

# The Colorful World of Reef Aquarium Fishes: Scott Michael Reveals Hidden Secrets of Underwater Beings



## INTRODUCTION

### *Nano-reef aquariums: when bigger is not better*

I have been keeping nano-reefs for many years. In fact, I was setting up nano-marine tanks before nano-reefs became the coolest new thing in aquariums. This was out of necessity, not because I was some sort of trendsetter. Nano-reefs were ideal for keeping the predacious frogfishes that I conducted research on as an undergraduate student. These gluttonous ambush predators are best housed on their own because they are inclined to dine on their fish neighbors. I would house them in 2- to 20-gallon (7.5-75-L) tanks with a couple of pieces of live rock. I also kept nano-marine aquariums during my college days because both funds and space were limited. I decided a smaller tank was better than no tank at all. These were not elaborate reef tanks like Julian Sprung's famous 15-gallon (57-L) nano, but consisted of a piece live rock, some macroalgae, and a piscivorous resident or two. I also kept some more pugnacious species in these tiny tanks, like dotybacks, and fishes I was interested in studying or photographing.

Of course, back when I started keeping these smaller tanks a couple of decades ago, most traditional saltwater fishkeepers were of the opinion that small aquariums were not stable enough because less water meant less "environmental inertia": when a beginner's mistake was made, inevitably a catastrophe would occur. Conventional wisdom dictated that the minimum tank size of a saltwater aquarium, back in the early days of my fish store employ, was 30 or 40 gallons (114-150 L), but more often than not, store employees tried to steer people to a more "stable" 55- to 75-gallon tank.

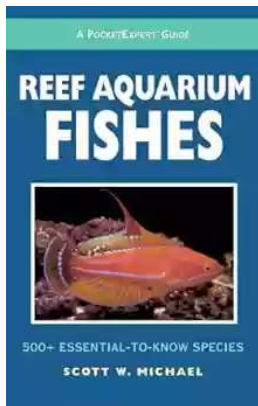
In the 1980s, we certainly did not have access to the amazing array of lighting, filtration systems, and foam fractionators that nano-reefkeepers have at their disposal today. Now, not only are these products functional, they are also aesthetically appealing. Many of the pre-packaged, contemporary nano-reefs are "sleek" systems that are self-contained—all the equipment is strategically incorporated in the aquarium so that the system is attractive rather than being a nest of wires and tubes. In the early days of the nano reef, it

*Purple Firefish: a small beauty and great aquarium fish for nano tanks.*

Reef aquariums are not just glass boxes filled with water and a few fishes floating around. They are vibrant underwater ecosystems teeming with an incredible

diversity of colors, shapes, and sizes. To truly appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of these underwater beings, it takes an expert like Scott Michael.

Scott Michael is a renowned aquatic expert, author, and photographers specialising in reef aquarium fishes. He has dedicated his life to exploring the depths of the ocean, unraveling the mysteries of these fascinating creatures, and spreading awareness about their conservation and protection.



### **Reef Aquarium Fishes** by Scott W. Michael(Kindle Edition)

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.4 out of 5
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| Screen Reader        | : Supported |
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## **Delving into the Depths**

Scott Michael's journey as a reef aquarium fish expert started when he was just a young boy, mesmerized by the colorful fishes he encountered during snorkeling trips with his family. He quickly developed a deep curiosity for marine life, which fueled his desire to learn more about the intriguing world beneath the surface.

Through years of hands-on experience, Scott Michael has become one of the foremost authorities in the field. He has travelled to some of the most remote and exotic locations across the globe, studying and documenting the fascinating behaviors and characteristics of reef aquarium fishes.

His extensive knowledge and expertise have made Scott Michael a sought-after speaker at international conferences, aquarium exhibitions, and educational institutions. He continues to share his profound insights, captivating audiences with his deep passion for these enchanting creatures.

## **The Enigmatic World of Reef Aquarium Fishes**

Reef aquarium fishes are not just ornamental creatures; they play a crucial role in maintaining the balance and health of coral reefs. These fishes have evolved to adapt to the complexities of their underwater habitat, showcasing a stunning array of colors and patterns to attract mates, confuse predators, and communicate with their counterparts.

Scott Michael has spent countless hours observing and studying these fishes in their natural habitat, which has allowed him to unravel some of the most enigmatic secrets of these captivating creatures. From their courtship rituals and territorial behaviors to their unique color-changing abilities, Scott Michael's wealth of knowledge offers invaluable insights into the complex lives of reef aquarium fishes.

One of the most remarkable aspects of reef aquarium fishes is their ability to form symbiotic relationships with other organisms, such as corals and anemones. These intricate partnerships benefit both parties involved, creating a delicate balance within the ecosystem.

Scott Michael's research has shed light on the fascinating symbiotic relationships of reef aquarium fishes, unveiling the intricate web of dependencies that exist below the water's surface. By understanding these relationships, aquarists can create and maintain thriving reef aquariums that mimic the natural environment of these magnificent beings.

## Conservation and Protection

As an avid underwater photographer, Scott Michael has captured the essence and beauty of reef aquarium fishes through his lens. His stunning photographs serve as a powerful medium to raise awareness about the importance of preserving these fragile ecosystems.

Reef aquarium fishes face numerous threats, including habitat destruction, overfishing, pollution, and climate change. Scott Michael actively advocates for their conservation, working with conservation organizations and spreading awareness through his books, articles, and lectures.

Through his passionate advocacy, Scott Michael aims to inspire individuals to take action and contribute to the protection of these unique species. By educating the public about the profound value of reef aquarium fishes, he hopes to promote sustainable practices and ensure their existence for future generations.

Scott Michael's unparalleled expertise and dedication have brought the mesmerizing world of reef aquarium fishes to life. Through his extensive research, captivating photography, and inspiring advocacy, he has become a leading figure in the realm of aquatic conservation.

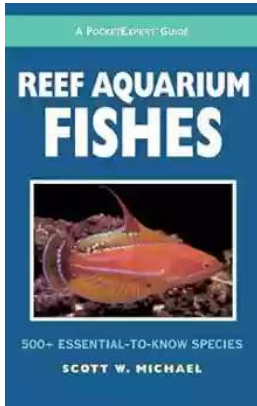
As individuals, we have the power to protect and preserve the beauty of our oceans and the creatures that inhabit them. Scott Michael's work serves as a reminder of the awe-inspiring beauty that lies beneath the surface, urging us to take action and safeguard these fragile underwater ecosystems for the generations to come.

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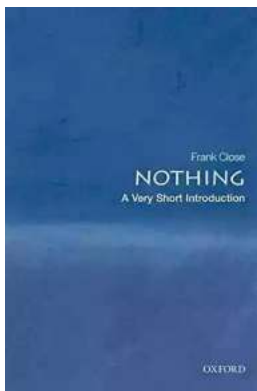
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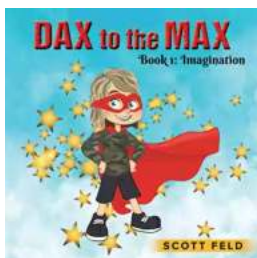


Covering over 500 species, this authoritative reference offers the most up-to-date information on fishes for reef aquariums, including helpful advice on captive care and feeding. With all newly-authored text by a recognized authority on these beautiful and fascinating marine animals, this complete comprehensive guide is essential for aquarists of all levels, from beginner to expert.



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