

tideline newsletter tideline aquatics

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

COOL CRUSTACEANS! FRESH & SALTWATER...



FRESHWATER FILTER-FEEDING VAMPIRE SHRIMP!

There once was a time in our hobby when crustaceans were limited to only marine aquariums. Now this is just not the case. There are many choices of crustaceans for freshwater aquariums and the number keeps on growing! As for marine crustaceans, more and more species are being imported every month. Here we will discuss some of our favorites....

FRESHWATER :

The Vampire Shrimp (pictured above)

From the common name, you would think this shrimp may capture your fish and suck the life blood from their bodies but this is certainly NOT the case with the Vampire Shrimp (*Atya gabonensis*). This African import gets its common name from the sharp fang-like hooks on the ends of both front legs. These are used to

hook itself to rocks or wood in the fast flowing waters from where it is collected. Once hooked into place, this completely peaceful shrimp opens up its delicate feeding fans it uses to collect fine particles of food from the water. In the aquarium, this same feeding ritual is performed. Usually just below the water flow from the aquarium filter, this shrimp will expand its feeding apparatus to collect food. If housing one of these stunning shrimp, you should include a frozen food diet of reef plankton, Cyclops or other fine food product to keep this animal healthy. We also suggest using an iodide supplement at the rate of half the recommended dose for marine aquariums. This shrimp attains a length of about 3" at full size.

The Bamboo Shrimp (*Atyopsis moluccensis*)



When keeping this Asian import, the same care for feeding the Vampire Shrimp should be implemented. This too is a filter feeding shrimp. The Bamboo Shrimp (also know as the Flower Shrimp or Wood Shrimp) is completely peaceful even with the smallest of freshwater fish and appreciates an aquarium with strong circulation

for feeding properly. Once established this shrimp is quite active and will spend most of its time in front of an area of good flow where it will expand its lovely fans for collecting food. Iodide supplements should also be added from this shrimp at the rate of half the recommended dose on the manufacturer's instructions.

The Electric Blue Crayfish (*Procambarus alleni*)



The most common Electric Blue Crayfish found in American pet shops is the one pictured above which is a hybrid crayfish developed in Florida for the aquarium trade. The Australian version is rarely offered compared with the Florida strain. Like any crayfish, they will eat a fish IF they can capture it so we suggest keeping these crayfish with larger fish only. Crayfish are easy to feed. They will accept sinking pellet food, flake food and frozen foods. We recommend a mixture of both carnivore and vegetable-based foods. Electric Blue Crayfish will survive in water with a pH of 7.0-8.0 and require clean water (regular partial water changes). If a pair of these crayfish is kept together, successful breeding will likely occur. The female carries the eggs (up to 100 eggs!) on her swimmerettes (tiny leg-like appendages under the tail) for about 30 days until they hatch. If not separated or given numerous hiding places the baby crayfish can be eaten by the parents AND each other! Another interesting fact about breeding these crayfish is that every so often, they will throw out a snow white crayfish sold in the trade as the Vanilla Crayfish!



THE SNOW WHITE VANILLA CRAYFISH

The Algae Eating Shrimp

There are now numerous types of algae eating shrimp available for the freshwater aquarium. Sizes vary from less than 1/2" to nearly 2" long depending on the species. These shrimp are a huge plus for planted aquariums as they will pick clean algae from nearly every surface of the aquarium including the plant leaves! Just consider the types of fish that you house with these shrimp so they don't become an expensive meal! Small tetras, corydoras catfish, discus, rasboras and peaceful barbs will usually not bother these freshwater shrimp. Fish like angelfish and botias (loaches) will eat shrimp!



