

January 23, 2008



# tideline aquatics Newsletter

## Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

## FACTORS THAT AFFECT FISH AVAILABILITY AND PRICES

Varieties of different freshwater fish, marine fish and invertebrates available to our hobby often vary according to the time of year in the country of origin. But other factors often affect the ability to bring in aquatic life from some countries. In Sri Lanka, fighting between the militant group, the Tamil Tigers, and the Sri Lankan government, has all but stopped the flow of tropical imports from that country. Top quality fancy guppies, super-sized Cleaner Shrimp and Red Fire Shrimp, brightly colored Clown Tangs and Powder Blue Tangs as well as large Niger Triggerfish are all missing in our industry at this time due to this political turmoil. Where shipments from Sri Lanka used to arrive each week, now shipments from this country only arrive randomly.



Fish from the Red Sea were in plentiful supply until recently. Marine fish collected in the Red Sea were mainly coming from collecting stations in Saudi Arabia. Yemen also exported marine fish from the Red Sea but in smaller numbers. The Saudi government has now imposed expensive collecting licenses making the collection of marine fish from that area practically non-profitable. The numerous collecting stations along the Red Sea/Saudi coastline have closed down leaving Yemen as the main source for Red Sea marine fish. This has caused a huge shortage of fish like Purple Tangs, Red Sea Regal Angelfish, Broomtail Wrasses, Sohal Tangs, Semilavartus Butterflyfish and Asfur Angelfish just to name a few. Shipments from Yemen are less frequent and the varieties offered from that area of the Red Sea are in smaller numbers. This one collecting station must supply Red Sea fish to the entire aquarium industry.



I am sure many of you have seen the price jump in fish from Hawaii. Flame Angelfish, Potters Angelfish, Hawaiian Naso Tangs, Achilles Tangs, Chevron Tangs and all Yellow Tangs are imported from the Hawaiian Islands. So many

Yellow Tangs and other herbivorous species were being collected that changes in the reefs was becoming apparent. Algae blooms and troubled reefs caused the Hawaiian government to impose more expensive licensing fees and banned collecting of tropical fish in many areas. With fewer areas to collect and more expensive licensing fees, the number of collectors has dwindled and the cost of each fish has increased. This may cost the hobbyist more but it will help to protect the delicate balance between fish collecting and the environmental impact our industry has on the reef.



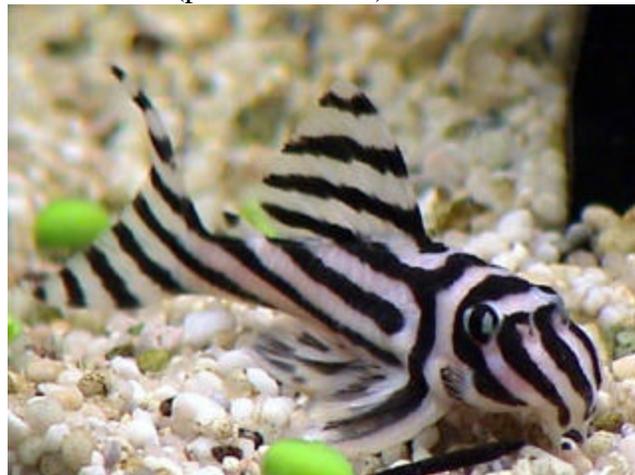
In the picture above, the black dots represent areas of the Big Coast of Hawaii (known as the Kona Coast) that are now off limits for collecting marine fish. This is why \$20.00 Yellow Tangs are a thing of the past.

Some of the most beautiful wild-collected cichlids arrive to the United States from the continent of Africa. Cameroon shipments arrive with these aquarium beauties but at quite a cost. We deal with an importer that has a collecting station in that region. They have stated to us that in order to get fish from that area, they must wire money to the collectors for the fish then additional money has to be wired to them to pay off both criminals and government officials in order to get the fish to the airport safely for export.



