



Fun fact ↪ They are highly intelligent fish and communicate using grunting sounds.

Triggerfish at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Advanced**

Average lifespan: **20+ years with proper care**

Average adult size: **Most species reach 10–12”, though some grow larger**

Diet: **Omnivorous; frozen, freeze-dried, pellet, and flake foods**

Minimum habitat size: **125 gallons for adults (55 gallons for juveniles)**

Temperature: **72–78 F**



Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Triggerfish require a large saltwater aquarium with plenty of swimming space and secure décor. Juveniles need at least a 55-gallon tank, while adults require a minimum of 125 gallons. These fish should not be housed with other triggerfish, smaller peaceful fish, or invertebrates, which may become prey.
- Maintain a specific gravity between 1.020 and 1.025 and keep water temperatures stable between 72–78 F. The aquarium should contain 1–2 inches of marine substrate and a filtration system capable of turning over the tank's water five to ten times per hour.
- Live rock and other sturdy décor provide enrichment and additional biological filtration. Water parameters should be monitored regularly, with a pH between 8.2 and 8.4 and ammonia and nitrite remaining at zero. Perform partial water changes of 10–25% every two to four weeks and maintain filtration equipment as needed.



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Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Marine aquarium salt and substrate
- Filter and water conditioner
- Water test kit
- Décor and live rock
- Net and protein skimmer
- Thermometer and heater
- Refractometer or hydrometer
- Frozen and freeze-dried foods
- Aquarium hood or cover

Fun fact ↪ Many species are territorial and have a reputation for aggression.

Health

Healthy triggerfish display bright coloration, a strong appetite, and intact fins with normal movement. It is important to monitor your fish regularly for changes in appearance or behavior.

Contact an aquatics professional if you notice discoloration of the scales, lips, eyes, or fins; reduced appetite or activity; torn fins; abnormal swelling; or labored breathing.

While triggerfish may sometimes rest on their sides, this behavior alone is not necessarily a sign of illness.

Fun fact ↪ Triggerfish have powerful jaws and sharp teeth.

Diet

Triggerfish should be offered a varied diet consisting of frozen foods, freeze-dried foods, pellets, and flakes. Feeding a wide variety of foods helps provide balanced nutrition.

Most triggerfish should be fed once or twice daily. Adult fish can occasionally go a few days without food if necessary.

Hard-shelled foods such as mussels and clams should be offered periodically to help keep their teeth naturally worn down.

Fun fact ↪

Triggerfish get their name from the spiny projections along the top of their bodies.

