



Zebrasoma veliferum
Pacific Ocean

VS.

Zebrasoma desjardini
Red Sea and Indian Ocean

DIFFERENCES

The Pacific sailfin tang is a common aquarium favorite. When it grows about 2 inches long, it displays yellow bands. As an adult, the yellow coloration turns to tan or gray and the length grows to about 15 inches / 37.5 cm. This fish is commonly collected in the Phillippines, Indonesia, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and other eastern Pacific waters.

The Desjardini Sailfin Tang, also known as the Red Sea or Indian Ocean Sailfin Tang, is dark to very light gray in color with light freckles on the nose and yellow freckles on the abdomen. The body has several, varying sized vertical yellow stripes with intricate markings between the stripes of the face. It develops a blue tail with white freckles.

SIMILARITIES

The sailfin tang is decorated with alternating broad, pale yellow and darker bands which extend into both dorsal and anal fins. On the darker bands are yellow dots and stripes. The caudal fin is yellow. The head of the fish is white and adorned with yellow dots. A dark band with yellow dots runs across the eye and another right behind the eye.

of the caudal peduncle is a single sharp spine (the so-called scalpel) which is used for defense and to establish dominance. However, when the scalpel is not in use, it is hidden or folded down inside a groove.

Light freckles are displayed on the nose. The body has five, vertical yellow stripes with intricate markings within each stripe. Its tail begins with bright yellow and ends with blue highlights. Its appearance can practically double in size at will by raising or lowering its tall dorsal and anal fins. Both small or juvenile forms of Sailfin tangs may not have spots on the fins or body. However with age, the spots will develop along with the bold striping on their fins and body.

Small Sailfin tangs, under 5 inches, are best kept in aquariums of at least 50 gallons or larger. Adult Sailfin Tangs should be kept in 150-200 gallon aquariums, as it is necessary to provide plenty of swimming room. This fish is aggressive towards its own species and other Zebrasoma's at times (*Z. flavescens*, yellow tangs & *Z. scopas*, brown tangs), but also peaceful towards other fish in the tank. Thus, it is best to have only one of these fish in your aquarium.

The body of the sailfin tang is disc-shaped with a much elevated dorsal fin, a big anal fin, and an extended snout. Compared to the other members of the genus *Zebrasoma*, the sailfin tang has larger but fewer pharyngeal teeth. On each side

Although Tangs will eat meaty foods, they are primarily herbivores and require copious amounts of algae in their diet. This natural food will strengthen their immune system, reduce aggression and maintain their overall health. A wide variety of foods along with Hikari® Seaweed Extreme™ and Mini Algae Wafers™ and spirulina micro pellets are essential.