introduce aggressive fish at the same time as you introduce gentler species. Some may not last through the initiation period!

Always treat aggressive fish one at a time and take precautions that it does not take its aggression out on you!

When you get a new fish, you should give it some weeks in your quarantine tank, if you have one.

This lets it adjust to the water in your regular tank but, more importantly, it lets you monitor the fish for any problems without putting your other livestock at serious risk of catching something.

Two or three weeks should be enough time for any hidden problems to cause some symptoms to show on the new fish. Then, depending on the problem, you can treat it in the quarantine tank for a couple of weeks and then transfer it to your main tank if all goes well.

Introducing the fish to the quarantine tank is much the same routine for the sick fish.

Open the bag of water which the fish arrived in and gently place the bag in the bottom of a very clean container (as above).

Put the container near the quarantine tank, but lower down. Make sure that it can't move or tip. Get a tube and clamp one end into the water in the quarantine tank. Start a siphon action by gently sucking on the other end of the tube and then clamp the tube to the container with the end in the water with your new fish.

Make sure that the siphon is very slow, about 5 drips a second. A gang valve in the tube could help you regulate the flow or use the most narrow tube you can find. When the amount of water in the container has

doubled, it's time to test it.

If the pH and other readings are very close to those of the water in the quarantine tank and the temperature is nearly the same, you can gently introduce the fish to the new tank.

If not, continue the siphoning until there is 50% more water in the container and then test again.

That is usually enough.

Introducing Other Livestock

You can also use the same method for checking and introducing other livestock and even corals which you use for your tank.

Any of these other items may also be carriers of pests or diseases which could devastate your livestock, so the investment in your quarantine tank and its extra supplies is like cheap insurance.

Snails and Starfish need gentle introduction to the conditions in your tank.

Use the drip procedure explained for fish but make it very slow and monitor the condition of the livestock.

Inverts and some other species need special care when being acclimatized.

Sponges must not be acclimatized with other livestock because some will release toxins into the water they are being acclimatized in which can seriously affect other creatures.

Sponges must not come into contact with air during the transfer process. If air gets into a sponge, it may cause it to die.

We suggest that you use the drip method, but let the water into the bag with the sponge increased to three times the original amount.

Then, gently but without wasting time, fold the top of the bag over the sponge.

Gently but quickly, remove the bag containing the water and sponge from the container and gently lower it into your temporary tank.

Squeeze the top of the bag closed again and quickly remove it from the

tank and dispose of it.

When you repeat this procedure when you put the sponge into the main tank, any small amount of water with toxin in it which is accidentally released should not be harmful to your other fish but there cannot be any guarantees.

If you think that a significant amount of affected water may have got into the main tank, you should do a complete water change as soon as possible.

Symptoms and False Alarms

Many new owners of an aquarium get stressed because of the unexpected behavior of some of the critters which they introduce to their tank.

With dogs and other pets, you can usually tell from their behavior that they are well or need some checking.

But, the signs you get from some marine creatures can freak you out if you're not used to them and aware of which are red lights.

Symptoms which are worth checking with any fish

Not Feeding: If the fish has been in the tank for a while, you should continue to check because there is likely to be a developing problem.

But, most newly introduced fish will not eat much until they recover from the stress suffered from the move.

Fins kept close to body: As this affects its ability to move through the water, obviously a symptom that something is wrong.

Foreign matter, spots or mucous on skin: Something is affecting the fish, possibly a disease.

Motionless: May be significant but also common behavior for some species listed below.

Rushed gill movements: If fish is moving about, there may be something affecting its gill area. Check closely.

Changes in Coloring: Can be a result of fear or being in poorly lighted area. Otherwise, may be significant.

Specific advice for certain species

Starfish may stay almost stationary for days. If you are unsure about their condition, lift your starfish gently and check. If there are no obvious signs of problems, let it rest.

Corals may seem dormant for a couple of weeks or more when they are introduced to a new home. Give them time to adjust to their surroundings.

Playing Dead: When you put crabs in your tank, they may just remain motionless for a while. If you are worried, gently prod them and they will

move, maybe even nip you.

Fish may seem to hyperventilate when put in a strange environment. It’s called “gilling” and is normal. Some may lie on their side and appear to be dying. They are usually just stressed and most will recover.

Don’t waste time worrying about it.

Testing

To maintain our system and get warning of any developing problems, we need to check our fish and their surroundings every day and also do regular testing of the water.

