

January 30, 2007



tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sundays 1pm-5pm

Can It Be The Same Fish? Color Changes in Fresh and Saltwater Fish

There are many fish available that appear drab in the store (and in the wild) but grow to be a beautiful fish as adults. The exact opposite can occur with other fish, as they can be incredibly beautiful as juveniles but grow up to be quite unattractive. Whether it is to avoid predators, to mimic other species or to blend with their surroundings, color shifts in fish can be quite dramatic.



JUVENILE PEACOCK CICHLIDS – FRESHWATER



ADULT PEACOCK CICHLIDS (AULONOCARA SP.)

Aulonocara species, sold as peacock cichlids in freshwater, are all born resembling the dull, adult females presumably to blend easily with rock mounds in Lake Malawi where these fish are found. As adults, the males bloom with color in order to attract females.



ADULT LEMON PEEL ANGEL JUV. COLORATION

The brightly colored adult and juvenile patterns of the Lemon Peel Angelfish (*Centropyge flavissimus*) are both appealing. Notice the spot on the side of the juvenile Lemon Peel Angelfish in the photo above. There are many juvenile marine fish (and even adults) that have these markings referred to as false eyespots. Predators like to swallow down smaller fish headfirst. When a predator comes toward a juvenile Lemon Peel Angel, the fish turns on one side to display the 'eye'. When the predator lunges toward the eyespot, the juvenile fish darts forward to escape. Adult *Centropyge* angelfish (Lemon Peel Angelfish, Coral Beauty Angelfish, etc) are not desired by predators, as they are difficult to capture, are tough-skinned and bony. For this reason, there are fish that mimic the adult patterns of *Centropyge* Angelfish.



MIMIC TANG (JUVENILE)



HALFBLACK ANGELFISH



MIMIC TANG (JUVENILE)



EIBLII ANGELFISH



MIMIC TANG (JUVENILE)



HERALDI ANGELFISH

In the photos above, notice the similarities of the mimic tangs (*Acanthurus pyroferus* – top and bottom photo, *Acanthurus tristis* – middle photo) compared to the *Centropyge* Angelfish. These tangs only mimic the angelfish as juveniles offering them safety from predators. Even the tails of the Mimic Tangs are rounded like the *Centropyge* Angelfish! As mimic tangs mature, the adults all look alike.



Image © E. Schloegl

ADULT A. PYROFERUS TANG – THE CHOCOLATE TANG



ADULT A. TRISTIS TANG – INDIAN OCEAN MIMIC TANG

In some cases, juvenile fish appear to be more brightly colored than the adult fish. Even though the fish appears more brightly colored to us, the depth at which a fish is found can actually make the fish blend into its surroundings better offering it protection from predation. This is especially true of *Pomacanthus* Angelfish. Nearly all of the angelfish in this family are similarly colored as juveniles though the adult colorations are completely different.



P. ANNULARIS ANGELFISH JUV (LEFT) ADULT (RIGHT)



P. IMPERATOR ANGELFISH JUV (LEFT) ADULT (RIGHT)



P. SEMICIRCULATUS (KORAN, JUV & ADULT PHOTOS)



P. CHRYSURUS ANGELFISH (JUV & ADULT PHOTOS)

This may also be something to consider when you purchase a fish for your aquarium. The fish may appear a real beauty to you as a juvenile but you may find it less appealing as it matures. At Tideline Aquatics, we always try to be

upfront in letting you know that a fish may change, sometimes to a less desirable color and/or pattern. If any of you have a garden pond, koi are an excellent example of a fish that can change for the good or the bad, it can be a gamble. Take a look at what happened to a good friend of mine. He purchased a \$1500.00 Tancho Kohaku Koi (white with a circular red cap) in 2003. By the fall of 2005, the fish had lost its desirable red cap and turned solid white making the fish quite a bit less valuable (about \$50.00 now!). These are not the actual photos but you will see why the fish is less valuable.

