

# *The Tropic Marin<sup>®</sup> Starter Guide to a Vibrant Marine Aquarium*

*Here's what you need for the quick, easy  
and successful setup and maintenance  
of your salt water aquarium!*

Care plans for both, beginners and busy aquarists

Products for advanced aquarists



**Tropic  
Marin<sup>®</sup>**

The aquatic life science company

# *From simple beginnings ...*

*On these pages we present a variety of basic care plans. These are ideal for both beginners and those who prefer to have a simplified approach. Choose which basic care plan is best for you.*



*Turn to the back pages for helpful hints about entering the world of saltwater aquariums from our expert Hans-Werner Balling.*

# *Now for the serious stuff ...*

*Would you like to micro-manage your aquarium? No problem.*

*These pages list the products that will allow the advanced aquarist to individualize their aquarium down to the tiniest detail.*

# *Best nutrition for your animals*

# Basic Care 01

**For fish only – marine aquarium**

high carbonate hardness, strong buffer

## Sea salt

### Pharmaceutically pure sea salt:

with all major, minor and trace elements of natural seawater



Tropic Marin®  
Classic Sea Salt

## Bacteria

### Carbon Dosing Powder:

promotes growth of natural beneficial bacterial flora



Tropic Marin®  
Reef Actif

### Nitrifying and

### probiotic bacteria:

strengthens the immune systems of fish and shrimp



Tropic Marin®  
Nitribiotic

## Analysis

### Test Set:

measuring all the important data

pH, KH, PO<sub>4</sub>,  
NO<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>/NH<sub>3</sub>



Tropic Marin®  
Compact Lab

### Standard aquarium values:

Specific gravity: 1.022-1.026 • Salinity: 29-35 PSU

Carbonate hardness: 7-11°dH • Nitrate: <10mg/l

Phosphate: <0.2 mg/l • Magnesium: 1200-1300 mg/l

Calcium: 350-400 mg/l

# Basic Care 02

For reef aquarium

Separate additives – more control

## Sea salt

A)



For reefs with higher alkalinity: 8 to 10 dH

Tropic Marin®  
Classic Sea Salt

or

B)



For reefs with lower alkalinity: 6 to 8 dH

Tropic Marin®  
Pro-Reef Sea Salt

## Bacteria

**Carbon Dosing Powder:**  
promotes growth of natural beneficial bacterial flora



Tropic Marin®  
Reef Actif

**Nitrifying and probiotic bacteria:**  
strengthens the immune systems of fish and shrimp



Tropic Marin®  
Nitribiotic

## Minerals

**Supplies all the minerals corals need:**  
Ca, Alk, Mg, trace elements



Tropic Marin®  
All-For-Reef

## Analysis

**Test Set:**  
measuring all the important data  
pH, KH, PO<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>/NH<sub>3</sub>



Tropic Marin®  
Compact Lab

## Standard aquarium values:

Specific gravity: 1.024-1.026 • Salinity: 32-35 PSU

Carbonate hardness: 8-10°dH or 6-8°dH • Nitrate: <5 mg/l

Phosphate: <0.1 mg/l • Magnesium: 1280-1380 mg/l

Calcium: 400-440 mg/l

# Basic Care 03

For reef aquarium

Easy application – carefree carbon dosing

## Sea salt

### Pharmaceutically pure sea salt:

with all major, minor and trace elements of natural seawater  
+ more calcium & magnesium  
+ carbon dosing for beneficial bacteria



Tropic Marin®  
Bio-Actif  
Sea Salt

## Bacteria

### Nitrifying and probiotic bacteria:

strengthens the immune systems of fish and shrimp



Tropic Marin®  
Nitribiotic

## Minerals

### Supplies all the minerals corals need:

Ca, Alk, Mg, trace elements



Tropic Marin®  
All-For-Reef

## Analysis

### Test Set:

measuring all the important data

pH, KH, PO<sub>4</sub>,  
NO<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>/NH<sub>3</sub>



Tropic Marin®  
Compact Lab

### Standard aquarium values:

Specific gravity: 1.024-1.026 • Salinity: 32-35 PSU  
Carbonate hardness: 6-8°dH • Nitrate: <5 mg/l  
Phosphate: <0.1 mg/l • Magnesium: 1280-1380 mg/l  
Calcium: 400-440 mg/l

