

Unsuitable & Unsustainable

Species/Family/Genus	Unsuitable	Unsustainable
Ginglymostomatidae (Nurse sharks)	size (maximum sizes range from 75-430cm, diet (predators of live bottom dwelling creatures)	slow growth, mature late, data-deficient or threatened (IUCN Redlist), often by catch of demersal fisheries
Orectolobidae (Carpet Sharks/ Wobbegongs)	size (maximum sizes range from 63-320cm, diet (predators of live bottom dwelling creatures)	slow growth, mature late, data-deficient or threatened (IUCN Redlist)
Hemiscyllidae (Bamboo Sharks)	size (maximum sizes range from 46-120cm, diet (predators of live bottom dwelling creatures)	slow growth, mature late, data-deficient or threatened (IUCN Redlist)
Carcharhinidae (Requiem sharks)	size (maximum sizes range from 69-750cm, diet (predators of live bottom dwelling creatures)	low fecundity, slow growth, thus potentially over-fished, data deficient
Torpendinidae (Torpedos & Electric Rays)	Maximum size/species ranges from 29 to 140cm, thus many growing too large for average reef tank, active swimmers, width!, potentially harmful (electric strokes)	low resilience
Rhinobatidae (Guitarfish)	Maximum size/species ranges from 50 to 310 cm, thus many growing too large for average reef tank, active swimmers, predators	low resilience, mature late
Dasyatidae (Stingrays)	Maximum size/species ranges from 63 to 430 cm, thus many growing too large for average reef tank, active swimmers, predators, width, potentially harmful (venomous sting when stressed)	low resilience
Genus Hippocampus (Seahorses)	slow swimmers, require special tank, live feed, sensitive to disease	Unsustainable if not bred, threatened in wild by collection for traditional medicine, food, curio trade
Phycodurus eques	specialist feeder, slow swimmers and feeders, need specialized tank	IUCN Status: near threatened, endemic to Southern Australia
Phyllopteryx taeniolatus	specialist feeder, slow swimmers and feeders, need specialized tank	IUCN Status: near threatened, endemic to Southern Australia
Solenostomidae	very sensitive to handling,	rare!, data-deficient, probably unsustainable, low population density
Cromileptes altivelis	size of 70cm when adult (often imported as juvenile)	IUCN status Vulnerable, low resilience, targeted by food fishery
Epinephelinae (except Genus Liopropomatini) Groupers	size (maximum sizes range from 20-270cm, diet (predators of live fish)	low resilience and high vulnerability, targeted by LRFT, often caught by using cyanide when origin in Indonesia or Philippines
alle Arten der Fam. Lutjanidae (Snapper)	predators, often in significant depths, size (25-150cm)	targeted by the food fish trade, thus potentially over-collected
Muraenidae, except Ech. Nebulosa) Muray Eels	Maximum size/species ranges from 23-400 cm, thus many growing too large for average reef tank, secretive, require special set up of tank, predators, potentially harmful, although not toxic, but bits often cause severe bacterial infections	

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Congridae (Conger & Garden Eels)	need deep sand beds and are often zooplankton feeders, often sensitive to transport conditions	
Ophichthidae, especially Genus Myrichthys (Worm & Snake Eels)	Maximum size/species ranges from 50-110 cm, thus many growing too large for average reef tank, secretive, require special set up of tank: deep sand bottom, predators, feed on fish and crustacea	
Antennariidae (Anglerfish/Frogfish)	require live feed, predators, transport sensitive	
Photoblepharon palpebratum	highly secretive at day time, nocturnal, deep water species	
Monocentridae (Pinecone fish)	habitat, primarily at depths of 30-300m, zooplankton feed	
Genus Corythoichthys (Pipefish)	need live feed and well established microfauna	
Doryrhamphus dactylophorus	often refuses artificial feed, slow swimmers and feeders, need specialized tank	
Doryrhamphus japonicus	often refuses artificial feed, slow swimmers and feeders, need specialized tank	
Aulostomidae	maximum size 75-100cm, too big for average tanks, active swimmers, predators	
Centriscidae	sensitive to handling, schooling fish, specialist feeders	
Dendrochirus bellus	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Dendrochirus biocellatus	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Dendrochirus brachypterus	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Dendrochirus zebra	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Pterois antennata	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Pterois miles	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Pterois radiata	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Pterois sphex	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Pterois volitans	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	

