

Mexican Angelfish

The Eastern tropical to subtropical Pacific Ocean extends north from Cabo San Lucas in Mexico and south past the equator to central Chile. The popular aquarium King angel (*Holocanthus passer*) and also the more expensive Clarion angel (*Holocanthus clarionensis*) are found and caught in these vast waters.

The most popular collecting sites are on the central coast of Mexico. Seasonal temperatures usually range from 65°F to 80°F.

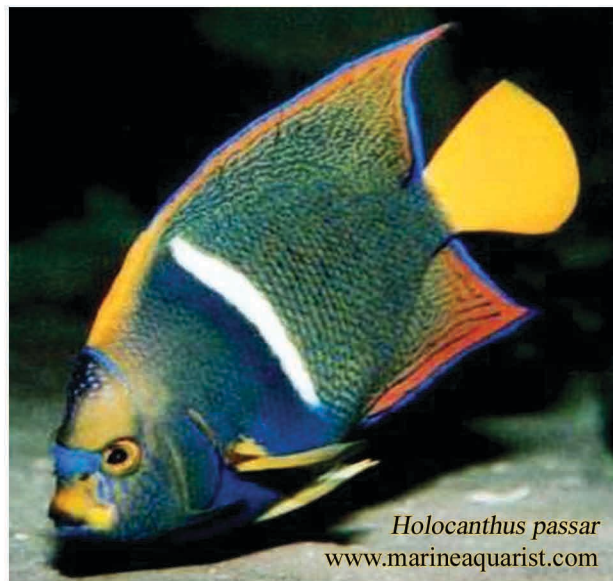
When kept in the tropical marine aquarium at about 77°F or 25°C, most *Holocanthus* from this area tend to be aggressive compared to their Indo and South Pacific cousins. It is speculated that this behavior can be attributed to two possible factors:

- 1) *Holocanthus* from Mexico come from cooler water than the average home marine aquarium. With the higher temperature of the home marine aquarium vs. their natural habitat, their metabolism is increased and they become more active and sometimes more aggressive.
- 2) Their natural environment in Mexico has more rocks with fewer corals compared to the coral reefs of the Indo and South Pacific. Thus nature and adaptation steers this fish to be more rugged and aggressive, like its environment.

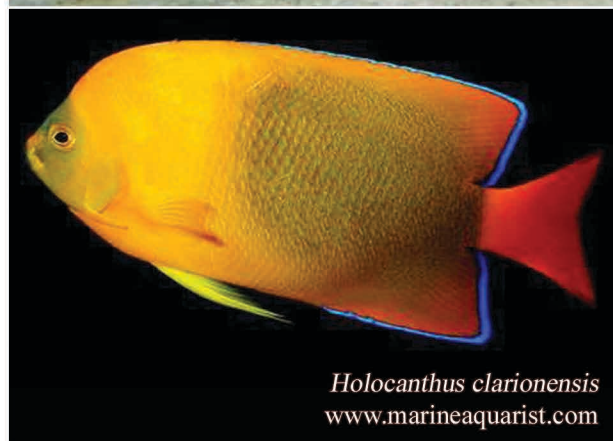
Photo #1 is the King angel (*Holocanthus passer* in adult coloration) displaying its blue body with red and gold around the fins. A white vertical band appears on the front third of the body.

Photo #2 is the Clarion angel (*Holocanthus clarionensis*) with a golden body outlined in blue. This is a more costly animal as it is usually collected around the Revilla Gigedo Islands.

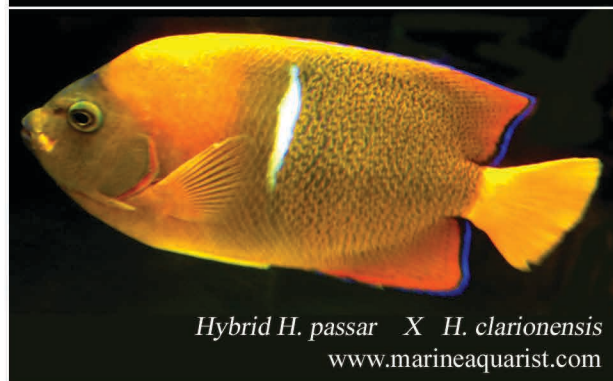
Photo #3 is a very rare hybrid of the *H. passer* X *H. clarionensis*. This individual has the best of each parents' bright colors. ♦



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Holocanthus clarionensis
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