You start doing this when the tank is set up but there are no fish in it.

You can use fish to provide organic waste to be "cycled" when testing the tank but it will stress the fish and they may die.

Why test our salt water for its pH?

The pH is a measure of the level of acidity or alkalinity in the sample. Salt water fish are best kept in water which has a pH level between 8.0 and 8.4

You will do your first test before you add any fish or other livestock to ensure that you have the right pH level when they arrive.

It is easy to do and does not take a lot of time.

If your later tests show you need to adjust the pH level, you will have to do that more slowly because the livestock could be affected negatively by any attempt to change the pH level too quickly.

Most tests you will do involve either putting a drop of your aquarium water on a test strip and checking the color which appears as a result or putting a supplied strip into a sample of the water and watching to see what color change occurs there.

As well as pH, you will also need to get and use test kits for nitrite, nitrate and ammonium. These will detect substances which might harm your fish.

Feeding Your Fish

There are a wide variety of types of food which you might feed your fish.

There are also a lot of proprietary foods which you might consider.

I will just cover some of the basics.

It is important to research the type of food which may be best for the particular type of fish or other critter which you want to have in your tank before you consider buying it.

The food may not be readily available in your area.

Fish appreciate a variety of appropriate foods and need a healthy diet which includes vitamins from their food or which are added as a supplement.

Dry Foods

Frozen foods are probably more popular because some are closer to the food your fish eat in the sea than the most of the dry foods which are available.

But, some of the dry foods can be used as supplements for frozen or fresh food for variety and to provide any nutrients which are not available in the regular diet which you feed them.

Packaging and processing methods have improved the quality and nutrition of many of these foods but always buy them in small containers to avoid high rates of wastage or possible spoiling.

Only buy small amounts of any food until you are sure that your particular livestock will consume it and get benefit from it.

Frozen Foods

Many frozen foods which we might like are derided as poor quality.

But, the availability of frozen foods is great, because they are convenient to store while some of the live foods could be hard to keep.

As well as offering particular types of food, suppliers also provide mixtures which suit either plant eaters, meat eaters and omnivores which eat both.

Most frozen foods contain algae and various foods which the fish might eat in the sea. Some suppliers add vitamins and some less welcome additives.

Always check what is in the foods you buy. Your best source of advice might be your vet, if you have one, or someone that has the same kind of fish that you do.

Some are available in holders similar to small ice-cube trays, with one day's ration in each compartment.

You will probably have to try at least a few different brands and watch the fish as well as checking the amount of waste before you find which are most popular with your particular group of fish.

Small fish may prefer food which breaks up as it hits the water because they can grab a small piece and dart away from any larger fish that are also feeding there. Larger fish may like some brands where the food is supplied in a binder which hold the lumps together. The larger fish need more food and this may be a better way for them to get it.

If there is still food in the water after five minutes, reduce the amount for the next session.

The exceptions are foods which are designed to be nibbled over time.

Any excess food will contribute, along with the fishes' own waste to bacteria build-up in the tank and potential illness in your livestock.

Your filters and skimmers will remove some but not all of it. Overfeeding is also claimed to stress some species. It also may tempt small fish to stick around that area where larger fish might grab them when the food is finished.

Set up your fish feeding routine which fits your schedule as well as the needs of your fish.

If some of your fish are nocturnal, you will have to be available to feed them at night or set up the tank to simulate night during daylight.

I think it's a good idea to feed your livestock at the same place and the same time each day.

Algae Sheets

This form of fish food is made from seaweed, very tasty for a wide variety of species and also has a high nutritional value.

Just cut a small strip off the sheet each time and clip it to the side of the tank for the fish to nibble at will.

These can be a supplement for the algae in your tank or a replacement if you are still waiting for the amount of algae to build up to where it is readily available for the fish.

Live Food

Live food is the most popular form of food for fish. That includes brine shrimp.

If the amount of brine shrimp you get is more than your livestock can consume in a session, you might set up a small tank and keep them there for later use.

Freeze-dried Foods

Fish food in this form may be a little more expensive but it is popular with most fish.

Warnings

These tips aim to save you from stress and financial loss. Some may also help keep more of your fish and other livestock healthy and happy for longer!

This is Not easy or cheap: Setting up and maintaining a salt water aquarium is a wonderful experience. But, there is no way it can be described as easy or cheap.