In some cases, entire shipments arrive in such poor condition from being delayed that many of the animals arrive in poor condition requiring long quarantine periods upon release into their holding tanks.

Fish that are collected from limited areas are often over-collected causing a strain on the species. A good example of this is the Zebra Plecostomus (pictured below).



When this fish was first discovered back in the 1980's, it was an immediate hit. Large numbers of these fish began showing up in aquarium stores all over the world. Commanding a price of \$40-\$60, these striking plecostomus were still selling in huge numbers soon causing a strain on the species in its limited range. For this reason, the Zebra Plecostomus was placed on the protected species list making it illegal to export the fish from South America. Now, only tank bred Zebra Plecostomus are available to our hobby – **wholesale** cost about \$300 EACH!!!

Another increase to tropical fish cost has been caused by the tremendous surge in jet fuel prices. Shipping fish from all over the world is accomplished only by air travel. Fuel costs have driven up shipping charges dramatically in the last two years. It does not take long for all of these factors to affect the availability and cost of our aquarium inhabitants. Supply and demand – it will always affect what we pay for our beautiful aquarium fish.

## **HIGHLIGHTS – NEW ARRIVALS AT TIDELINE THIS WEEK**

At Tideline Aquatics, we get new shipments of fish and invertebrates nearly every week. Sometimes the shipments are just typical while

other times, some items just stand out. Here are some of the outstanding livestock items and a brief description of what we found to be extraordinary this week:



**The Roseline Shark (*Puntius denisonii*)** – These arrived at about 4” in length, twice what we usually see from this wild-collected jewel from India. These fish tolerate water temperatures from 65 degrees to 85 degrees, a pH range of 6.8-7.8 and a GH of up to 25dGH. These fish are completely peaceful, live plant safe and hardy once settled in. Supplemental feeding of bloodworms, Cyclops and mysis combined with a basic flake food will intensify the blood red colors on this hardy species. These are on our website coupons this week for the first time ever!



**The Odessa Barb (*Puntius* sp.)**  
This incredible barb from Indonesia has not been available to us for some time. The males have the intense red stripe and show it off best when kept in the company of a couple of females. These barbs are hardy but should not be kept with long finned fish like angelfish, fancy guppies or male bettas as they may nip at them. Instead, keep these fish with gouramis, sharks, other barbs and

larger tetras with no problem. Like most barbs, the Odessa Barb enjoys soft water, a mixed diet of flake and frozen foods and strong oxygenation. These fish are relatively inexpensive. Odessa barbs reach about 3” at full size.



**The Fiveband Barb (*Puntius pentazona*)** – With bright orange fins and metallic green sparkles over black stripes, this gem of a barb also comes from Indonesia. The Fiveband Barb is NOT a fin nipper like many other barb species. As a matter of fact, this lovely fish should be kept with only peaceful species like schooling tetras, rasboras, dwarf gouramis and the like. Give this fish soft water, a mixed diet of flake and frozen food and a peaceful environment. Best coloration is displayed when this fish is kept in a tank with plenty of cover and in groups of three or more.



**Gold Nugget Plecostomus (*Baryancistrus* L018)** – Now this plecostomus is just too awesome to be called a “scum sucker”. With the intense color, these fish are not cheap but well worth the money when you see it dart from cover into the open spaces of the aquarium in order to find food. This fish will not survive in a poorly

maintained aquarium. The Gold Nugget Pleco needs water low in organics (regular partial water changes) and high in oxygen. The pH should be between 6.5 and 7.5 with the temperature kept stable at 78-84 degrees. Juveniles can be kept together but adults will seldom tolerate one another. This plecostomus is extremely slow growing but will eventually reach nearly 8" in the aquarium. Though this fish will eat algae, it also needs supplemental feedings of sinking pellets, mysis shrimp and even bloodworms. As with most plecostomus, a piece of driftwood is appreciated for chewing.

