



### Types of Fish

There is a huge range of different fish species found throughout the world's oceans, lakes and rivers with more than 20,000 species currently identified. Of these between 1,000 and 2,000 species used in the aquarium trade. These species are generally classified into the following groups.

#### Tropical Fish

Tropical fish are freshwater species (indicating little or no salts present in the water), native to Tropical regions such as South America, central Africa, Asia and northern Australia. Generally these fish need a heater to maintain a water temperature of 22 – 26°C but tolerance does vary with species, some will survive over a wider temperature range.



Guppies are a popular tropical species

#### Coldwater Fish

Coldwater or Temperate species originate from colder climates such as southern Australia, Europe, Northern USA, and China. They generally do not require a heater and can be kept at ambient room temperature. Temperatures of 12 – 22°C suit most of this group, but as with tropical species this varies with species. Best known examples of this group are Goldfish.



Goldfish are great for garden ponds or tanks!

#### Marine Fish

Marine fish come from the sea proper, generally tropical reefs in warm waters like Hawaii, northern Australia, Indonesia, parts of America and Africa. They generally require a higher level of knowledge for keeping them healthy and some specialised equipment such as protein skimmers are also required. Examples include Clownfish and Blue Tangs.



Clownfish were made popular by the movie Finding Nemo

#### Brackish Fish

The final group are Brackish species which live in the brackish waters of estuaries or river mouths, where the freshwater from rivers and saltwater of the sea mix together. These fishes tolerate a wide salinity range from pure freshwater to full strength saltwater. While not as popular as the other groups there are a lot of unique brackish species such as Pufferfish and Mono's.



Mono's can be kept in brackish or freshwater.



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