Use Seawater: You cannot safely use tap water for your aquarium without first treating it to remove chemicals and other contaminants.

If you have to make a salt water solution, use distilled water in preference to tap water unless you are able to ensure that you can remove all contaminants and not put your fish and other stock at any risk.

Never just add salt to the water – use marine salt mixture from a good aquarium supply shop.

Bad Gas: Don't use aerosols or pressure sprays of any kind in the room where you have your tank(s). Aerosol and some of the other sprays will coat the water so that no oxygen can get in and the bad gasses like carbon dioxide are prevented from escaping into the air.

Your livestock will suffer from that, then become stressed because of it and either try to jump from the tank or just lie down and expire.

If the water is coated, you might try removing just the top couple of inches of water. But, you can't be sure what ingredients or how much of them have gone deeper into the tank. I have seen this happen with someone's goldfish and it's very stressful for all involved. Even if the fish survive, they may have lost some condition due to the stress of the event.

You should replace all the water as soon as possible.

Be frugal with Food: The most common source of sick fish is overfeeding. It's better to give your fish a little less than cause them health problems with too much.

Keep them Clean: The follow-on from that is check daily for any sign of uneaten food or accumulating waste. This is particularly important where you have decorative items or large stones or a reef in your tank which

may obscure your view of rotting material.

Insure your Gear: It’s unlikely you can insure your fish but you should add your tanks and other major items to your household insurance.

Speed Kills: Learn to be patient and you will be able to get much more enjoyment from your aquarium and its inhabitants. If you are impatient, you could cause serious damage to your fish and other stock very easily.

Less is Better: keep your number of fish and other creatures below the recommended stocking level. That extra space will help them to co-exist more happily and for longer. Like people, fish become stressed when crowded and that can be fatal for them!

Allies: Before you introduce a new creature to your tank, check that it is known to get along with ALL the current inhabitants. Even fish of the same species can fight over a territory.

I will give you some suggestions about allies and enemies in a later chapter.

Best Fish for New Owners

Although the fish listed here are usually among the easiest varieties for new aquarium owners to choose their stock from, some owners may still have trouble because of factors which affect every aquarium owner.

That can include:

- Unexpected stress
- Mixing varieties which don't get along
- Putting too many of that variety in the same tank
- Crowding too many creatures in a tank.
- Overfeeding

Some things to consider when you are just starting.

The most important thing is to ***be patient*** or your fish could suffer unnecessary problems.

Quarantine ***all*** new fish before putting them with your current stock.

Fairy Basslet



This fish is also known as the Royal Gramma. It grows to about four inches (9 cm) long.

They are among the most colorful. They can co-exist with other species but are very territorial with other Fairy Basslets. If you want to have more than one in the same tank, you will need a tank big enough for them to have their own territory.

They will eat any small crabs and other invertebrates you keep in the same tank.

They will need Live Rock or other items in the lower section of the tank to hide in. That's because they are preyed on by any carnivorous fish in the tank.

Betta

The Marine Betta is not the only Betta which I would classify as fairly easy

to manage but it has some extra appeal because it is a relatively large fish, about 8 inches (20 cm) long.

So, you will need to have a tank of sufficient size to ensure your Betta is comfortable after it has reached its full size.

They may take time to adapt if you have aggressive fish, even if they are smaller. Once it has settled, it will be an addition requiring minimum care.

Don't put this species in a small sized tank or have smaller fish in its tank. It will snack on them!

Their diet should be pieces of fish, clam, shrimp and large pellets when they achieve a reasonable size.

Raccoon Butterfly Fish



The Butterfly fish are very popular but you should have a tank over 50 gallons to accommodate them when they are eight inches or longer fully grown.

They are considered fairly peaceful but can fight with other Butterfly fish unless the tank is very big and they can establish their own territories.

Feed them frozen or live food.

Don't have small invertebrates in the same tank.

Clownfish

Clownfish were already popular but when variety was featured in the movie, "Finding Nemo", sales jumped and it caused an explosion of interest in other aspects of our hobby and improved sales of many varieties of fish.



one

This species is one of those which is relatively easy to manage.

They are very entertaining to watch.

Because they use an anemone for protection in the sea, some hobbyists think that they must provide one if they want clownfish in their tank. But, they can be very happy if their other needs are met and many people even breed them without having an anemone for them to hide in.