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Genus Rhinopias	need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines- most venomous fish species)	
Genus Scorpaenopsis (Sculpins/Scorpionfish)	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Genus Scorpaena (Scorpionfish, Rockfish)	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Genus Scorpaenodes (Scorpionfish, Rockfish)	nocturnal, need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines)	
Synanceiidae (Stonefish)	need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines), secretive	
Taenianotus triacanthus	need live feed, predator, potentially harmful (venomous spines), secretive	
Nemanthias carberryi	needs to feed constantly (zooplankton), in relative deep waters, difficult to acclimatize	
Odontanthias borbonius	70-300m depth, lower temp., dimmed light,	
Pseudanthias bicolor	5-68m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize	
Pseudanthias ignitus	10-30m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize	
Pseudanthias lori	7-70m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize, transport sensitive	
Pseudanthias pascalus	5-60 m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize, transport sensitive	
Pseudanthias pleurotaenia	10-180 m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize, transport sensitive	
Pseudanthias thompsoni	5-190 m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize, transport sensitive	
Pseudanthias tuka	10-35m depth, sensitive to transport and diseases	
Pseudanthias ventralis	26-120 m depth, needs to feed constantly, difficult to acclimatize, transport sensitive	
Gnathanodon speciosus	often imported as juvenile, growing too big (120cm), active swimmer	
alle Arten der Fam. Caesionidae (Fusiliers)	require a lot of swimming space, active swimmers	
alle Arten der Fam. Haemulidae (Sweetlips & Grunts)	grow too big for the average reef tank (25-105 cm)	
Platax pinnatus	Feeds on algae as well as jellyfish and other gelatinous zooplankton, grows up to 45cm,	

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Platax tiera	stress, size up to 70cm	
Chaetodon aureofasciatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon austriacus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon baronessa	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon bennetti	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon burgessi	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon capistratus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon citrinellus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon collare	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon ephippium	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon falcula	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon flavirostris	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon fremblii	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon guentheri	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon guttatissimus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon larvatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon lineolatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon lunula	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon lunulatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon madagaskariensis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon melanotus	feeds on leather corals	
Chaetodon melapterus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon mertensii	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon mesoleucus	obligate coral polyp feeder	rare
Chaetodon meyeri	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon mitratus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon ocellatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon ocellicaudus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon octofasciatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon ornatissimus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon paucifasciatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon plebeius	coral polyp and parasite feeder	
Chaetodon punctatofasciatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon quadrimaculatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon rafflesi	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon rainfordi	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon reticulatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon sedentarius	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon semeion	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon semiclarvatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon speculum	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon triangulum	obligate coral polyp feeder	

