

Marine Aquarist™ Free

DEDICATED TO SUCCESSFUL SALTWATER AQUARIUM KEEPING

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BLUE-STRIPE ANGEL

The Blue-Stripe Angelfish (*Chaetodontplus septentrionalis*) is found in the South China Sea. It is usually collected south of Taiwan and north of the Philippines. This exotic angelfish grows to about 8".

In nature the blue-stripe angelfish can be found in the company of butterfly fish, wrasses and other angelfish. It is constantly nibbling at or eating a variety of foods that include: crustaceans, alga and coral polyps.

Large numbers of blue-stripe angels were collected up to the late 1980's. After that, limited numbers were collected and shipped world-wide. Some of the reasons for a reduced supply are that traditional collecting sites were fished-out and divers had to go further away to discover new areas to collect. With increased difficulty in collecting the blue-striped angelfish, the price increased.

There are many different types of marine fish found in the same areas as the blue-stripe angelfish. These fish (butterfly, wrasses and other angelfish) can be collected easier and shipped with lower cost from other parts of the world (usually the Philippines). This left the blue-stripe angelfish the only fish from the area that was relatively popular.

The result is that only the blue-stripe angelfish is in demand from this part of the world. With higher prices to import only one type of fish, this created a situation where the once plentiful blue-stripe angelfish is now relatively rare. In 1993 only a few hundred blue-stripe angelfish were collected and shipped to aquarists around the world.

If you are fortunate enough to find a healthy blue-stripe angelfish that is taking a variety of foods at your pet shop, consider this as a valuable addition to your marine aquarium.



Blue-Stripe Angelfish *Chaetodontplus septentrionalis*.

The blue-stripe angelfish goes through several color changes from juvenile to adolescent to adult markings.

The young blue-stripe angelfish (under 1 1/2") is mostly dark gray in color with a yellow vertical band just behind the eyes, a little yellow on the nose and a clear tail.

The adolescent blue-stripe angel (about 2" to 3") begins to show blue horizontal stripes on a tan to brown body. At this time the yellow body band starts to disappear and the tail starts to turn yellow.

The adult blue-stripe angelfish (about 4 1/2" and larger) shows a dramatic golden brown body with neon blue horizontal stripes. The yellow body band is gone and the tail develops a yellow color.

In a well operating home marine aquarium this complete color change from juvenile to adult can take place in about 8 to 12 months.

The blue-stripe angelfish is a valuable addition to most marine aquariums. When juvenile, it is shy and requires hiding places. When adolescent, it becomes more comfortable with a variety of tank mates. When adult, it is not usually aggressive and will mix well with a variety of other captive marine fish.

In captivity, the blue-stripe angelfish will accept a variety of foods. A good starter food could be live brine shrimp. Be sure live foods are healthy and come from clean water. It is best to wash live foods with clean fresh water before adding to your display aquarium.

Other foods to feed the blue-strip angelfish are high quality flake foods, minced fresh scallop and/or prawn with algae. There are many frozen foods available at better pet shops that could benefit the blue-strip angelfish. Avoid over feeding this and all other fish.

It is best to periodically soak a variety of foods with a high quality vitamin additive such as Marine Vita-Pep™ (a combination vitamin and trace element supplement) and/or Coral Reef & Marine Fish Vitamins™. ♦

MARINE AQUARIST™ was created for the benefit of amateur and professional marine aquarists. Topics may include: water chemistry, system design, filtration, lighting, nutrition, mariculture, aquatic and chemical science, collecting, shipping, importing, selling and keeping many forms of marine life in captivity.

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