

## Silver Shark

### *Balantiocheilus melanopterus*

Member of the Cyprinidae family.



#### Natural Range

Primarily found in South East Asian countries and Thailand. This variety is bred in captivity through out South East Asia.

#### Maximum Size

Grows up to a maximum size of approximately 35cm.

#### Water Quality

- Temperature: 22°C - 26°C.
- pH: 6.5—7.5
- General Hardness: 100—150 ppm.

#### Feeding

They are omnivorous and are not fussy eaters. Silver Sharks will fare well on a wide variety of foods like live, fresh, frozen fish foods, beef heart and blood worms. While not predatory, fully grown specimens may eat small species such as Neon Tetra's if they can catch them.

#### Compatibility

It is a peaceful fish that will ignore smaller fish like Tetras when they are small. As they reach full size they can get aggressive towards smaller fish. Keep them with semi-aggressive larger fish. They are curious fish with lots of personality and character. They will flourish in groups of 7 or more.

#### Colour and Varieties

This beautiful fish with graceful swimming habits has a metallic silver body, with contrasting black edges, yellow fins that makes them a showy aquarium addition.

#### Sexing

Silver Sharks are isomorphic with the male and female looking identical, thus difficult to sex. The main distinguishing feature is that a mature female may have a larger or fuller abdominal area due to the eggs it is carrying. They are egg layers and females are more portly than males during the breeding season, and generally require hormone injections for spawning in captivity.

#### General Information

They are identified as Sharks because of their pointed head and a large pointed dorsal fin imitating the body shape of a saltwater shark. In contrast to the salt water shark, these fish are very peaceful in nature.

They are active, fast swimmers and will try to jump out of the tank, therefore keep the tank covered with a tight glass at all times.