



July 24, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

A UNIQUE CREATURE FOR THAT SPARE AQUARIUM

Whether you have a freshwater aquarium or a saltwater aquarium, many of you have had predator tanks. In freshwater there is the tank with Oscars, Jack Dempseys, the dreaded Pacu or even an Arowana. For the saltwater hobbyist, a tank filled with triggerfish, puffers, lionfish and perhaps a grouper was your fancy. But what about setting up a tank for the ultimate reef predator – no not a shark – an octopus aquarium. With so many of our creatures being bred in captivity, there are now tank bred octopus available! Octopi have always been considered hardy, but the wild-collected specimens were often collected AFTER the animal had spawned. With octopi, breeding is the end of their life span meaning your pet octopus may have only lived for a few months. Tank bred octopi arrive small and being tank bred – they have been separated from one another to prevent this from occurring.

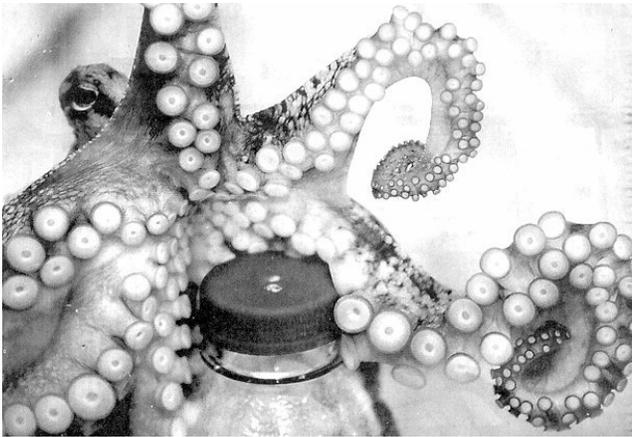


These tank-bred octopi are a smaller growing variety making them an excellent choice for even a 30 gallon aquarium. The biggest obstacle when keeping an octopus is actually keeping it in the aquarium! If the octopus can fit its ‘beak’ (the mouth) through an opening, it can actually pull its entire body through the hole. For this reason, drilled aquariums, wet/dry filters and power filters do not work well for housing these animals. Instead, we suggest using a canister filter. With a canister filter, the aquarium can be easily sealed around the small intake and return lines leaving no openings for the octopus to escape. For the biological filter, just use live rock in the tank. Live rock is porous offering huge amounts of surface area for nitrifying bacteria to colonize. The live rock will also serve as a lair for the octopus to live.



You will want to tape down the lid as these animals are extremely powerful. A recent documentary mentioned that a 1lb octopus was capable of lifting a 40lb lid up enough to climb out!! Octopi are extremely intelligent creatures. To keep it occupied, try giving the animal tasks when offering it food choices.

These animals need live food like hermit crabs, live shrimp, fiddler crabs and small fish. You can actually place the live food inside clear covered containers. Believe it or not, the octopus will figure out a way to open the container to retrieve its dinner!!



AN OCTOPUS UNSCREWING THE LID FROM A BOTTLE!!

When you first place your octopus into its new environment, you will likely see little of it for the first 2-3 weeks other than it snatching up the food you offer it. But with time, these animals become quite tame even appearing to recognize their owners by running up and down the front of the tank when you come to give it food. I (Chris) had an octopus years ago that would climb all over my hands and arm when I was cleaning the tank. The power of the tentacles was quite amazing (and sometimes frightening). Because these animals are such intense predators, you will not be able to house anything else with it but food choices. Some inexpensive damselfish may survive for a time but be aware that at some point, dinner will be their demise! The water parameters for an octopus are similar to most marine aquariums. Regular partial water changes every 2 weeks of 25% of the water are what we recommend. Without the ability to use a protein skimmer with these animals, the partial water changes and regular monthly activated carbon changes are important for the animals survival. We also suggest planting macro-algae in the aquarium. The octopus will not harm the plants. The plants will serve as a natural filter in removing

organics from the aquarium water. As the octopus moves over the rocks and plants, you will be amazed at the sudden color shifts of the animal as it nearly instantly blends with its surroundings. It is hard to believe that these intelligent and amazing animals are in the same family as clams, snails and nudibranchs!

If you are interested in setting up a tank for an octopus, just let us know. We will help you get the system put together and cycled before we special order your new pet! The tank bred octopi sell for \$45-\$50. We only ask that you pick it up the day it arrives to the store from our supplier.