Breeding was considered difficult but more aquarium owners are do it successfully every year.

The greater availability of tank-bred clownfish is good news. They will have less problems than if you get wild-caught fish for your tank.

Chromis



These are a bright-colored fish which prefers to be part of a group of 6 or more. Will get along with each other after sorting out their own hierarchy but will attack other fish.

They are not over-aggressive. The courtship of the Chromis is great to watch if you have a pair and the right conditions.

Both the blue and green varieties can co-exist well with other small species of fish.

A single Chromis will not thrive.

They live on zooplankton in the sea. Flake foods with added vitamins are good as well as some frozen and live food for variety and more nutrition.

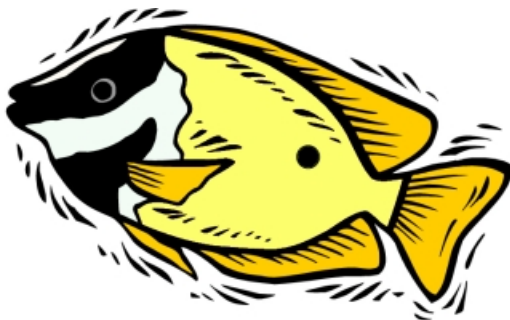
Damselfish

The Blue Damselfish is among the most popular because it is very hardy and widely available.

They grow to about two and a half inches (6.25 cm) but are aggressive and territorial even against larger fish.

They appreciate the presence of enough Live Rock to provide hiding places for them.

One Spot FoxFace Rabbitfish



This fish is similar to the common FoxFace Rabbitfish, but can be identified by the prominent black spot on its back.

The spines on the back, or dorsal, fin should be avoided as it is

dangerous!

If you need to remove the fish from the quarantine tank after its time there before you put it with your main tank or at any other time needs to be managed carefully. You don't want anyone to get stuck by the spines and they can also get caught in the net you use. This is a time when you probably should have someone with you in case of a problem.

Their primary food is marine algae but give them flake and live food regularly for variety.

They will also enjoy grazing on the colonies which build up on your Live Rock.

Fish Foes and Friends

Just as it is important to get healthy fish, you need to ensure that the different varieties which you want to share the same tank will not cause trouble for any of the other inhabitants.

Most fish establish territories so even keeping fish of their own species in the same tank may cause injuries or worse.

I will list some types here which are considered safe to have but there may be some circumstances where fish act against their usual behavior pattern just like people do in unusual or stressful circumstances.

Clown fish cannot be kept with any predator species. Only keep one type of Clown fish in a tank at one time.

The sea anemones which are commonly their hosts are not recommended for inexperienced aquarium owners but they do not need any anemones in a tank with them.

You need to check whether the fish is a carnivore (most will eat any other fish which are not as big or strong unless they have poison to protect themselves or hide well), herbivore or omnivore (eats a bit of everything).

Many fish set up territories and will fight others of their species to defend their patch.

They may not kill each other but the constant battles where the tank is too small for them to stay apart will mean they become stressed and will not thrive.

Filters

With our aquariums, we try to represent the sort of environment which our fish would be in at sea.

But, we have to compromise because of the aquarium's limitations.

We also have to try to keep our fish and other creatures healthy despite those same limitations.

We usually only fed the fish once or, at most, twice a day.

Also, it is important to give them only as much as they are likely to eat in a few minutes. Because the water is moving, some of the food will not be consumed and will join the fishes' own waste on the rock and the floor of the aquarium where it will start to decompose and produce noxious compounds and gases.

The natural flow of the ocean currents would move this matter away and the micro-organisms would deal with a lot of it as well.

The Live Rock contains such organisms but not enough to do the whole task.

We must use some type of filtration.

Mechanical filters

Mechanical filters draw the water through a pack of filter material and the various types do a good job provided you check them regularly and replace the filter material as required.

Hanging filters attach to the side of the tank. They are effective but you must allow for the extra inches when placing the tank.

There are also similar filters which you set up under the tank and use longer tubes to move the water from the tank and back again after it has been filtered.

These filters can contain a variety of different materials in separate chambers. If you are using live rock which still has its colonies, you don't need to have biological filter material in the mechanical filter(s) you use.

Small Success Tips

Keep these tips in mind to ensure your successful aquarium experience.

Daily Check: It's important to check your tank and the residents **every day**. This can be hard if you have a lot of commitments, but it is the only way to notice any significant change at the first opportunity. Then you can take action early.

