

Barramundi

Lates calcarifer



Introduction

These magnificent fish have both elegance and fantastic speed; they are a real talking point and make a very worthwhile addition to the aquarium.

Maximum Size and Longevity

In nature these fish have been recorded at 1.8 meters and 60 kg. Aquarium specimens however are not expected to reach this size.

Range

The Asian coast from the Persian Gulf to China, the Indo-Australian Archipelago, and Northern Coastal Australia.

Water Quality

Adults live in fresh water but spawn in estuaries. Juveniles are best kept in hard alkaline water .

- Temperature: 20°C –28°C.
- pH: 7.2—7.8
- General Hardness: 300-400 ppm. (Brackish)

Feeding

Prefer live food in the form of small live fish, but are trained to eat fresh, frozen and even dried food (sinking pellets). They like to “catch” the food as it falls through the water.

Compatibility

Quite suitable for community tanks providing it is kept with fish about its own size. Barramundi are generally placid in the aquarium making them suitable for community tanks. They mix well with other brackish fish, providing other fish are of similar size, although their feeding reflex is still violent and sudden. In an aquarium Barramundi will readily feed in daylight and become very tame, not a trait seen in the wild.

Colour and Varieties

Barramundi are usually a pale grey-green with a copper-silver shimmer. They generally exhibit a bright white stripe down the front of their face.

Breeding

Barramundi start life as males, reaching maturity at around 3 to 4 years of age and later change gender and become females, usually at around age 5. Small fish are almost exclusively male with the percentage of females increasing with overall length.

General Information

Barramundi require a large sized tank with a slow continuous flow of water with the temperature and hardness remaining fairly constant. They do not mind being in clear or turbid water. They also show a distinct preference for submerged driftwood, rock ledges and other structures, so making sure there is plenty of hides in the aquarium is essential.

