

The Powder Blue Tang, *Acanthurus leucosternon*, Not Easily Kept

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least as much benefit as being conscientious about having greenery available at all times. I have seen very healthy *Acanthurus leucosternon* that have been fed only on commercial pellet feed, for instance.

Tankmates

Similar appearing fishes, and ones utilizing about the same ecological niches should not be placed with Powder Blues. Other Tangs will often be challenged, sometimes to the extreme, and other algal grazing fishes may not fare any better. As they can be overly territorial, it is best to place your *Acanthurus leucosternon* as the last fish in the system. On the issue of how many, one is the magic number for all but the more huge (thousands of gallons) systems. Though they're sometimes encountered in the wild in shoaling schools of hundreds of specimens, most often there is incessant fighting with more than one in an aquarium.



Photo by Robert Frenzer

In Conclusion

Powder Blue Tangs have had a dismal survival history as aquarium specimens. Their easy loss is attributable to inherent poor adaptability to captivity, as well as the rigors of collection, holding and shipping from afar. Folks who would successfully keep this fish can undertake several ameliorative measures. Careful selection, provision of adequate habitat and feeding most notably. Folks who would keep *Acanthurus leucosternon* are advised to pay attention to the above points or seek out more suitable aquarium fishes for display. ★

Bibliography/Further Reading

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Photo by Robert Frenzer

Adult *Acanthurus leucosternon* in the wild

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