# Basic Care 04

For reef aquarium

Easiest application – most additives included

## Sea salt

### Pharmaceutically pure sea salt:

- with all major, minor and trace elements of natural seawater
- + more calcium & magnesium
- + carbon dosing for beneficial bacteria
- + nitrifying and probiotic bacteria



Tropic Marin®  
Syn-Biotic  
Sea Salt

## Minerals

### Supplies all the minerals corals need:

Ca, Alk, Mg, trace elements



Tropic Marin®  
All-For-Reef

## Analysis

### Test Set:

measuring all the important data

pH, KH, PO<sub>4</sub>,  
NO<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>/NH<sub>3</sub>



Tropic Marin®  
Compact Lab



### Standard aquarium values:

Specific gravity: 1.024-1.026 • Salinity: 32-35 PSU  
Carbonate hardness: 6-8°dH • Nitrate: <5 mg/l  
Phosphate: <0.1 mg/l • Magnesium: 1280-1380 mg/l  
Calcium: 400-440 mg/l

# Minerals and Trace Elements

*To promote growth of stony corals*

**Calcium and carbonate hardness (KH) in one highly concentrated product**



Tropic Marin®  
Carbo-Calcium  
Powder  
*powder, very economical*



Tropic Marin®  
Carbo-Calcium  
*liquid, easy dosage*

**Calcium and carbonate hardness: the original 3-part Balling method**



Tropic Marin®  
Original Balling  
Components  
A, B und C  
*powder, very economical*



Tropic Marin®  
Original Balling  
Liquid Set  
A, B und C  
*liquid, easy dosage*

**Raising the carbonate hardness: the ocean's natural buffer system**



Tropic Marin®  
Triple Buffer  
(KH+pH+  
trace elements)  
*powder, very economical*



Tropic Marin®  
Liquid Buffer  
(KH+pH+  
trace elements)  
*liquid, easy dosage*

**Raising the strontium level: needed for growth of stony corals**



Tropic Marin®  
Bio-Strontium  
*powder, very economical*

# Minerals and Trace Elements

*To promote the growth of purple coralline algae & corals*

**Maintains the magnesium level:**  
important also for keeping the Ca level



Tropic Marin®  
Bio-Magnesium  
*powder, very economical*



Tropic Marin®  
Bio-Magnesium Liquid  
*liquid, easy dosage*

*For hardy fish and strong shells*

**Trace element iodine:**  
easy to use  
Lugol's solution  
*(not available in USA)*



Tropic Marin®  
Iodine  
*liquid, with pipette for dosing*

*For brilliantly coloured corals*

**Potassium:**  
easy to use solution



Tropic Marin®  
Potassium  
*liquid, easy dosage*

*For strong, bright invertebrates*

**Trace elements:**  
all trace elements found in natural seawater



Tropic Marin®  
Pro-Coral Mineral  
*powder, very economical*

**Trace elements:**  
replenishes the most used trace elements



Tropic Marin®  
A-Elements und  
K<sup>+</sup> Elements  
*liquid, easy dosage*

# Nutrient Control

## *For fish only and reef aquariums*

**Phosphate reduction:**  
high capacity,  
long-lasting Granular  
Ferric Oxide (GFO)



Tropic Marin®  
Elimi-Phos  
Longlife  
*solid granules*

**Phosphate reduction:**  
fast acting concentrated  
solution to lower  
phosphate levels



Tropic Marin®  
Elimi-Phos Rapid  
*liquid, easy dosage*

**Carbon Dosing Liquid:**  
promotes growth of  
natural beneficial bacterial  
flora, accelerated nitrate/  
phosphate reduction