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Chaetodon trifascialis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon trifasciatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon ulietensis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon unimaculatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon xanthocephalus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon xanthurus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chaetodon zanzibarensis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chelmon marginalis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chelmon muelleri	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Chelmonops truncatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Coradion altivelis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Parachaetodon ocellatus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Forcipiger flavissimus	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Forcipiger longirostris	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Apolemichthys arcuatus	obligate feeder of sponges and tunicates	
Aoplemichthys griffisi	obligate feeder of sponges and tunicates, in 15-100m depth	
Apolemichthys trimaculatus	obligate sponge feeder	
Apolemichthys xanthopunctatus	obligate feeder of sponges and tunicates, in 10-65m depth	rare
Centropyge boylei	in 53-120m	
Centropyge multicolor	in 20-115m depth, cryptic	
Centropyge multifasciata	in 7-70m depth, very secretive, seldom leaves its hole, difficult to get to feed, often starves away	when origin from Indonesia or Philippines often caught by using cyanide
Chaetodontoplus conspicillatus	obligate feeder of sponges and tunicates	rare
Chaetodontoplus duboulayi	obligate feeder of sponges and tunicates	
Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus	feeder of sponges and tunicates, filamentous algae	
Genicanthus bellus	in 24-100m depth	
Genicanthus personatus	In 23-174m depth	
Holacanthus passer	size (36cm), diet (prefers sponges)	
Holacanthus tricolor	size (35cm), diet (tunicates, sponges), stress	
Pomacanthus imperator	size(40cm), diet, stress (sensitive to disease)	
Pygoplithes diacanthus	Diet (Sponges & Tunicates), stress (sensitive to disease)	
Pomacanthus xanthometapon	diet, size (38cm)	
Pomacanthus annularis	size (45cm), diet	
Pomacanthus arcuatus	diet, size (60cm)	
Pomacanthus asfur	diet, size (40cm)	
Pomacanthus paru	size (41cm)	

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Pomacanthus narvarchus	feeds on sponges and tunicates, sensitive to disease	
Scaridae	need to feed constantly on dead corals to prevent teeth growing too long, size ranges from 20-130cm	
Exallias brevis	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Callionmydae	all dragonets are specialized feeders that require a well established reef tank with microfauna	
Acanthurus achilles	very sensitive to disease, with massive UV only	
Acanthurus bariene	size (50cm)	
Acanthurus dussumieri	size (54cm)	
Acanthurus japonicus	very sensitive to disease, with massive UV only	
Acanthurus leucosternon	very sensitive to disease, with massive UV only, size (54cm)	
Acanthurus lineatus	sensitive to disease and transport	
Acanthurus sohal	size (40cm), aggressive	
Zanclus canescens	difficult to acclimatize & get to feed	
Zanclus cornutus	difficult to acclimatize & get to feed	
Balistes vetula	size (60cm)	
Balistoides conspicillum	size (50cm), feed on hardshelled invertebrates	
alle Arten der Unterfamilie Nasinae	size (50-100cm), active swimmers, require plenty of swimming space	
Aluterus scriptus	Size (110cm)	
Oxymonacanthus longirostris	obligate coral polyp feeder	
Genus Arothron	terrestrial, require numerous daily feedings and plenty of swimming space, size (30-120cm)	
Canthigaster coronata	in 23-165m depth!	
Canthigaster epilampra	in 24-60m depth	
Canthigaster leoparda	in 30-50m depth	
Acanthostracion quadricornis	size (55cm), when stressed they release a toxin	
Lactophrys bicaudalis	size (48cm), when stressed they release a toxin	
Lactoria cornuta	sensitive to disease, size (46cm)	
Ostracion cubicus	all ostracion species require plenty of swimming space, are slow moving and easily stressed by tank mates, when stressed they release a toxin, size (45cm)	
Tetrasomus gibbosus	in 37-110m depth, feeds on benthic microfauna, thus needs well established reef tank without fast-moving, aggressive tank mates	
Anampses caeruleopunctatus	most anampses species are poor shippers, require deep sand beds and often refuse to feed initially, need live feed, size (42cm)	

