Instructions For The Perfect Fish Identifier Form

Filling out **The Perfect Fish Identifier Form** will tell you which fish to introduce into the aquarium in what order. The following are the questions from the form with helpful hints and instructions.

1. **What is the common and scientific name of the fish?**

   You will find many common names for the same fish. To ensure you are researching the fish you want, it may be necessary to use the scientific name.

2. **What is the maximum size the fish will get in the aquarium? If not available then write the maximum size in the ocean.**

   It is easy to find the maximum size in the ocean and if possible try to find the maximum size in the aquarium. There are many fish hobbyists who want to keep nurse sharks. You can find aquarium stores that sell these sharks as small as a foot long. But nurse sharks can grow to over 10 feet in length. For the fishes benefit keep fish that will not grow to large for your aquarium.

3. **Is the fish passive, semi aggressive or aggressive?**

   When choosing fish to place into your aquarium you don't want to place small, passive fish with large aggressive meat-eaters. Many times these larger fish will consider the smaller fish is their lunch. Finding how passive or aggressive a fish is can help determine what order fish should be placed in your aquarium.

4. **Is it best kept in groups, pairs or by itself?**

   To keep a variety of fish in a small tank with limited space you may only have room to keep one of each type of fish. Whenever possible group fish like they are found in the wild. Schooling fish will be more at ease when they have friends to swim with.

5. **What food does this fish eat?**

   Saltwater fish fall into one of three categories: meat eaters, plant eaters or those that eat meat and plants. Whichever fish you choose always feed a variety of foods to keep your fish healthy long term.

6. **Does it live well in a home aquarium?**

   Many books now give you a numeric number to the fish's hardiness. Because the authors of these books score hardiness differently it may be easier just to write down hardy, very hardy or does not live well in captivity.

7. **Does the fish live in caves or burrow in the sand?**

   Many fish like caves or crevices to feel secure. Other fish will actually dig tunnels under rocks and decorations to make their own homes. Make sure your rocks are placed directly against the bottom of the aquarium to keep from tumbling when keeping these digging fish.

8. **Does it get sick easily?**

   There are lots of hardy fish to choose from. But some species of fish are more prone to diseases then others.

9. **Does this fish have venomous spines?**

   There are several popular species of fish that have venomous spines such as lionfish and rabbit fish. These fish are hardy and do well in captivity. Use caution and read a lot about these fish and their venom before deciding to keep one.

10. **Does the fish have any special requirements?**

    As you research information about your new fish you will find interesting facts that may be unique to these fish. Some fish take in mouthfuls of sand and sift through it for food. These fish require certain size sand. Some fish require a deep sand bed. Just spend a few minutes and discover any special requirement your fish may need to stay happy and healthy.

My Perfect Fish Identifier

Answering these questions about a particular fish will help you decide if this fish is right for your aquarium.

1. What is the common and scientific name of the fish? _____

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2. What is the maximum size the fish will get in the aquarium? If not available then write the maximum size in the ocean. _____

3. Is the fish passive, semi-aggressive or aggressive? _____

4. Is it best kept in groups, pairs or by itself? _____

5. What food does this fish eat? _____

6. Does it live well in a home aquarium? _____

7. Does the fish live in caves or burrow in the sand? _____

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8. Does it get sick easily? _____

9. Does this fish have venomous spines? _____

10. Does the fish have any special requirements? _____

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