Tropic Marin®  
Elimi-NP  
*liquid, easy dosage*

## *For reef aquariums*

**Carbon Dosing Liquid  
with increased nitrogen/  
phosphates:**  
for nutritionally deficient  
systems



Tropic Marin®  
Plus-NP  
*liquid, easy dosage*

**Carbon Dosing Liquid  
with additional nitrogen/  
phosphates:**  
for maintenance of nitrogen/  
phosphate ratio



Tropic Marin®  
NP-Bacto-  
Balance  
*liquid, easy dosage*

# Nutrient Controls

## *For a clear view*

**Removes the causes of cloudy water and eliminates yellowness:**  
high-performance activated carbon



Tropic Marin®  
Carbon  
*solid granules*

## *Filter materials for reactors*

**Carbon dosing pellets to reduce phosphates and nitrates:**  
for fluidized bed reactors



Tropic Marin®  
NP-Bacto-Pellets  
*biodegradable Pellets*

**Carbon dosing trickle media to reduce phosphates and nitrates:**  
for aerated trickle filters



Tropic Marin®  
NP-Bacto-Tricks  
*biodegradable  
trickle elements*

**Universal trickle filter for nutrient reduction:**  
for use with the NP-Bacto tricks



Tropic Marin®  
Bio-Actif-Reactor  
5000

# Analysis

## Test kits for fish only and reef aquariums

To measure the  
pH value



Tropic Marin®  
pH-Test

**Range:** pH 7.4-9.4  
**Increment:** 0.2-0.3

To measure the  
carbonate hardness  
alkalinity



Tropic Marin®  
KH-Test

**Range:** 1-20 °dH  
**Increment:** 0.5/1 °dH

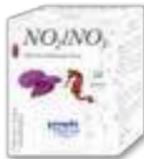
To measure the  
concentration of  
phosphates  
 $\text{PO}_4$



Tropic Marin®  
 $\text{PO}_4$ -Test

**Range:** 0.03-3.0 mg/l  
**Increment:** 0.05 mg/l

To measure the  
concentration of  
nitrites and nitrates  
 $\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_3$



Tropic Marin®  
 $\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_3$ -Test

**Range  $\text{NO}_2$ :** 0-2.0 mg/l  
**Increment  $\text{NO}_2$ :** 0.02 mg/l

**Range  $\text{NO}_3$ :** 0.5-50 mg/l  
**Increment  $\text{NO}_3$ :** 0.5 mg/l

To measure the  
concentration of  
ammonium and  
ammonia  
 $\text{NH}_4^+/\text{NH}_3$



Tropic Marin®  
 $\text{NH}_4^+/\text{NH}_3$ -Test

**Range:** 0.02-3.0 mg/l  
**Increment:** 0.03 mg/l

# Analysis and Accessories

## Higher resolution test kits for advanced aquarist

To measure the carbonate hardness alkalinity



Tropic Marin®  
KH-Test  
Professional

**Range:** 0.1-20 °dH  
**Increment:** 0.1 °dH

To measure phosphate concentration  $PO_4$



Tropic Marin®  
 $PO_4$ -Test Professional

**Range:** 0.01-1.0 mg/l  
**Increment:** 0.02 mg/l

To measure nitrite and nitrate concentrations  $NO_2/NO_3$



Tropic Marin®  
 $NO_2/NO_3$ -Test Professional

**Range  $NO_2$ :** 0-1.0 mg/l  
**Increment  $NO_2$ :** 0.002 mg/l

**Range  $NO_3$ :** 0-20 mg/l  
**Increment  $NO_3$ :** 0.05 mg/l

To measure calcium and magnesium concentrations Ca/Mg



Tropic Marin®  
Ca/Mg-Test Professional

**Range Ca:** 300-498 mg/l  
**Increment Ca:** 4 mg/l

**Range Mg:** 820-1800 mg/l  
**Increment Mg:** 20 mg/l

To measure potassium concentration  $K^+$



Tropic Marin®  
 $K^+$ -Test Professional

**Range:** 300-500 mg/l  
**Increment:** 5 mg/l

## Devices to determine salinity

Measurement of specific gravity: an exact measurement of the salinity



Tropic Marin® hydrometer

**Range:** 1.021-1.031 kg/l  
**Increment:** 0.0001

Tropic Marin®  
Measuring Cylinder

# Food

## Food for filter feeders

### Food for stony corals



Tropic Marin®  
Zooton  
*powder, fine grains*



Tropic Marin®  
Zootonic  
*liquid, easy dosage*

### Food for soft corals and clams



Tropic Marin®  
Phyton  
*powder, superfine grains*



Tropic Marin®  
Phytonic  
*liquid, easy dosage*

## Food for saltwater fish

### Universal fish food



Tropic Marin®  
O-Megavital  
*granulate, various grain sizes*



Tropic Marin®  
O-Megavital Micro  
*granulate, fine grains*

### Food for fish that feed on algae



Tropic Marin®  
O-Megavital Nori  
*flakes, medium sized*

### Universal food supplement for fish



Tropic Marin®  
Lipo-Garlic  
*oil, easy dosage*

# *Do you have any questions?*

*We will be pleased to help you with any questions you may have regarding saltwater aquariums.*