TO BUFFER OR NOT TO BUFFER

Often, the first test kit a hobbyist purchases is a pH test kit. When one finds the pH to be too low in the tank (both fresh and saltwater), the first reaction is to use a buffer to raise the pH in the aquarium. But buffer should really never be added to the aquarium by testing the pH alone. You should also test the Carbonate Hardness (KH) of the water before adding any buffer to your water. The KH reading is (simplified) the aquarium waters ability to maintain the proper pH. If the KH is low, only then should a buffer be added. Quality buffers that actually work raise the KH of the water which in turn, should lead to an increase in the pH of the water. BUT, if your aquarium has high levels of organics and/or low surface agitation (oxygenation), then the pH can read low even though the KH is normal. If you were only testing the pH of the tank, you might

add buffer even though unknowingly, the KH was at a normal level. By now you are probably thinking this sounds too difficult but it is quite simple. Always test the KH and the pH before adding buffer. If the KH is normal but the pH is low, this will inform you that the pH is low due to either low oxygen levels in the tank (causing CO2 accumulation) and/or high organic levels in the tank. Simply add increased aeration to the aquarium either by adding an airstone or by increasing the surface agitation with the addition of a power head. Performing a partial water change and replacing the activated carbon should also help to correct the problem. Here are the Carbonate Hardness (KH) levels we suggest for your aquarium:

Freshwater:

- Mixed Community Fish – 1-3 dKH
- Angels, Discus, Tetras – 1-3dKH
- Monos, Scats, etc – 3-5dKH
- African Cichlids – 8-14dKH
- South American Cichlids – 1-3dKH

Saltwater:

- Fish Only Aquariums – 10-14dKH
- Reef Aquariums – 8-12dKH

Using buffers are important when used properly. Adding buffers when the KH of the water is normal can lead to big problems. In freshwater tanks, it can cause a sudden rise in the pH above desirable levels. In the marine aquarium, constant additions of buffer that raise the KH above 18dKH can lead to fish deaths. In the reef aquarium, KH levels above 12dKH will cause the calcium to drop suddenly from precipitation causing what appears to be ‘white rain’ inside the aquarium water leading to shrimp, crabs and coral deaths. Prevent these problems by always testing both the pH and KH of water before you ever consider adding buffer to the aquarium.



WE SUGGEST SUPERBUFFER FOR MARINE AQUARIUMS AND PH STABLE FOR FRESHWATER AQUARIUMS. IN HEALTHY TANKS, CORRECT KH EQUALS NORMAL PH.

FRESHWATER FISH HIGHLIGHT



NANOCHROMIS PARILUS PAIR – WEST AFRICA

This is one of our favorite dwarf cichlids from the soft acidic waters of West Africa’s Congo region. Not only are these fish beautifully colored, they are also peaceful in the community aquarium and relatively inexpensive. Nanochromis parilus are also easily sexed with the female displaying the intense pink coloration on the belly region of the fish. Though they are collected in acidic water conditions, this fish acclimates easily to a pH of 6.8-7.5. Nanochromis prefer an aquarium with plenty of cover. It is not that they are a hider but they do enjoy gliding in and out of crevices, driftwood and plants. We are unable to obtain this beautiful fish on a regular basis meaning that they will likely sell out quickly.

AQUARIUM PRODUCT REVIEW



New Marineland Canister Filters

The new marineland canister filters are now in stock at Tideline Aquatics. Our marineland representative gave us a unit to check out just after customer appreciation day. Admittedly, we were skeptical at first. We wanted to ensure it was not designed after the old-fashioned Magnum canister filter that really had no biological capabilities without adding a biowheel retrofit system. Well, it appears instead they took some hints from the quality Rena XP series of canister filters. The Marineland canister also uses stacking media chambers ensuring that the water cannot bypass the filter media. With quiet operation, biological media, mechanical media and the quality black diamond carbon included, the units are ready to go without having to purchase any additional filter media. The units are also easy to service. The canister contains a built-in check valve system. Just unplug the canister, live out the intake/exhaust check valve assembly and then carry the unit to the sink for cleaning. It is a no mess – no spill service with a quick priming pump for an instant restart after servicing. So far so good with this new marineland product!

LOCAL CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS/FORUMS

Want to ask a question about your freshwater, saltwater, reef or garden pond? Visit us at: www.tidelineaquatics.net/discuss/categories.asp

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 – CMAC www.columbiamac.org

Question and Answer Forum – www.wetwebmedia.com

Fish of the Week



THE PAJAMA CARDINALFISH (SPHAERAMIA NEMATOPTERA)

Appearing to just hover in mid-water, the pajama cardinalfish is one of the hardiest of marine fish available. These fish can be kept singly or in groups safely. Reaching only about 2” in length, Pajama Cardinals fit well even in smaller aquariums. These fish are safe in fish-only systems and reef aquariums. This group was collected in Fiji where the color seems brighter than ones collected elsewhere. Pajama cardinals accept flake foods, pellet foods and frozen foods making them a good choice even for beginners. This is just one of the specials this week at Tideline Aquatics. Print off the coupon at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (NOW IN STOCK!)

Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Guppies, Feeder Rosy Redds, Feeder Goldfish and Ghost Shrimp. **NOTE!! Our supplier was out of live black worms. We are running out quickly. If you need worms, get them now as new ones will not arrive until week after next!**

FRESHWATER FISH (ARRIVING TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY):

Super Nice Dalmation Mollies, Assorted Mbuna African Cichlids, NEW! Synodontis valentiana Catfish, 2.5" Clown Loaches, Nice Sized Bala Sharks, Tank Bred Dolphin Whale Morymirids, Green Scatophagus, Freshwater Common Stingrays, Florida Bred Large Neon Tetras, Bright Orange Bumble Bee Japonica Shrimp, Pseudotropheus demasoni Cichlids (intense color and mean), Synodontis angelicus Catfish, Synodontis brichardi Catfish, Synodontis flavitaeniatus Catfish, Synodontis schoutedeni Catfish, Eretmodus cyanostictus 'Makombe' Goby Cichlids, Lamprologus tetrocephalus Cichlids, Phyllonemus typus Mustache Catfish, Apistogramma cacatuoides 'Double Red' Dwarf Cichlids, Apistogramma agassizi 'Double Red' Dwarf Cichlids & False Zebra Plecostomus.

LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

Red Tiger Lotus, Indian Red Sword Plant, Rotala Indica Bunches, Small Amazon Sword Plants, New Monosolenium Bunches, Rotala Magenta Bunches, Dwarf Hairgrass, New Ludwigia Cuba (very nice), Hygrophylia difformis (Wisteria) Bunches, Italian Vallesneria Plants, Potamogeton Gayi Bunches, Ludwigia Peruensis Bunches, Lobelia Cardinalis Plants (potted), Nesaea Bunches, Clumps of Red Wendtii Cryptocorynes. More plants arriving this Friday with some new varieties we have never had in stock!!

GOLDFISH, KOI AND POND PLANTS (New Koi on Friday, New Plants arrive on Wednesday):

Small Blue Shusui Butterfly Koi (super nice!), Small Domestic Koi Assortment, Medium Assorted Domestic Pond Koi, Medium Standard Butterfly Koi (limited), Assorted Small Chinese Goldfish, Panda Butterfly Telescope Chinese Goldfish, M/L Red & White Ryukin Chinese Goldfish, Medium Red Ryukin Chinese Goldfish, Large Assorted Chinese Oranda Goldfish, Bog Plants, Floating Island Plants, Hornwort Bunches and more!! **A new shipment of water lilies, bog plants and lotus arrive Wednesday morning!!!**

SALTWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Large Dogface Pufferfish, Jumbo Emperor Snapper (yours forever), Caribbean Pygmy Angelfish, Indian Ocean Venustus Angelfish, Indian Ocean Koran Angelfish, Indian Ocean Changing Annularis Angelfish, Hawaiian Sunburst Fathead Anthias, Indian Ocean Maroon Clownfish, Sri Lanka Clarkii Clownfish, Indian Ocean Black & White Heniochus Butterflyfish, Indian Ocean Kleini Butterflyfish, Indian Ocean Striped Grammistes Blennies, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies, Indian Ocean Yellow Clown Gobies, Indian Ocean Orange Spotted Guttata Gobies, Mexico Longnose Hawkfish, Indian Ocean Dogface Pufferfish, Fiji Pajama Cardinalfish, Indian Ocean Niger Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Bursa Triggerfish, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Indian Ocean Powder Brown Tangs, African Powder Blue Tangs, African Formosa Adult Wrasses, Hawaiian Christmas Wrasses, Hawaiian Green Bird Wrasses, Tank Bred Sea Horses and much more.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (NOW IN STOCK!):

Cortez Redtip Reef Hermits (LIMITED), Cleaner Shrimp, Fancy Color Bubble Anemones, Common Sebae Anemones, Long Tentacle Anemones, Pizza Carpet Anemone, Lots of Assorted Color Mushroom Rocks, a nice mix of Nano Corals, Pipe Organ Corals, Metallic Frogspawn Corals, Gold Torch Corals, Green Torch Corals, Green Hammer Corals, Candy Caulestrea Corals, Indo Finger Leather Corals, Fiji Toadstool Leather Corals, Flower Leather Corals, Green Staghorn Leather Corals, Green Hairy Leather Corals, Tonga Finger Leather Corals, Wellsophyllia Corals, Lobophyllia Corals, Super Color Cultured SPS Corals and more. The Fiji Live Rock is fantastic with a nice mix of sizes and shapes.