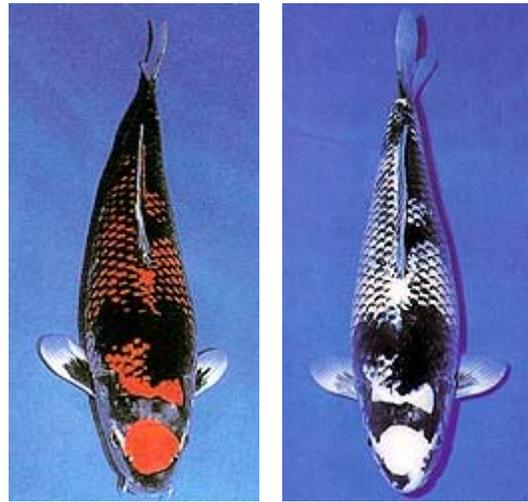


TANCHO KOHAKU KOI COMMON OGN KOI

Color changes in koi are not always a bad change. In an article from koi supplier, Pan Intercorp:

“Shigekatsu Takahashi purchased this goshiki as a two year old and watched it develop into the spectacular koi that took highest awards in its 9bu Goshiki class in the 22nd All Japan Show in January of 1990. The stunning round red marking on its forehead set against a charcoal sumi (black) background earned this unique goshiki the nickname "Hinode" or Sunrise. One can imagine Mr. Takahashi's dismay when later that spring he noticed that the fiery red color that had propelled "Hinode" to national fame, had started to lose its luster and had begun to fade. Within a relatively short period of time, the red disappeared completely, leaving a muddy white field against an indistinct grey background.

By the winter of 1993, the sumi had reestablished itself into a crisp reticulated pattern against a now snow white field, prompting Mr. Takahashi to enter it in the 24th All Japan Show where it took first place 60bu Kawarimono.”



1ST GOSHIKI

THEN KAWARIMONO

Luckily not all fish change as unpredictably as a koi. Just remember that when you purchase a new fish for your aquarium, it may not always grow up to be a larger version of the same colored fish you originally purchased!

LOCAL CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

Have a reef aquarium? Check out our local reef club at: www.charlestonreefers.org

Love water gardens and koi? Visit the Charleston Showa Koi Club website at: www.charlestonshowakoiclub.org

Saltwater Fish Aquarium Club – Visit CMAC’s website at: www.columbiamac.org

Fish of the Week



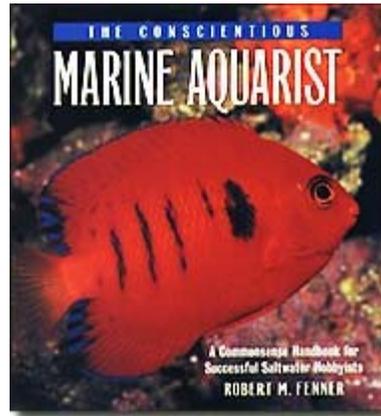
SNOWFLAKE MORAY EEL (ECHIDNA NEBULOSA)

Now this is a creature that you really have to try hard to kill. Snowflake Morays are not affected by parasites like marine ich, they can adjust to some of the most adverse water conditions and they grow before your eyes! These eels reach about 3' in length and enjoy having a cave or crevice where they can spend the day waiting on you to feed them again. Snowflake morays will eat nearly any type of meaty frozen food offered. Avoid keeping small fish with these eels as they will become an expensive snack food. This is just one of the coupon specials this week at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

An Event You Do Not Want To Miss!

Bob Fenner's CMAC Presentation

Bob Fenner, author of "The Conscientious Marine Aquarist" is doing a presentation for the Columbia Marine Aquarium Club (CMAC) on Saturday, February 10th at 6:15pm. The topics will be: Selection of Livestock in the ARC at Riverbanks Zoo, Conscientious Marine Aquarist.



There is also a "Meet Bob Fenner Dinner" on Friday, February 9th at 7:30pm. You can find all the details by going to CMAC's website at: <http://columbiamac.org>. I (Chris from Tideline) am planning on attending both events and I suggest that anyone that keeps marine fish or is interested in marine aquariums try to attend.

What's New This Week

FEEDERS: (NOW IN STOCK)

Live Black Worms, Rosy Reds, Guppies, Feeder Comets.

NOTE: Feeder Crayfish and Feeder Fiddler Crabs will arrive on Wednesday afternoon!