*Send an email to  
[help@tropic-marine.com](mailto:help@tropic-marine.com)  
or visit our website:  
[www.tropic-marine.com](http://www.tropic-marine.com)*

*You may also scan this QR code for further information.*



**Tropic  
Marin<sup>®</sup>**

The aquatic life science company

# *Helpful hints from Tropic Marin expert H.-W. Balling*



*Every aquarium is an individual biotope or ecosystem, and therefore needs customized care. During the start-up phase, in particular, parameters such as carbonate hardness, pH value and the concentrations of calcium, phosphate and nitrate will vary more than in a mature tank. Experienced aquarists know what these variations mean and can help you to respond properly. If none happens to be available, try this email address: [help@tropic-marin.com](mailto:help@tropic-marin.com)*

## *Rejuvenating a reef aquarium*

*Changing the water regularly will reduce the levels of undesirable substances such as nitrate and phosphate and restore the balance of important trace elements. The result: a cleaner aquarium with livelier fish and more colorful, robust corals.*

## *How many fish?*

*Apart from a suitable habitat, each fish needs enough swimming space if it is to thrive. If you have a small aquarium, please stick to a small number of small fish.*





### ***Easy care “Starter Fishes”***

*The True and False Percula Clownfish should be kept with a companion Anemone. Although it is not the natural partner anemone for these two types of fish, the Bubble Tip Anemone is a good substitute in an aquarium.*

*A pair of Pyjama Cardinal Fish are pretty and a good choice for beginners.*

*Free cleaning service: the algae-eating Jewelled or “Lawn-Mower” Blenny - either singly or with other cleaners such as Hermit Crabs.*

*Doctorfish (Tangs) are very suitable for mid-sized tanks of 500 l/100 gallons or more, e.g. Yellow Doctorfish and Indian Gold Ring Bristletooth. If you choose the latter, then please don't keep Jewelled Blennies as well, as the two species compete for the same food.*

*Beware of Damsel Fish and other pomacentrids! Although they are extremely robust and easy to keep, they are often aggressive towards other fish - especially later additions to the aquarium.*

*Angelfish are also relatively robust and a pair of one of the smaller species is suitable in small and mid-sized aquariums. However, they tend to nibble on corals.*





### ***Corals for beginners and experienced aquarists***

*Soft Mushroom Corals or Disc Anemones of the genera Discosoma or Rhodactis are good beginner corals: hardy, colorful and quick growing.*

*Leather corals of the Sarcophyton, Lobophytum and Sinularia genera e.g. Toadstool, Finger or Cabbage Leather corals are classic beginner corals: fleshy in texture, they are easy to care for and grow fast.*

*Symbiotic or zooxanthellate Gorgonians, also known as Sea Fans, grow well into spreading shapes; choose genera such as Isis, Pterogorgia, Pseudopterogorgia, Plexaurella, Plexaura, Pinnigorgia and Briareum.*

*Large polyp stony corals (LPS) of the genera Acant-hastrea, Blastomussa, Caulastrea (trumpet coral), Duncanopsammia (whisker coral), Favia (brain coral), Lobophyllia, Pavona and Symphyllia are attractive and fairly hardy.*

*For the more experienced aquarist, small polyp stony corals (SPS) of the genera Montipora, Stylophora pistillata (club finger) and Pocillopora verrucosa are hardy, adaptable and grow in a wide variety of shapes.*