Before you go away, arrange for someone to check on your fish every day, if possible. If they don't have any knowledge of the fish, they can still see if the equipment is showing any signs of problems.

Give them a tour of your tank before you go so that they have some idea of how everything should be working.

If they are prepared (or paid) to feed the fish, you could get a cheap tray used for dispensing pills and put the food for each day in the compartments, so they can just empty one into the tank as required.

Have backups for your electrical equipment like filters and heaters.

Keep checking the wiring and parts for wear or possible faults.

Always wash your hands and dry them thoroughly before touching any part of your aquarium. Soaps and personal cleaning products can damage your livestock – they don't need any of it!

Electric shock is a common problem where there is so much water and aquarium gear. Ensure, where possible, that you have arranged for any overflow to be channeled away from wiring.

Dealers and Clubs

Dealers and clubs are great resources for information as well as the latest gadgets.

If you find a good local supplier, I recommend that you support them even if some online prices are a bit better. If you have an urgent need, your local supplier is your best hope and some are very helpful and knowledgeable about the aquariums.

If there is a club in your area, it will be worthwhile to join it. Most members are very helpful to any new person who is making a genuine effort with their aquarium or is still researching before buying their first tank.

One warning about advice from club members - Like most serious hobbyists, whether gardeners, dog breeders or aquarists, many have firm views. Always think carefully about the advice you get and try to get more than one opinion on any important step you are considering.

When you begin, do your research and only buy what you really need. If you can do an adequate job without some piece of expensive gear, go ahead. By the time you actually need and can afford that item, a new version with better features may have become available.

Resources

These links are provided as-is. Neither the publisher, author or distributors can be responsible for the quality, safety or content of any links. I visited them as I assembled the final copy of the book but they can change owners and content at any time.

Their use is entirely at your own risk.

I have not included any commercial links in this section. Many of the clubs have links to commercial suppliers in return for sponsorship or because some provide special rates for their club members.

Clubs

International

International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine

<http://www.iaaam.org/>

The IAAAM is an organization of individuals who are professionally interested in and devote a significant amount of time to the practice of aquatic animal medicine, teaching and research in aquatic animal medicine, or the husbandry and management of aquatic animals

Canada

Marine Aquarium Society of Toronto

<http://mastcanada.org/>

A club for marine aquarium hobbyists. Lists meetings, executive and constitution information and event calendar.

U.S.A.

Marine Aquarium Societies of North America (M.A.S.N.A.)

<http://www.masna.org/>

From their site: "MASNA is a non-profit organization composed of marine aquarium clubs and individual hobbyists from North America and abroad, totaling several thousand individuals. MASNA's goals are to:

Educate our members with online and published material, the MACNA conference, and other sanctioned events

***Assist** in forming and promoting the growth of clubs within the hobby while ensuring a sustainable future for the marine environment*

***Support** the efforts to eliminate abuses in collecting and transporting marine organisms through education, assistance and encouragement*

***Encourage** the ethical growth of the marine aquarium hobby and support captive breeding/propagation efforts"*

They have an interactive directory of (mainly) U.S.A. Marine Clubs on this page of their site:

www.masna.org/ClubResources/ClubDirectory/tabid/71/Default.aspx

Australia

Marine Aquarium Societies of Australia Incorporated

An incorporated organization which acts as an extended resource for aquarists and groups around Australia.

This page gives more information:

http://www.masa.asn.au/masa/about_masa.html

United Kingdom

UltimateReef.com

Claims to be the U.K's longest and biggest reef keeping community.

[Http://www.ultimatereef.com/](http://www.ultimatereef.com/)

From their site: "*Welcome to UltimateReef.com! UltimateReef.com is the UK's largest and longest running online reef keeping community*".

Their Forums at <http://www.ultimatereef.net/> are impressive.

If you have not used a Forum before, read their rules and follow them carefully. Don't get involved with anyone that is rude or angry. Thank anyone that helps you and try to help others when you have gained some valuable experience.

Welcome to the Salt water Aquarium World

You have joined a marvelous hobby which offers wonderful experiences in another colorful and exciting world.

It's full of living creatures and you are in charge.

But, the biggest factor is that you will find help and advice and encouragement everywhere from other hobbyists and supplier.

I wish you many wonderful Years in Your Salt water Fish World.

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)