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Genus Cheilinus	most grow too big (17-229cm), all require meaty diet and will feed on invertebrates and small fish	
alle Arten der Gattung Choerodon	most grow too big (20-100cm), all require meaty diet and will feed on invertebrates and small fish,	
alle Arten der gattung Coris	often imported and sold as colorful juveniles, most grow too big (14-120cm), all require meaty diet and will feed on hard-shelled invertebrates, need several feedings/day	
Gomphosus caeruleus	constantly moving thus in need of plenty swimming spce, might stress other tank mates, size (30cm)	
Gomphosus varius	constantly moving thus in need of plenty swimming spce, might stress other tank mates, size (30cm)	
Halichoeres cyanocephalus	is cleaner as juvenile and can be quite annoying to other fish, needs plenty of food	
Halichoeres radiatus	grows too big (51cm) and feeds much	
Halichoeres trimaculatus	quite big (27cm), requires deep sandbed and several feeding per day	
Halichoeres vrolikii	not to be kept among corals, requires significant sandbed and several daily feedings	
Halichoeres zeylonicus	habitat	
alle Arten der Gattung Hemigymnus	often imported and sold as colorful juveniles, grow too big (80-90cm), need several feedings/day	
alle Arten der Gattung Hologmyxus	grow too big, feed on small fishes and crustaceans, in depths of up to 30m	
Labroides bicolor	quite aggressive cleaner, who stress other fish with its cleaning behaviour	
Labroides pectoralis	quite aggressive cleaner, who stress other fish with its cleaning behaviour	
Labroides phthirophagus	quite aggressive cleaner, who stress other fish with its cleaning behaviour	
alle Arten der Gattung Lapropsis	juveniles feed on ectoparasites of other fish (cleaner), adults feed on coral polyps!	
alle Arten der Gattung Novaculichthys	will constantly move rocks or hard corals in the search for food, can also become aggressive against other wrasses	
alle Arten der Gattung Oxycheilinus	require a meaty diet, also feed on fish and can become aggressive toward other fish with age	

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alle Arten der Gattung Thalassoma	require a meaty diet, with several feedings per day, also feeds on small fish and can become aggressive with age, very active swimmers thus require much swimming space	
alle Arten der Gattung Wetmorella	very secretive and shy, rarely caught, like all wrasses needs several feedings per day, not with fast and aggressive species	
alle Arten der Gattung Xyrichtys	need deep sandbed, feeds on small fish and meaty benthic organisms, aggressive	
Pegasidae (Seamoths)	Feed on minute zoobenthos with extremely protrusible snout, thus require well established tank with benthic microfauna, bad travelers and difficult to acclimatize	
Lythrypnus dalli	subtropical, thus requiring temperature of 18-22°C, found in depths up to 76m – only for specialized tanks	
Centropyge bicolor		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge bispinosus		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge eibli		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge flavissimus		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge nox		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge tibicen		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge venustus		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)
Centropyge vrolikii		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreats into holes)

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Amphiprioninae (Anemonefishes)		potentially over-collected because extremely easy to catch & due high demand – should only be purchased when from breeding and culture, wild specimens are prone to carry <i>Brooklynella hostilis</i>
Pomacentridae (especially Genus Chromis, Chrysiptera, Neoglyphidodon)		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (hide between branches of staghorn corals), including highly demanded species e.g. <i>Chromis viridis</i> , <i>Chrysiptera hemicyanea</i> , etc.
Shrimp/Prawn/Sleeper Gobies – Genus Amblyeleotris, Amblygobius, Cryptocentrus, Ctenogobiops, Valenciennea		potentially caught by using cyanide when origin from Indonesia/Philippines (retreat into holes)
<i>Pseudochromis porphyreus</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Pseudochromis aldabrensis</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Pseudochromis flavivertex</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Pseudochromis fridmani</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Pseudochromis sankeyi</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Pseudochromis springeri</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Cypho purpurescens</i>		readily available from breeding & culture, thus no need to buy from wild sources
<i>Neocirrhites armatus</i>		hiding among branches of live corals (<i>Stylophora mordax</i> , <i>Pocillopora elegans</i> , <i>P. eydouxi</i> , or <i>P. verrucosa</i>). Retreats deep into the coral when approached, thus collection might involve breaking of coral branches
<i>Oxycirrhites typus</i>		uncommon to rare
<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>		restricted to small geographic area (endemic), thus potentially over-collected, readily available from breeding, thus to be avoided from wild sources

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Malacanthidae (Tilefishes)		difficult to catch thus often related to cyanide use when origin from Indonesia/Philippines