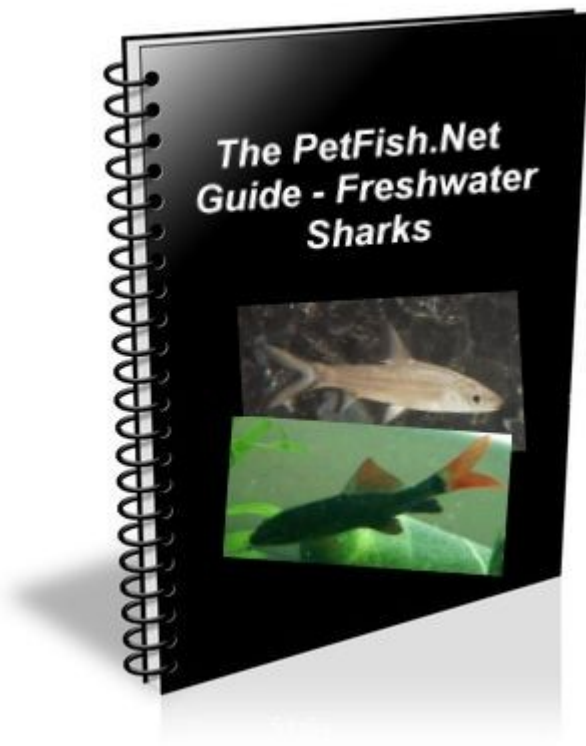


The PetFish.Net Guide – Freshwater Sharks



Part Of The PetFish.Net Guide Series

Ruby Shark, Rainbow Shark

By Charel Haasbroek



© Charel Haasbroek

Common Name : Ruby Shark, Rainbow Shark

Latin Name: *Epalzeorhynchus frenatum*

Origin: Thailand

Temperature: 70-80°F (21-27°C)

Ease Of Keeping: Easy - Medium

Aggressiveness: Calm

Lighting: Normal

Comments: These are SAID TO BE nocturnal. Mine are VERY active during the day. They're said to be territorial: Mine are very happy to share space. They are said to be shy and in need of caves: Mine NEVER use the caves. They NEVER hide. And they NEVER sit still. Trying to photograph them was Difficult.

In my personal experience:

Happy little DAY fish.
Always doing something.
Not shy.
Happy to share the community tank.

Iridescent Shark



Iridescent Sharks © Marissa Blaszkco



Iridescent Sharks © Marissa Blaszkco

By: Marissa Blaszkco
Common Name: Iridescent Shark
Latin Name: *Pangasium sutchi*
Origin: Asia / Korea
Temperature: 75-80°F (24-27°C)
Ease Of Keeping: Hard!
Aggressivness: Very easy going
Adult Size: 1 to 4ft
Minimum Tank Size: 50 Gallon
Feeding: omnivore

Comments: If I had known more about these fish, I probably would have never gotten them!

Unknowing to how big they'd get, I bought a 10gallon tank--which is fine, for now. Apparently, they can grow up to 4ft when given enough space, but in captivity they get from 8-12inches, which is good news I guess. Also, it takes them a while to reach this size, so I'll have a while to get a much larger tank.

But I will say--for sharks, they get along excellently with the other fish! That said, they're actually afraid of the other fish, both whom are about 1/4 their size. Whenever I go to turn on / off the light, feed the fish, take something out of the water, clean the tank, or do most anything, they swim around in mindless fright! After the smaller one went as far as to try to burry his head between the wall / rocks / a plan, I decided to add a small glass to their tank, which I covered up with rocks.

I'm going to be lucky if I ever see either fish again.

They're also very prone to physical damage. Since they're very shy fish with very poor eyesite, they've been known to ram into the tank in mindless fright. Although I've heard stories of the fish hitting the sides of the tank so hard they've hurt or even killed themselves, that thankfully hasn't happened to me yet. Instead, one has a small / shallow cut on his stomach, from trying to swim under a plant, and instead injured himself on a rock.

Although I heard the sharks are supposed to be very hungry fish, they're usually too afraid to leave their corner to go eat. They supposedly also have a good sense of smell--yet neither can find the food in front of them?

All in all, this is a warning--if you're a beginner or want a fish that will look good in your living room, these are NOT the fish for you. There isn't enough info on the internet for you to really be able to understand these fish, and I'm telling you now, although I love my little sharks, I wish I had gotten something easier!

Ruby Shark

By: Rainbow Shark



A Ruby (Rainbow) Shark
© Merlin Senger

Common Name: Ruby Shark, Rainbow Shark, Red Finned Shark.

Latin Name: *Epalzeorhynchus frenatum*

Origin: Thailand

Temperature: 70-80°F (21-27°C)

Ease Of Keeping: medium

Aggressiveness: medium

Lighting: normal

Adult Size: 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 30 gallon (120 liters)

Feeding: Bloodworms, Algae flakes, Some other flake foods

Spawning Method: unknown

Ruby sharks are very territorial fish, they need a hiding spot or they might die of stress. Here are some things you could get for them, of course a fake or real plant, a rock, maybe a hollow hiding place like some drift wood or a tube. They may stay at the bottom for a long period of time motionless.

