

August 2010 - Wayne Boulton (sailfin)

Congratulations to Wayne Boulton on winning TOTM for August 2010 with his "Gigantea" of a shallow reef tank.

Wayne is known as sailfin on the RTAW Forums and you can read more about him tank in his Tank Journal .

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Introduction

My first interests in marine, mainly fish started in the late 60s back in the days of doing a bit of snorkelling and spear fishing, my first tank was a old iron bathtub with a borrowed air pump had a heap of great stock in that two starfish and a few snails But I really got the bug and started to get into it more fully in the mid 70s after a trip to Townsville and a visit to the public aquarium plus a visit to a scientific giant clam farm on Magnetic Island (I have no idea if this is still in operation) From there and a few trips to the GBR around Cairns I became more interested and went from tank to tank both in size and varying types of setups I have always kept to very basic filtration types with the assumption of the less complex it is the less can go wrong. I have used both the Berlin and Jaubert methods the only one I always wanted to try but never got around to was the Algae Scrubber method

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The Tank

The tank is 60" (150cm) Long x 24" (60cm) Wide x 12" (30cm) High. Overall Cabinet height 54" approx 270 litres It was designed to be an SPS and Clam only tank with an open top to view. However after loading it with acroporas I was somewhat disappointed! It looked colourful but just didn't look natural (well to me anyway) then came the gigantea I kept the clams for quiet a long time but they were hard to place with the size of the anemone and the way the rock was setup I took them out and that changed the whole outlook as it is today other than the changing of some livestock along the way mainly due to growth issues. It has been running for 3 years next month September 2007 I replaced the original sump to a bigger size still L shaped it is now larger 110cm long x 50cm wide x 30 cm high with an added height of 30 cm at one end which is to accommodate coral rubble and a few bio-balls

Filtration

There is around 100 kilos of live rock approx 10cm sand bed in the DTI run a basic trickle filter from the main tank there are 2 pipes that carry the water from a weir to a drip tray on top of the trickle system under that is a fine dust dsb (20cm) followed by the skimmer chamber then the refugium with mixed macro algae with a miracle mud substrate through a small baffle to the return pump chamber this is where the Di top up water drips into. I have a Reef Octopus NW 110 skimmer that works well.

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Water flow

The only water flow/movement is from the return a 7,500 lph pump and a small 1200 lph p/h that sits at the back of the tank to give the gigantea a small cross flow.

Lighting

Originally I had a all in one metal halide 2x 150w 20,000k I changed this to a 4' T5 x 8 tubes now running 5 x 20,000k 2 x 15,000k 1 x A3 actinic these work well the anemones and corals are thriving and colour stays in the few sps corals I however I assume this is working so well due to the tank height.

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Other equipment

The only other equipment I have is a 30 litre tank at the return pump end with a staffanifloat valve I use DI water in this Water parameters?

I have no idea I have never tested the water even when it was first fired up (although I have to say the tank water was tested just over 12 months ago when a MASS meeting was held here a few of the people were somewhat amazed at some of the readings so I wastold)

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Additives and conditioners

1 capful of Carib Sea Aragra Milk I used to dose this daily. But for the past few months have cut back to every 2nd day I also add 1 spoonful (supplied) of tropic marin bio-calcium and 1 eyedropper full of tropic marin pro-coral iodine once a week.

Fish

I have changed the fish list mainly due to size issues Blue tang and yellow tang. List is as follows. *Choerodon fasciatus* *Gomphosus varius* *Halichoeres melanurus* *Macropharyngodon choati* *Amphiprion per* black *Chromis viridis* *Centropyge loricula* *Acanthurus nigrofuscus* *Amblygobius rainfordi* *Istigobius ornatus* *Cirri* *chelomatus* *Blenniella chrysopilos* *Ecsenius bicolor* *Psuedoanthias bartlettorum* *Psuedoanthias hypselasoma*

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Coral / Anemones

Stichodactylagigantea *Entacmaea quadricolor* *Acropora* sp. *Euphyllia ancora* *Euphyllia paraancora* *Blastomussa wellsii* *Discosoma* sp. *Catalaphyllia jardinei* *Cynarina lacrymalis* *Echinophyllia* sp. *Euphyllia glabrescens* *Faviidae* sp. *Euphyllia ancora* *Plerogyra sinuosa* *Euphyllia divisa* *Zooanthoan* *Lobophyllia* sp. *Lobophyton* sp. *Sarcophyton* sp. *Tracyphyllia geoffroyi* *Mycedium* *Elephantopus*

Inverts

Tectus sp. *Haliotis asinina* *Strombus* sp. *Diadema savignyi* *Holothuria* sp. *Euapta godeffroyi* *Holothuria edulis* *Saron neglectus* *Neopetrolisthes ohshimai* Plus other Assorted Snails

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Maintenance

I used to do around 25 litres a week but since the new sump I do one fortnightly when I put the new sump in I plumbed it so there is a pipe through the house wall behind the tank to outside I have a ball valve plumbed and now all I do is drain the sump and pump fresh NSW back in

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