

Welcome

to UltraMarine



Greetings to you, UltraMarine reader!

I sometimes find writing my Editor note the most challenging part of putting an issue together and it's usually one of the last things I do before packing an issue off to the printers. This issue, I guess my overriding feeling is that it's been another tempestuous year in the hobby with more than it's share of highs and lows. But hey, Christmas is around the corner, so I'll try not to be too much of a "Grinch", and focus on the good things here! While it's easy to worry about some wider issues in the hobby, let's not lose sight of the real reason we are here... amazing reef aquaria. To be interested in such a fascinating hobby really is a gift in itself, and definitely worth the occasional tribulation. Neither should we forget that the fact we can even consider being in the hobby does make us privileged people in the grand scheme of things, right?

To guide you in your quest for reef-keeping good fortune, this issue brings you what I hope is an entertaining mixture of reviews, analyses, factual information, personal experiences, expert advice and inspirational ideas; certainly enough to stimulate that grey-matter over the festive period.

Whether you celebrate this time of year or not, have time to relax, or not... may I raise a glass to salute and thank you for your continued support of the magazine. Keep with us as we head into 2023 and hopefully, easier days ahead!

John

Research Information Ltd,
Grenville Court, Britwell Road,
Burnham SL1 8DF, England

Tel: 01628 600499

Website: www.ultramarinemagazine.co.uk

>Editor & Designer: John Clipperton
editor@ultramarinemagazine.co.uk

>Publisher: Kumar Patel
kumarpatel@researchinformation.co.uk

Whilst every care is taken to ensure accuracy of content, ULTRAMARINE publications will not be held responsible for any inaccuracies within supplied articles. All rights reserved. No part of ULTRAMARINE magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written consent of the publishers; the above also applies to adverts designed by ULTRAMARINE.

VAT no: GB 639 8321 11



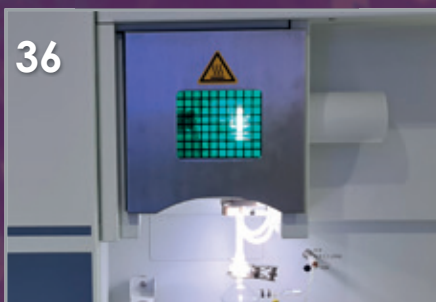
Cover: *Symphorichthys spilurus* (J. Clipperton @ Oasis Aquarium)



18



26



36



46



64

Contents

Issue 97 December 2022

05 Marine News/Product News

10 Reef Icons - No. 23

They may not be the prettiest of reef fishes, but when it comes to tackling annoying algae, there are few that can rival the Foxface Rabbitfishes of the *Siganus* genus.

18 Close Look: Shop Review

Continuing our tour of the top reef outlets in the UK, this time it's a long trek for John Clipperton to visit The Ocean Project in Devon. Was it worth racking up those motorway miles?

26 Hidden Gems

MACNA award-winner Mike Paletta relays his experiences with some shrinking violets of the reef fish world, and reminds us why these species can make stunning display animals... even when you can't see them!

36 ICPs - Put to the Test

Campbell Robertson grabs his labcoat and clipboard and undertakes a fascinating analysis of the major ICP testing services available... all so you can get the best bang for your buck!

46 Reef Resolutions

Like a jolly Santa Claus, Keith Moyle delivers a package of good-will to tide us into the New Year. If you are feeling the Winter blues, get a load of these inspiring ideas to boost your reef-keeping success well into 2023.

64 Q&A - with Dr Richard Smith

From the safety of our armchair, we sit for a chat with scholar, author, adventurer and occasional contributor Dr Richard Smith, discussing the release of his book "The World Beneath" and much more.

Find us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter @ultramarinemag