They often are nocturnal in my experience, well that's maybe because all of my fish are nocturnal. Ruby sharks don't like a lot of sunlight so only turn on the light during water changes.

Telling male from female. Often the males are much smaller, the females almost always look pregnant, they have big bellies and may turn towards a silver colour, boys, on the other hand are slim and have a black outlined anal fin.

Red-Tailed Shark



Species/genus: Labeo bicolor

Origin: Thailand

Temp: 73-81°F (23-27°C)

pH: 5.5 - 7

dH: Soft (Not Critical)

Temperament: Individuals fight with others of their own species, otherwise they are gentle enough for a community tank of medium to large species.

Adult Size: 5in (12cm)
Larger in the wild.

Minimum Tank Size: 10 gallon

Feeding: Always hungry, never finicky

Breeding: Look for spawning tube a week or 2 before spawning, fry are easily raised

Comments: A popular species, likes a lot of room. Although easy going, it will eat tiny fish that it naturally assumes are food.

Visitor Comments

Name : Koran

Comments : Just wanted to comment that red tail sharks actually grow to about 7 inches, and the smallest possible tank size for them would be a 20 gallon, with 29g being best for an adult shark.

Iridescent Shark



A BIG Iridescent Shark
© BetacommandBot

By: Devan Pearson

Common Name: Iridescent Shark

Latin Name: *Pangasius Hypophthalmus*

Origin: Thailand, Laos, Vietnam

Temperature: 60-80°F (17-28°C)

Ease Of Keeping: Hard

Aggressivness: Easy Going

Lighting: All

Adult Size: 48 inches (120cm) Thats BIG

Minimum Tank Size: 200 Gallons or more

Feeding: Shrimp Pellets, Feeders, Wide variety of sinking and floating pellets

Spawning Method: Unknown

Comments: This fish IS THE WORST FISH FOR BEGINNERS!

Name: Kimberly

Comments: I must say that I love my Iridescent sharks. I have 2, 1 is about 6 inches the other is 4 inches. There is almost no info on these sharks or I wouldn't have bought them. I have had them for 4 years and they were 1 inch long when I got them. They are in a 55g tank so I think they grow slow. I now am planning on getting a 150g tank so that they will have enough room when they get bigger. I'm working on getting a picture of my pair. I have had really bad problems with Ick. They seem to get it if I go more than 2 weeks without a water change. They are alot of work!!!! I feel that no one should get these fish unless you really love sharks. My pair doesn't eat anything but flake or crisps, but maybe that is because they are not big enough yet.

Name: Michael

Comments: I have had two Iridescent Sharks for about 4 months now. I keep them in a 100g aquarium. When I got them they were around 2.5" long and now they are around 10. I've found that they are relatively easy to keep. My only problem is that when they get frightened that they go crazy untill they hit the glass usually in the back corners of my tank and they will just sit there. Not that that's a big problem but I keep my heaters in the corners and if they sit there too long they get burned. But other than that it's been all good. I feed them flake food and wardley's shrimp pellets.

Black Shark



By : fishkeeper

Latin Name : *Morulius chrysophekadion*

Origin : Southeast Asia

Temperature : 72-82°F (22-28°C)

Ease Of Keeping : average

Aggressivness : mildly aggressive; may nip slow moving fish.

Lighting : doesn't matter

Adult Size : 18 inches or more (45cm)

Minimum Tank Size : 55 gallons bare minimum, the bigger the better

Feeding : This fish will eat anything, it will also scavenge for leftovers.

Comments : A very interesting fish to keep if you have a big enough aquarium. I think this fish is beautiful, I love the jet black color. You will need a good filtration system as this fish gets messier the bigger it grows. You can keep it in a semi-aggressive community, but no long finned or slow fish. It will also eat tiny fish. I've seen big specimens of this fish housed with pacus, oscars, and datinodes with no problem.

Bala Shark Or Tri-Color Shark



© Stacy Malbon
Photo taken at Aqualand in Hopkins, MN.

Species/genus:

Balantiocheilus melanopterus

Origin: South East Asia

Temp: 72 - 82°F (22 - 28°C)

pH: 6 - 7

dH: Soft

Temperament: Peaceful, alert and active

Adult Size: Up to 10 inches (25 cm) or more

But usually smaller in captivity

Minimum Tank Size: 25 Gallon or more

Feeding: Omnivorous, a pig, eats almost any common fish food

Breeding: Not in captivity

Easy going, friendly and very active. An excellent community fish. Bala's love other Balas and will school in a large enough tank. But remember, they get BIG, they produce a lot of waste and they need some space. The most common problem Balas face is being kept in a tank that is too small.

Here's a good report from someone who keeps Bala Sharks, and who has generously allowed me to post here.

