

## Sub-tropical Marine Aquariums

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Eastern Hulafish



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One of the "coolest" trends in the hobby today is the sub-tropical marine aquarium.



Southern Blue Devil

Sub-tropical marine aquariums are kept much cooler than tropical displays, ideally between 60-70°F, but not above 74°F for an extended period of time. Although there are fewer choices of sub-tropical species compared to their warm water counterparts, there is an array of incredibly colorful, unique, and hardy animals for these displays. Some fascinating species that are commercially available include: [Zebra Catalina gobies](#) (*Lythrypnus zebra*), [Catalina gobies](#) (*Lythrypnus dalli*), and the Eastern Hulafish (*Trachinops taeniatus*) for smaller setups; White Barred or Flame Trunkfish (*Anaplocapros lenticularis*), Ornate Thornback Trunkfish (*Aracana aurita*), and the Southern [Blue Devil](#) (*Paraplesiops meleagris*) for larger displays.

These species will thrive in a sub-tropical home setup should the proper conditions be in place, and are available for purchase from time to time on our [LiveAquaria.com](http://LiveAquaria.com) website.



Zebra Catalina Goby

### things to consider

The same basic principles of fish keeping apply to sub-tropical marine systems, but sub-tropical species are often hardier and more tolerant of changes to water parameters than tropical inhabitants.

An acrylic aquarium with thicker panes is recommended to provide insulation and reduce condensation. A [chiller](#) will keep water temperatures in the optimal range. Lastly, an adequately sized [filter](#) and [protein skimmer](#) will help maintain stable water parameters.

Thoroughly research the comfortable temperature range, feeding requirements, and ideal aquarium size for the species you'll be keeping in your aquarium. And exercise patience - as natural processes take longer to complete in cooler waters. But take a dive into the sub-tropical marine world and you will enjoy a wealth of opportunity learning about this exciting new frontier in fish keeping.