THE AMANO OR JAPONICA SHRIMP (*CARIDINA JAPONICA*)



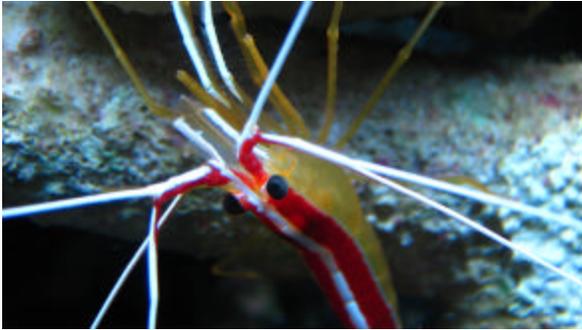
THE RED CRYSTAL SHRIMP (*CARIDINA SPECIES*)



THE RED CHERRY SHRIMP (*NEOCARIDINA HETEROPODA*)

SALTWATER :

The Skunk Cleaner Shrimp (*Lysemata amboinensis*)



The skunk cleaner shrimp in the wild spends its days at cleaning stations where marine fish stop by to be picked clean of external parasites. Hopefully you will not see this happening in your aquarium as it could be a sign of a parasite outbreak (but not in all cases). In the aquarium, these shrimp are more considered to be scavengers of uneaten fish foods or shed materials from other invertebrates housed with this shrimp. The cleaner shrimp can be kept singly or in pairs and will readily spawn in the aquarium though the tiny hatched fry will only serve as food for the other inhabitants. This shrimp rarely hides and if known to jump on the aquarium owners hands and arms while working inside the aquarium! This shrimp is even safe for a “fish-only” aquarium if kept with tankmates that will not try and eat them.

The Red Fire Shrimp (*Lysemata debelius*)



The Red Fire Shrimp is also a parasite cleaner in the wild. This is considered to be THE most beautiful shrimp for the community marine aquarium. Fire shrimp are not nearly as bold as the Skunk Cleaner Shrimp but once established they usually become more active during the daylight hours. This is especially true at feeding time. Fire shrimp will live singly or in pairs

peacefully. Fire Shrimp should be offered a mix of frozen and pelleted carnivore foods for best health. Reaching about 2” at full size you can expect this shrimp to live about 2-3 years in the aquarium.

The Sexy Shrimp (*Thor amboinensis*)



The Sexy or Dancer Shrimp gets its common name due to the swishing of the tail as it perches in the aquarium. These shrimp can be kept in groups and often can be found crawling safely on anemone tentacles or at the base of mushroom corals. These shrimp are small (reaching about 1” at full size) and should be kept only with smaller fish that will not consume them. If given a mixed diet of frozen foods, these shrimp are extremely hardy and always out in the open for your viewing pleasure!

Pistol Shrimp (*Alpheus* species)



Pistol shrimp are one of the most interesting shrimp for the marine aquarium. You will be amazed at how much digging and moving of small rocks these 2” shrimp can move in a 24 hour period! One of our very favorites at Tideline Aquatics is the Tiger Pistol Shrimp (*Alpheus bellulus*). This is one of the most active of the pistol shrimp and the most accepted pistols for shrimp gobies (see the yellow watchman goby pictured above) to accept. Both the shrimp

and the goby live in the same hole. The shrimp digs out the hole and seems to never be satisfied to its design as it changes every single day. If a fish or another shrimp dare to come too close to the pistol shrimps lair, the shrimp pops its huge claw which makes a loud snapping sound that can be heard far from the aquarium. Just watch out though! If you place a small rock on the substrate, your pistol shrimp may drag it inside its hole to add to its collection! These shrimp make a wonderful addition if you don't mind fighting it for small rocks regularly. Unless your aquarium is larger than 75 gallons, we suggest keeping only one pistol shrimp per tank as they will attack one another for territory.

The Coral Banded Shrimp (Stenopus species)



THE BLUE CORAL BANDED SHRIMP (STENOPUS TENUIROSTRIS)

Most marine aquarists are familiar with the common Coral Banded Shrimp that grows quite large and can be bossy in the aquarium. But there are some smaller species of this shrimp that are more suited for smaller reef aquariums like the Blue Coral Banded Shrimp pictured above. Both the Blue Coral Banded Shrimp and the Golden Banded Shrimp remain smaller (about 2") and are not quite the boss as the common species can be. Coral Banded Shrimp spend most of their day on the underside of live rock or coral darting out only to collect food. Though more secretive than other shrimp, these beauties still are worth housing in the aquarium. They are excellent scavengers and they are extremely hardy. These shrimp should be kept as a single specimen unless they are purchased as a pair. Adding two of these shrimp together randomly will usually result in the death of either one or both of them due to fighting.

