



Fast Facts for the Pacific Ocean Aquarium Pacific Ocean, Part of the World Ocean

The Pacific Ocean, the body of water between the Southern Ocean, Asia, Australia and the Western Hemisphere, is the largest and deepest of the world's designated five oceans. With 70,000 sq. miles (181,300,000 sq. km) occupying about one-third of the Earth's surface, it is about 15 times the size of the United States and larger than the total land area of the world.

Strategically important access waterways include the La Perouse, Tsugaru, Tsushima, Taiwan, Singapore and Torres Straits.

Surrounded by a zone of violent volcanic and earthquake activity sometimes referred to as the "Pacific Ring of Fire," the Pacific Ocean is subject to tropical cyclones or typhoons, hurricanes and the cyclical El Nino/La Nina pattern that influences weather on both sides of the ocean.

It was named by the explorer Ferdinand Magellan. The southern part of the Pacific Ocean is also known as the South Sea.

Tank Specifications

Pacific Aquarium: A 443-gallon two-paneled glass tank.

- Sequence Dart Pump
- Berlin micron bag filter
- Lighting: Current 2X96 Watt (10,000k/ actinic) Power Compact
- Aquascape: 70 LBS Aragocrete, 150 LBS Fiji Live Rock, 60 LBS Tonga Branch Live Rock

The Pacific Aquarium Inhabitants

This 443-gallon tank is home to a variety of sea animals that originally comes from the Pacific Ocean. They include:

■ **Black Lionfish/ Red Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*)**

The sting of a lionfish is worse than its bite. Venom glands make a puncture wound very painful and serious, but not deadly. It stings larger predators when threatened.

■ **Blue Regal Tang (*Paracanthurus hepatus*)**

A popular and stunning fish known by many names (most recently "Dory" from the movie *Finding Nemo*), the Blue Regal Tang is also called the Palette Tang, the Flag-Tail tang and the Hippo Tang. Built for speed, this tang needs room to swim. Tangs are members of a group of fish called "surgeonfish," so named for the sharp blades on their tails that resemble the scalpels of a surgeon.

■ **Clown Grouper (*Pogonoperca punctata*)**

This grouper is covered with white spots and is a ravenous predator that will eat any fish or crustacean it can swallow whole. It ranges in size from 3 to 6 inches.

■ **Diana's Hogfish (*Bodianus Diana*)**

This very aggressive Diana is generally ravenous and known for bullying (and eating) smaller docile fish. Her diet consists of meaty foods like snails, worms, mussels and, of course, smaller fish. Diana is a "redhead" with white spots on the back along the dorsal fin.

■ **Dogface Puffer (*Arothron nigropunctatus*)**

This puffer fish's odd canine appearance gives it its name. Greyish brown on the top of its body with a yellowish underside and a bright white face marking, the Dogface Puffer even acts like a dog. Semi-aggressive, it can become "nippy" as it becomes larger. It is a venomous fish with poisonous flesh.

■ **Emperor Snapper (*Lutjanus Sebae*)**

Also called the Sebae Snapper, juveniles have defined bold red stripes that eventually fade away as the fish become adults. The adults will have a reddish-pink colored body. This snapper loves to eat crustaceans like crabs and shrimp.

■ **Niger Triggerfish (*Odonus niger*)**

The Niger Triggerfish is also called a Black Triggerfish or "red-toothed vampire fish" because of its two big teeth. This fish of many colors changes from black to green to blue to pink or purple on a daily basis.

■ **Panther Grouper (*Cromileptes altivelis*)**

This hardy species is not a fish for the average aquarist because of its large size. Young panthers display large black spots on a white body; as they mature, the spots become smaller but more plentiful like polka-dots. This fish grows fast and needs a tank with as much open swimming space as possible.

■ **Picasso Triggerfish (*Rhinecanthus aculeatus*)**

Say this word three times fast: Humuhumunukunauapua'a, the Hawaiian word loosely translated means "the hog-snouted fish that fits things together." Just try it once. Our Pablo likes to spit gravel; it's his way of rearranging his home.

■ **Snowflake Moray (*Echidna nebulosa*)**

Another shy eel, this predatory bottom dweller likes to hide with its head stuck out of its cubbyhole most of the time. It has flattened teeth and eats mainly shrimp, crab and sea urchins.

■ **Stars and Stripes Pufferfish (*Arothron hispidus*)**

This puffer fish has white spots on the top of its body and stripes running down its belly from head to tail. These puffer fish have sharp teeth designed for breaking hard snail shells.

■ **Tomino Tang (*Ctenochaetus tominiensis*)**

This tang changes color as it matures from tan with yellow, blue and white highlights to a solid body color. The tail becomes blue, and the dorsal and anal fins become tipped with a golden-yellow hue. Though aggressive toward other tangs, it's peaceful with other fish species.

■ **Vlamingi Tang (*Naso vlamingii*)**

A stunner that can grow to nearly two feet in the wild, this tang displays luminescent blue markings under actinic lighting (420 nm wavelength). A common name is Bignose Unicornfish because of the trademark forehead bump.

■ **Zebra Moray Eel (*Gymnomuraena zebra*)**

Striped like a zebra, this eel is one of the more docile eels. Rather shy, it needs plenty of shelter for hiding and can live with other eels as well. Eels don't eat on a daily basis and, from time to time the Zebra Moray Eel may hide and not eat for several weeks.