Other freshwater fish that are outstanding this week are: **Round Banded Barbs** (*Barbodes rhomboocellatus*), **GloLite Danios** (*Danio choprae*), **Gold Honey Gouramis** (*Colisa chuna*), **Emperor Botias** (*Botia udomritthiruji*), **Red Flame Dwarf Gouramis** (*Colisa lalia*), **Assorted Medium Peacock Cichlids** (*Aulonocara* sp.), **Assorted Mbuna African Cichlids**, **Electric Blue Johanni Cichlids** (*Melanochromis johanni*).



**Rhinopias Scorpionfish (Rhinopias sp.)** – We just received two of these super strange scorpionfish. One is red, the other is more orange. This is a hardy fish but must be kept with fish that will not fit into its huge mouth (these guys reach about 9" when grown). This fish prefers live fish and live shrimp only but may be trained to accept frozen foods when fed with tongs over time. These fish are expensive!!



**Klauswitz Blenny (Ecsenius sp.)** – With a face like a Dr. Seuss character and a personality like an Algae Blenny, you just have to love this small but hardy (and hard to obtain) marine fish. These are eating both frozen and dry foods and have become quite tame. We suggest keeping this fish with other peaceful gobies, dwarf angelfish and tangs but avoiding other blennies from the same family. These are located in our acrylic system next to our bowfront reef aquarium.



**Spiny Cup Pectinia Coral (Pectinia sp.)** – Everyone has seen our superior specimen in our front reef aquarium and inquired about obtaining one of these for their reef aquarium. Currently, we have two of these corals in stock. Due to the sharp edges of this coral, it often arrives with damage to the outer edges. Pectinia corals heal quickly and intensify in color as it grows often developing red stripes among the metallic green tissue. These corals will survive under PC, T5 and Halide lighting. Place this coral mid-way in the aquarium with good water circulation.



We are offering both the Steinitz Goby (*Amblyeleotris steinitzi*) (top photo) and the Orange Spot Goby (*Amblyeleotris guttata*) on our website coupons at less than half of what they usually sell for at the store. Both of these gobies are extremely hardy and peaceful – even in the reef aquarium. These gobies typically dig out burrows under a rock or coral head straying out to capture food and chase away others that come too close to their burrows. These gobies are even good for beginners and can be kept as pairs or mixed together in the same aquarium.

## **What's New At Tideline**

**FEEDERS (JUST ARRIVED!!):** Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosys, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Live Black Worms, Ghost Shrimp.

### **NEW FRESHWATER FISH:**

**Livebearers** – Micky Mouse Swordtails, Orange Neon Platies, Painted Platies, Sunburst Platies, Assorted Lyretail Mollies.

**Catfish/Loaches/Plecostomus** – Marble Sailfin Catfish, Red Loricaria Cats, Farlowella Twig Catfish, Small Plecostomus, Medium Plecostomus, Large Plecostomus, L163 Large Spot Plecostomus, Albino Long-fin Plecostomus, Clown Plecostomus, L018 Gold Nugget Plecostomus, L260 Queen Arabesque Plecostomus, L191 Royal Plecostomus, Rubber Plecostomus (arrived in rough shape), L316 Zebra Mosaic Plecostomus, Glass Catfish, Upside Down Catfish, Panda Corydoras Catfish, Golden Dojo Weather Loaches, Common Weather Dojo Loaches, Emperor Botia Loaches.

**Brackish** – Bumble Bee Gobies, Red Scatophagus, Archerfish, Figure Eight Puffers.

**Tetras / Rasboras / Barbs / Danios** – XL Florida Bred Cardinal Tetras, Black Skirt Tetras, Emerald Eye Tetras, Emperor Tetras (Super Nice!), Marble Hatchetfish (not blackwing but regular), Silver Hatchetfish, Lemon Tetras, Black Phantom Tetras, Espei Rasboras, Rummynose Tetras, Red Serpae Tetras, Green Glo-fish Danios, Zebra Danios, Pentazona Barbs (new and beautiful), Round Banded Barbs, Red Cherry Barbs, Odessa Barbs.

