

# The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



## Yellow Tang

Scientific Name: *Zebrasoma flavescens*

Description: All individuals are bright daffodil yellow in color with small white spines on either side of the caudal peduncle.

Habitat: Shallow reefs in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, west of Hawaii and east of Japan.

## Top 10 Facts:

1. At night, the yellow coloration of the tang can fade slightly, with a prominent brownish patch developing in the middle with a horizontal white band.
2. Yellow Tang feed primarily on wild grasses, algae, caulerpa and other small plant materials. This species has also been known to eat shrimp and other small crustaceans.
3. In the wild, schools of Yellow Tang will provide cleaner services to larger fish and turtles by removing algal growth and dead tissue.
4. Yellow Tangs are Hawaii's largest marine fish export.
5. In their natural habitat, they inhabit areas of dense coral singly, in pairs or in loose groups.
6. The Yellow Tang has a disc-shaped body with large dorsal and anal fins. When these fins are fully extended, the total height of the fish is about the same as the length.
7. Adults can reach up to 20 centimeters (8") in length.
8. Like other tang species, Yellow Tang do not produce as much skin mucus on their bodies and can be susceptible to diseases like marine ich.
9. Recently, this species has been reported off the coast of Florida in the western Central Atlantic.
10. Yellow Tangs can be territorial. It is recommended to keep only one per tank in an aquarium setting.