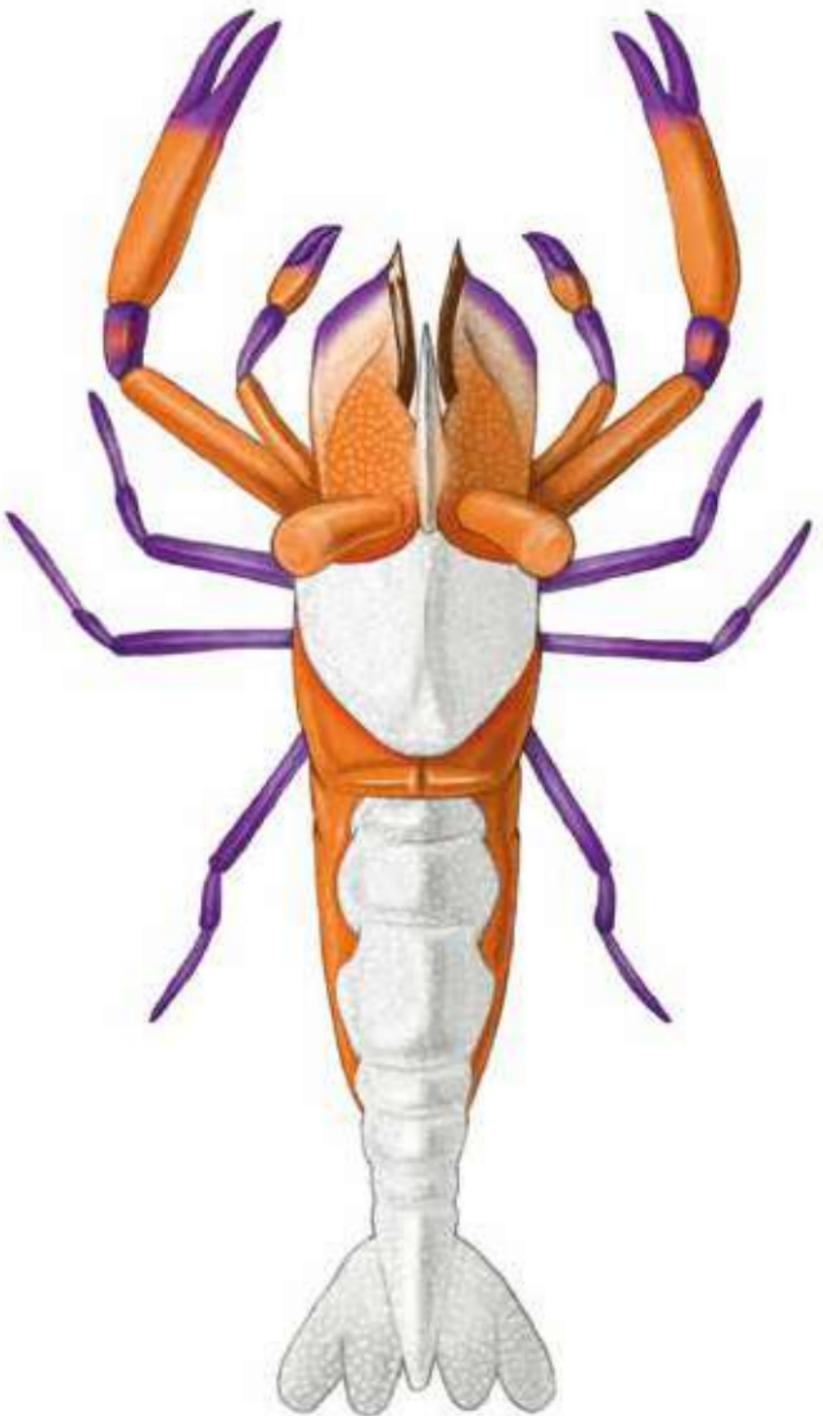
*Enjoy setting up and caring for your aquarium.*

*Yours,  
Hans-Werner Balling*



***Emperor Shrimp***  
(*Periclimenes imperator*)

*Probiotic bacteria activates the immune system. These microorganisms are beneficial for both fish and shrimp.*



***Bargibant's or pygmy seahorse***

*(Hippocampus bargibanti)*

***on a gorgonian sea fan (Muricella plectana)***

*The reinforcing symbiotic effect of prebiotic substances and probiotic bacteria are extremely beneficial to corals, fish and shrimp.*