**Gouramis / Bettas** – *Ctenopoma ansorgii*, Female Bettas (super nice), Blue Gouramis, Platinum Gouramis, Dwarf Red Flame Gouramis (bright red color), Gold Honey Gouramis (neon yellow color), Pearl Leeri Gouramis.

**Cichlids** (Dwarf, South American, African) – Medium Firemouth Cichlids, Pike Cichlids, Bolivian Altispinosa Rams (good size), Premium Mixed African Cichlids (an awesome mix), Medium Premium Mixed African Cichlids (bright colors), Medium Assorted Peacock Cichlids (a super mix @ \$19.99 each), Electric Blue Johanni Cichlids (neon blue color).

**Other** – Saber Tusk Freshwater Barracudas, Large Fire Eels, Peacock Eels, Threadfin Rainbowfish, Roseline Denisonii Sharks (incredible size & color – a coupon item this week), Bala Sharks, Elephant Nose.

**Goldfish – (All Are Super Quality)** Celestial Eye Goldfish Mixed, Medium Mixed Chinese Ryukins, Medium Mixed Chinese Orandas, Small Black Moors, Mixed USA Fantails, Lemon Head Orandas.

**HANS GERMAN DISCUS NOW IN STOCK AND READY FOR SALE – INCREDIBLE!**

The following color strains are available in a 3”-4” size: Flachen (Green Turquoise), Blue Pigeon Blood, Red Pigeon Blood, Marlboro Red, Blue Cobalt & Blue Diamond.

**LIVE AQUATIC PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):**

Red Barclaya Longifolia Plants (SUPER), Rotala magenta, Aponogeton natans, Aponogeton ulvaceus, Bronze Cryptocoryne Clumps, Bacopa myriophylloides, Purple Cabomba, Medium Amazon Swords, Ludwigia inclinata, Ludwigia ovalis, Red Narrow Leaf Ludwigia, Limnophilia hippuroides, Regular Nesaea, Potamogeton gayi, Wisteria (Hygro difformis), Dwarf Baby Teardrop (very nice), Dwarf Sagittaria, Anubias nana, Water Sprite, Blyxa japonica, Narrow Leaf Micro-Sword Clumps, Hygrophilia augustifolia.

**SALTWATER FISH (JUST ARRIVED):**

**Angels / Butterflyfish** - Tonga Coral Beauty Angelfish, Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish

**Clownfish** – Ocellaris Clownfish, Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Pink Skunk Clownfish Pair.

**Gobies / Blennies** – Common Firefish Gobies, Scooter Blennies, Bumble Bee Gobies (Steinitz), Orange Spotted Gobies (Wheeleri), Diamond Sifter Gobies.

**Wrasses** – African Sixline Wrasses, African Formosa Wrasses, Green Bird Wrasses, Mexican Rainbow Wrasses.

**Tangs** – Powder Brown Tangs, Yellow Tangs, Blue Regal Tangs, Sailfin Tangs.

**Triggerfish / Eels / Puffers** – Snowflake Moray Eels, Clown Triggerfish, Humu Triggerfish, Valentini Pufferfish.

**Lionfish** – African Volitan Lionfish (small and medium sizes, Jumbo Volitan Black Lionfish

**Other** – Scott’s Damselfish, Panther Groupers, Foxface Rabbitfish, Shark Eggs, Frilly Rhinopias Scorpionfish (AWESOME).

**INVERTEBRATES:**

**Snails / Cucumbers / Starfish / Urchins** – XL Nassarius Sand Sifting Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails, Trochus Snails, Cerith Snails, Turbin Reef Snails.

**Corals / Polyps / Mushrooms** – Star Polyps, Green Pipe Organ Corals, A Huge Soft, SPS & LPS Coral Selection, Fiji Live Rock (a nice selection), Assorted Color Nano Zoanthid Frags.

**Other** – Mangrove Shoots (all sold to one person – sorry!) – We will order more in two weeks.