The Mantis Shrimp (Stomatopods)



If you have a spare aquarium of about 20 gallons or more and want an interesting creature to keep alone, consider one of the spectacular mantis shrimp. These crustaceans are one of the most intelligent and curious of shrimp AND they are killing machines! With good water quality, some live rock and some meaty food choices you can easily house a mantis shrimp. Be aware that you should always give these animals respect when working in the aquarium to prevent the shrimp from causing you harm. These shrimp are not venomous or poisonous but they are powerful and can pop you or slice you depending on the species. I met a couple of guys at the Royal Pet Show in Orlando a couple of weeks ago that maintain a website for the sale and care of mantis shrimp. The site talks about sexing the shrimp, housing them and the overall personality of different species. Check it out: www.stomatopod.com

When keeping crustaceans in a freshwater or saltwater aquarium be aware that these animals have skeletons that will require the addition of calcium and iodide in most cases. Do research on the species you are considering before you make the purchase to ensure it will be safe with your other aquarium inhabitants. All crustaceans molt meaning as they grow they shed their skeletons regularly. If conditions in your aquarium are not ideal, this molting process can be difficult for the crustaceans sometimes even leading to their demise. Just after molting is when crustaceans are most vulnerable to predation. You can help by offering your crustaceans plenty of hiding spots where it can seek refuge during this delicate period.

GERMAN STENDKER DISCUS ARRIVE FRIDAY!!!



We know you have been patiently waiting for the arrival of our wonderful Stendker Discus shipment! The fish will arrive on Friday and require a 3-5 day quarantine period. You can, however, pay for the fish you desire and we will hold them for up to 7 days. Our supplier has the best quality discus in the industry!

COMING SOON TO OUR WEBSITE.... "HOW TO" VIDEOS!

We are now working on videos for our website that will guide you through common issues you may encounter with your aquarium. Videos on mixing seawater, priming an overflow box u-tube, servicing a canister filter and more will begin to show up on our site. We will let you know when the new vids become available for viewing. This is just another way Tideline Aquatics supports its customers that support us! We thank you for shopping with us!

SIGN UP!!

Go to www.twitter.com and create your own personal account. It's FREE!!!! Then find us by searching for: TidelineAquatic (notice there is no "s" on the end of aquatic. Sign up to "follow" us and even add the option to receive tweets via text messages to your cell phone. With your twitter account you will receive notifications of livestock shipments, product specials and best of all "twitter only" super specials sent out randomly to our twitter followers.

Don't forget to show your military ID at the check-out counter! Tideline Aquatics now offers a discount to both active and retired military persons with a military ID!!

Also, print off coupons from our website for even more savings when you shop with us!!

Four promotional coupons from Tideline Aquatics, each with a different aquatic-themed illustration. The coupons are stacked vertically. Each coupon has the 'tideline aquatics' logo on the left and a small image on the right. The text on each coupon is as follows:
1. "one of the hardest tetras for the community tanks! **BLACK SKIRT TETRAS** **BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!**" with a green snake illustration.
2. "we have a nice selection! **ALL CLOWNFISH** **25% OFF!**" with a clownfish illustration.
3. "cured and ready for a nice home! **PREMIUM FIJI LIVE ROCK** **\$5.50 PER POUND**" with a purple starfish illustration.
4. "free! free! free! free! free! free! free! free! **CORAL MAGAZINE ISSUE** **WITH A \$50 PURCHASE**" with a coral tank illustration.
Each coupon also includes the text "COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT! EXPIRES 09.30.2009".

Just a few examples of the specials available on our website coupons this week!!

WHAT'S NEW AT [tidelineaquatics?](http://tidelineaquatics.com)

ON THE MENU THIS WEEK:

We are out of all feeder items except feeder crayfish, live black worms and feeder fiddler crabs. Our regular feeder shrimp arrives on Tuesday of next week!

We have a nice selection of freshwater fish, saltwater fish, invertebrates, live rock and corals this week! A detailed list will be available on next weeks newsletter....