

EDITORIAL

Some things have become evident. This publication is so well received world-wide that we are in over 26 countries. In the US the largest number of readers is on the East Coast.

The East Coast of the US has been traditionally a market of low cost goods with a high attrition of hobbyists. Feedback from East Coast hobbyists and some of the leading dealers indicate that **MARINE AQUARIST™** is providing a much needed service by offering comparative product information and guidance not found in hobby magazines that depend on advertising revenue.

Most of the mail received was in response to the bar graphs and other information from the S-15 Report™. The S-15 Report™ is the culmination of several years of intense scientific investigation comparing various marine salts to natural seawater (NSW). Tests were performed by independent laboratories and a US Government prime contract testing laboratory.

International response to the S-15 Report™ has been positive and supportive. Great use can be had from this much needed and long overdue report and the resulting conclusive facts.

A few negative responses were generated by people who had a vested interest in marine salts that continually hydrated a solution that was dramatically different than NSW.

Many dealers and hobbyists are realizing that continual aquarium problems and animal mortality could be the result of being sold, and using, a marine salt that is dramatically different from NSW. Or using a so-called "enriched formula" that actually has deficiencies.

In defense of all marine salts, it must be pointed out that there are a number of varying factors in all individual marine aquariums. Some of the variables are: quality of the fresh water used to mix marine salts, use of carbons and/or resins, type of filtration, system temperature, foods offered, lighting, etc.

However, it must be understood that the first and more important consideration for any marine fish or reef aquarium is the selection of marine salt employed. *Water quality starts with your water™*.

The International Section proved to be popular. It is exciting for all of us to see what is going on in foreign lands. It is the pleasure of all international **MARINE AQUARIST™** team players to share information with fellow aquarists and readers. We will accept and publish suitable color slides and information from outside the US.

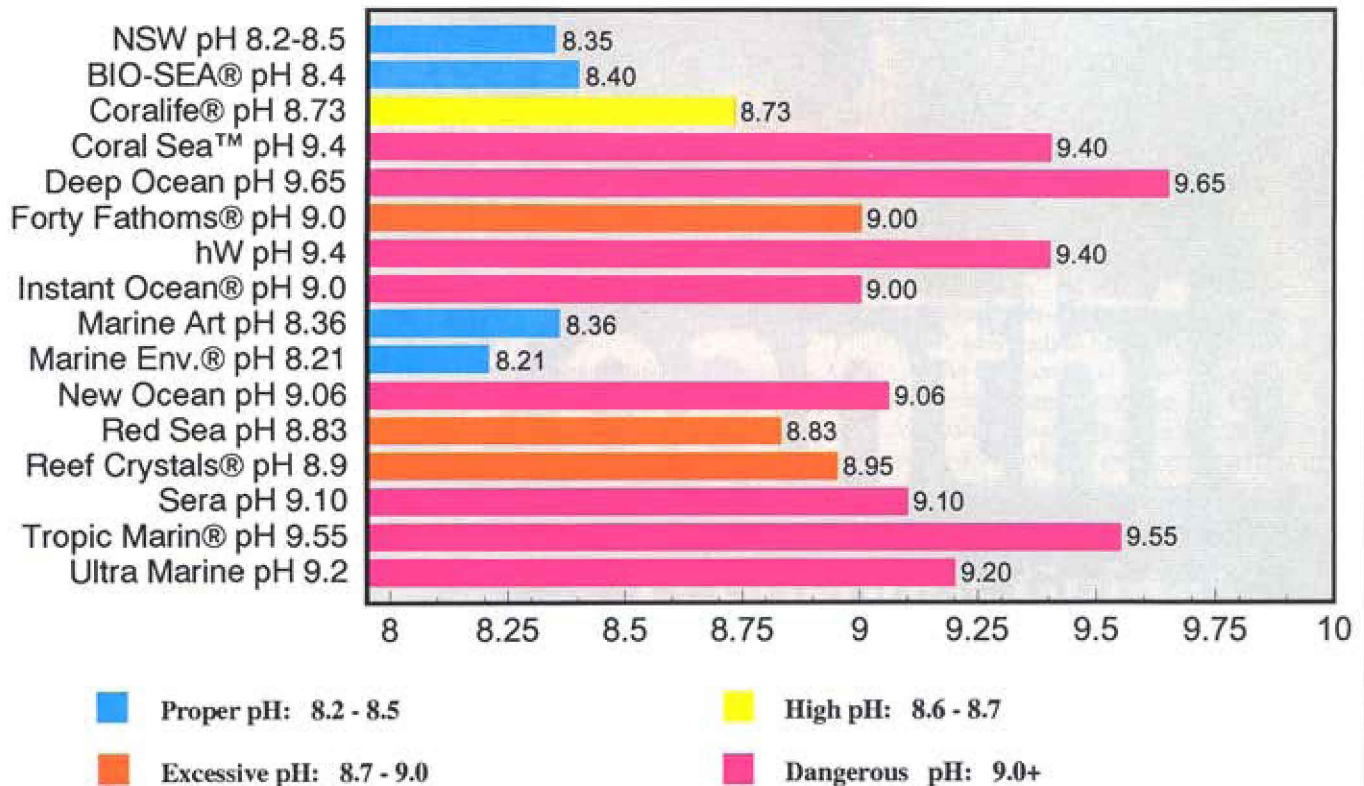
Some readers have indicated that they would like to have more detailed information, while others would like more pictures. Readership ranges from entry level to advanced marine fish and reef keepers. Professionals in pet shops, as well as public aquarium, university, research laboratory, state and government agency personnel are also receiving **MARINE AQUARIST™**. Currently **MARINE AQUARIST™** is six pages. Some future issues will be eight pages allowing for more information, in depth articles, photos and reports to be published.

I wish to thank all the dealers for their support in handing out **MARINE AQUARIST™**. Special thanks to the thousands of interested individuals for your well wishes and support. ♦

Michael Del Prete, Editor.

pH in natural seawater (NSW) is between 8.2 and 8.5

It is essential to maintain a proper pH of about 8.3. pH and ammonia are related. The higher pH, the more ammonia in the same water. High pH can stress captive marine organisms with osmotic imbalance or "pH shock". Mixing to and maintaining proper pH is controlled at the time the salt formula is manufactured.



All samples of marine salts tested were hydrated with deionized water at 25°C/77°F and mixed to a 3.5% dissolved solids [specific gravity of approximately 1.026] for equal comparison. Deionized water is used as a control because tap water varies in composition from location to location world-wide. Salts were mixed to approximately 1.026 S.G. because this is the world standard for measuring natural seawater.

pH was tested with AOAC procedures using Beckman test instruments. Test results for pH are from Anresco Laboratory Inc. an independent third party laboratory that prepared the S-15 Report™ that contains this information. ® & ™ are Registered Trade Marks.