Keeping Bala Sharks

By Chazz1211 , you can meet her on the PetFish.Net Message Board

I'm not an expert with Bala's or anything, but I have kept them for awhile. But I just thought I'd say that they can do fine by themselves because they're a fairly intelligent fish as fish go. I've had mine for about 4 years now, by himself.

Have Bala's even ever been bred?? I've never heard of it happening. You'd need a massive tank. But I've heard that they mature at about 6 inches. Don't know if there's any truth behind it.

Um. . .you could say that they're definitely a true omnivore like goldfish. Mine loves to eat algae off of my fake plants and off rocks. They're also great at eating anything that hits the gravel. No need for bottom feeders in my tank. So they need a varied diet. Mine gets flakes, shrimp pellets (that are actually for the loaches, but he eats it anyway) algae off of plants, and frozen/live brine shrimp, occasionally black worms. Plus they're an amazingly docile fish for such a large one. The minimum tank size you have on the fast fact is 10 gallons. Even though, yeah you could keep them in there when young, I think you should start out right from the start. Say at least a 55 gallon. *(ED Note: I took the advise and raised it to 25 gallons)* But ultimately you want like an 8 foot aquarium, at least, for a school. With plenty of space to turn around in. And the longer the tank the better. If the fish doesn't feel like it has enough "running space" it will panic. So they don't like to feel cramped. They are a very powerful fish so they can really knock themselves against things.

Well, all off this is stuff you already probably know, so don't make an article out of it or anything. I'm just talking about my beautiful bala. Someday I'm going to have a huge tank with balas and tinfoil barbs. Gosh, that would be spectacular wouldn't it?



© Stacy Malbon
Photo taken at Aqualand in Hopkins, MN.

I don't think anyone has very much information on Bala's honestly. Oh, they are pretty adaptable too. I keep mine in slightly alkaline water, with about a medium hardness. And I've even kept them in very alkaline hard water. Like 7.8 or around there. Not sure about the dH. So, no need to necessarily keep them in soft water. Even though they would probably prefer it. They are supposed to be very susceptible to ick. I wouldn't know, I've never had it happen. The temperatures in my aquarium are pretty warm during the summer, about 80 F and get down to around 65 to 72 in the winter. (so. Cal weather) (My heater's not very good anymore) But it doesn't bother the fish one bit and it stays pretty stable.

Oh, and sometimes if you keep just two, they get kinda aggressive between the two. I had two awhile back before I moved, that were constantly chasing each other.

Actually it was one that was usually doing it. So, that just says more that you can keep them by themselves. If you don't have the room for like 6 of them, then I'd say to only get one. I keep mine with tiger barbs and giant danios. They all get along really well, except for the barbs occasional fin nipping, but that's to be expected. My Bala's about 6- 6 1/2 inches now. I keep him in a 60 gallon (4ft long, 14 in wide, 18 in tall) where he's very happy. I bought him at about 3 inches. So, Bala's do seem to grow pretty slowly. I don't know if it's in their make-up or if it's because of the fact that they would prefer much more water than we give them, or maybe they grow faster in softer water, I don't know.

This is definitely a very neglected fish. And because we don't have very much information on them, it's easier to do so. Many people are given incorrect information, or just misunderstood information. In my experience they will do well by themselves, but that they would be more interesting with several of their own kind. But to do this requires a very large tank, and well, many (including myself) can't afford it. So, for the best interest of the fish, actually keeping just one would be best in most situations, I think.

I love this fish, it has a very appealing appearance and endearing qualities that make it a wonderful fishy pet.

Comments

Name: fishkeeper

Comments: I just wanted to point out that a 25 gallon tank really wouldn't be enough for a bala shark. They get huge and they like to swim alot. When it's kept in a small tank for a long time, it will become stunted. I think the minimum should actually be something like a 55 gallon LONG tank.

Name : Laurel

Comments: I have kept Bala Sharks for 15 years. The same ones. I have never had a problem with Ick with them. My two appear to be the best of friends, dunno, maybe one is male and the other female or something. I have them in a 100 gal tank. They started at about 2" size in a 25 gal tank and seemed happy in that tank for several years. I inherited a 65 gal tank and when I moved them into that tank they suddenly started growing. When I got my 100 gal tank they grew some more. So I think they just grow into whatever space they have. Oh, also they grew faster when I started adding algae discs for a plecostomus. They love them. Makes sense, they are 10 times the size of everything else in the tank but never have even looked like they were the slightest bit interested in swallowing another fish. Vegetarians no doubt. These guys are about 8" long now and they are very strong and fast. I think they are very shy and easily startled. I worry about them hurting themselves because they frequently jump and swish their tails to make a big splash at the surface when someone walks up to the aquarium. I can imagine them in a river somewhere flying along at top speed and leaping out of the water to confuse predators. I have given up trying to keep my Fluval's intake tube stuck to the back of the aquarium since they really feel they should swim behind it. They are a stunning looking fish in the aquarium and seem to get along with everybody just fine.

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