FRESHWATER FISH (EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON):

Dalmation Mollies, Zebra Danios, Apistogramma trifasciata 'Guapore' dwarf cichlids (peaceful!), Apistogramma cacatoides 'Double Orange' dwarf cichlids (peaceful!), Apistogramma agassizi 'Double Red' dwarf cichlids (peaceful!), Checkerboard Cichlids (Crenicara filamentosa – peaceful!), Dovia Cichlids (extreme evil), Peacock Bass in a small size (at least for now), Umbriferum Cichlids (juvenile size), a Premium Mix of Mbuna African Cichlids, L018 Gold Nugget Plecostomus, Rubberlip Plecostomus, Assorted Snails, Hoplosternum Catfish, Spotted Pictus Catfish, Pygmy Corydoras Catfish (Finally!!!), New Coffee Bean Tetras, Golden Dojo Loaches, Common Dojo Loaches, Small Fire Eels (many of you have been wanting these!), Blushing

Black Ghost Knives, Regular Black Ghost Knives, Tank Raised Archerfish, Freshwater Sleeper Gobies, Spotted Freshwater Puffers (still evil), Fantail Goldfish, Black Moor Goldfish, Black Skirt Tetras, White Skirt Tetras, Large Neon Tetras, Red Serpae Tetras, New! Orange Flame Von Rio Tetras, African Clawed Frogs, Albino African Clawed Frogs, Dwarf African Frogs.

LIVE AQUATIC AQUARIUM PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

Bacopa carolinia Bunches, Didiplis diandre Bunches, Wisteria (Hygrophylia difformis) Bunches, Red Foxtail Bunches, Rotala wallichii Bunches, Rotala indica Bunches, Aponogeton boivinianus Bulbs, Aponogeton ulvaceous Bulbs, Medium Amazon Swords, Red wendtii Clumps, Dwarf Lily Bulbs, Italian Vallesneria, Corkscrew Val, Micro Sword Clumps, Crinum Onion Bulbs, Anubius on Driftwood, Rare Crinum Natans and Rarer Crinum Calimistratum Onions.

SALTWATER FISH (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY!)

Tonga Coral Beauty Angelfish, Indian Ocean Black and White Heniochus Butterflyfish, Bali Male and Female Squareback Anthias, Indian Ocean Snowflake Moray Eels, Bali Forktail Blennies, Bali Algae Blennies, Bali Dragon Sifter Gobies, Bali Diamond Sifter Gobies, Bali Rainfordi Gobies, Bali Purple Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Marine Betta, Small but extremely cool Bali Clown Groupers, Bali Bicolor Pseudochromis, Bali Purple Pseudochromis, African Volitan Lionfish, Bali Dogface Pufferfish, Bali Mimic Eiblii Tangs, Bali Niger Triggerfish, Bali Humu Triggerfish, Sri Lanka Diana Hogfish, African Twinspot Wrasse, African Sixline Wrasses, Bali Lunare Wrasses, Indian Ocean Yellow Coris Wrasses, Bali Spotted Hawkfish, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Bali Spotted Mandarins, Bali Green Mandarins, Bali Gold Striped Cardinalfish, Bali Black Striped Cardinalfish, Hawaiian Potters Angelfish, African Formosa Wrasses.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Tricolor Astreopora Corals, Tonga Scolymia Meat Corals, Purple Staghorn Acropora (Fiji), Yellow Leather Corals (Fiji), Green Hammer Corals, Red/Orange Sand Polyps, Green Daisy Polyp Rock, Mixed Indonesian Mushroom Rocks, Green Bullseye Mushroom Rocks, Trochus Algae Snails, Bright Yellow Cucumbers, Red Fromia Reef Starfish (Vietnam), China Sea Red Feather Crinoid Star (This is a beautiful creature but very delicate!! – only suggested for advanced reef keepers), Bali Nephthia Tree Corals, Green Bubble Anemones, Red and Yellow Flame Feather Dusters on Rock (beautiful!), Mycedium Cup Corals (Tonga), Tricolor Echinophylia Corals, Mexican Turbo Snails (big-uns).

Check out the new customer photo gallery on our website!!!!

If you have some good photos of your fish, reef, pond or aquarium, please email them to the webmaster at: brian@prybo.com



Check out these incredible zoanthids from Bobby Vette's aquarium.