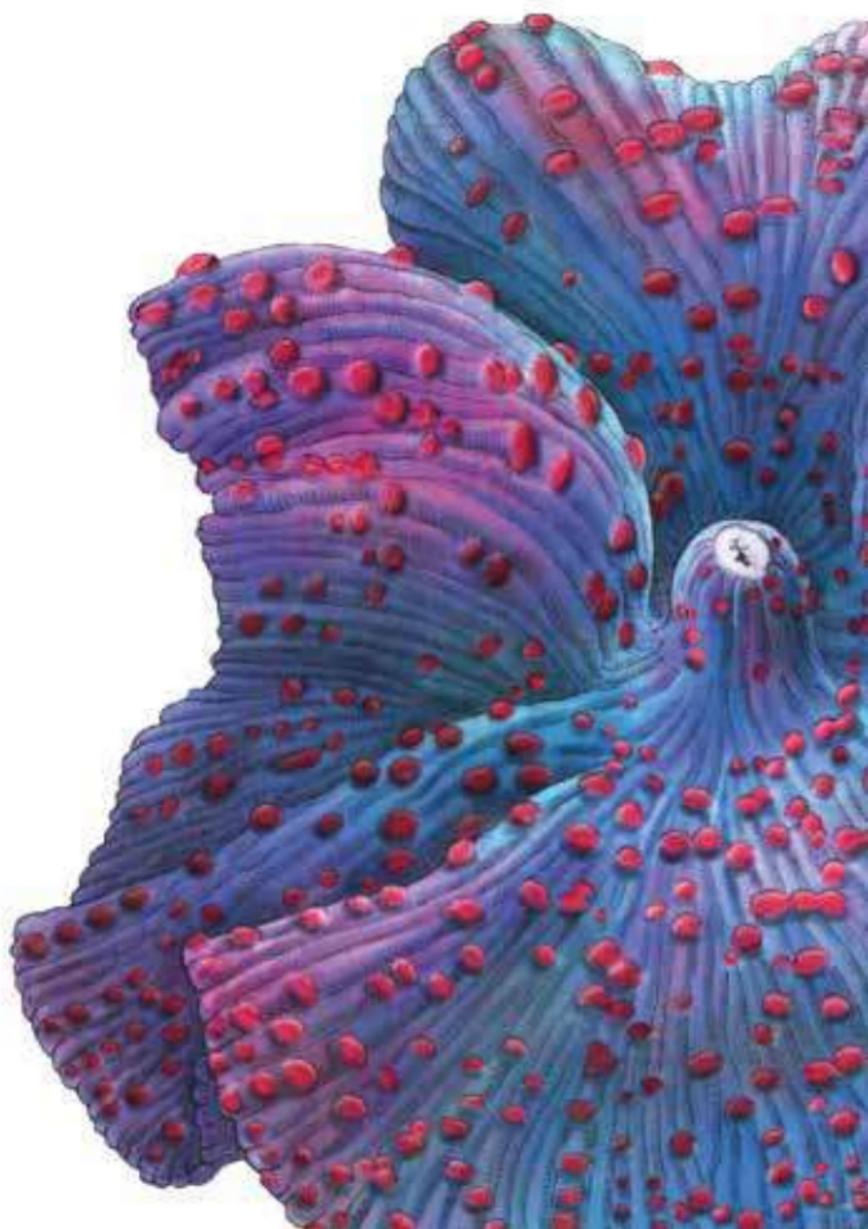
## *Optimum water parameters for reef aquariums*

<i>Temperature</i>	<i>23-27 °C (73-80 °F)</i>
<i>Specific gravity at 25 °C (77 °F)</i>	<i>1.024 – 1.026 g/cm<sup>3</sup></i>
<i>Conductivity</i>	<i>50.5 to 53 μS/cm</i>
<i>pH value</i>	<i>8.0 – 8.4</i>
<i>Alkalinity/carbonate hardness</i>	<i>6 – 8 °dH</i>
<i>Magnesium</i>	<i>1280 – 1380 mg/l</i>
<i>Calcium</i>	<i>400 – 440 mg/l</i>
<i>Ammonium</i>	<i>&lt; 0.02 mg/l</i>
<i>Nitrite</i>	<i>&lt; 0.02 mg/l</i>
<i>Nitrate</i>	<i>&lt; 2 mg/l</i>
<i>Phosphate</i>	<i>0.02 - 0.1 mg/l</i>
<i>Ratio nitrate : phosphate</i>	<i>about 10:1</i>

## *Disc Anemone*

*(Discosoma sp.)*

*Disc or Mushroom Anemones do not require a great deal of light to grow well and reward “old hands” and beginners alike with glowing colors. They open up particularly well in magnesium-rich water.*



***Orange Sun Coral / Orange Cup Coral***  
*(Tubastrea faulkneri)*

*This azooxanthellate stony coral derives its popular English name from its brilliant yellow or reddish-orange colour. It must be fed regularly and needs good quality water that is low in phosphates.*



***Spiny Seahorse***  
*(Hippocampus hystrix)*

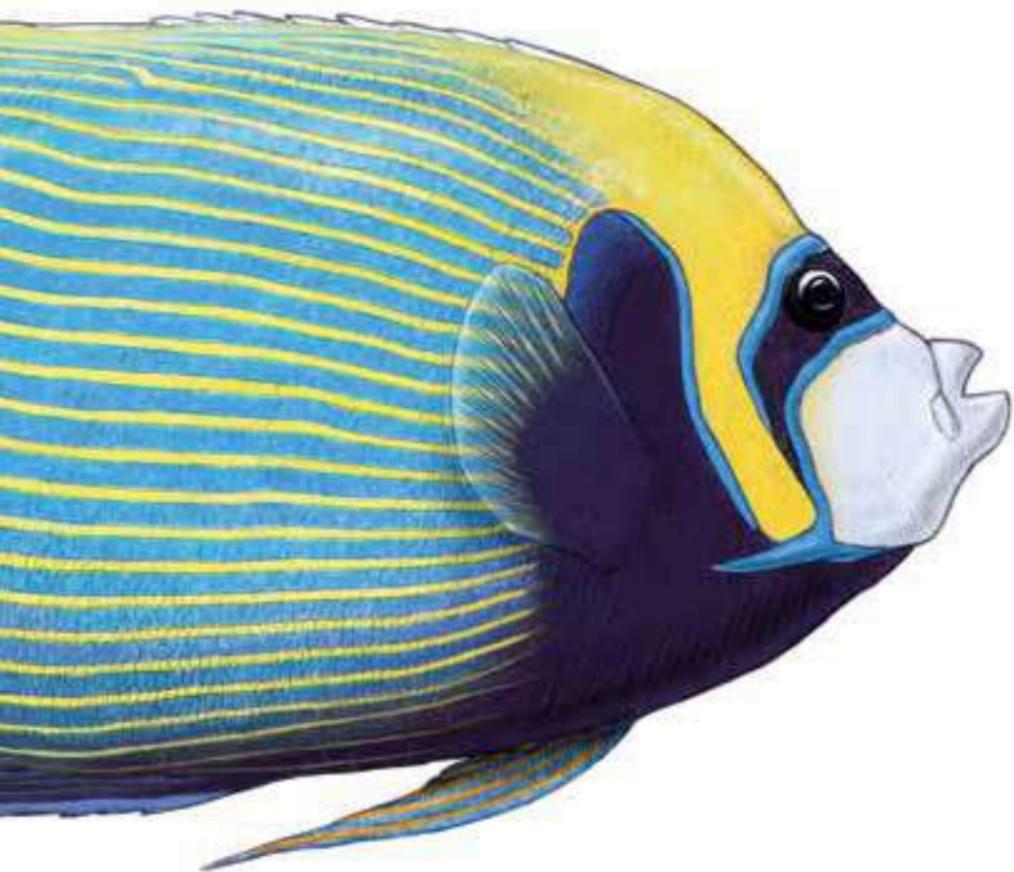
*Seahorses, such as the spiny seahorse, are slow moving and should only be kept in aquariums where they have no competition for food. Due to their sensitivity, it is essential to check their water parameters regularly.*



## ***Emperor Angelfish***

*(Pomacanthus imperator)*

*Angelfish, such as the Emperor Angelfish, are a typical choice for fish only aquariums and large reef aquariums. Tropic Marin Classic Sea Salt is a popular choice here because it offers greater buffering capacity.*



## **Wire Coral**

*(Cirrihipathes spiralis)*

*Colorful azooxanthellate gorgonians must be given suitable food such as Zootonic.*



***Candycane* pygmy goby (*Trimma cana*) on  
honeycomb coral (*Diploastrea heliopora*)**

*Prebiotic organic substances promote the growth of a  
valuable bacterial flora. Bio-Actif Sea Salt delivers  
these nutrients which benefit both corals and fish.*

