

Common Reef Fish & Coral Compatibility Guide

QT Reef – Updated September 2025

A quick-reference guide compiled from literature and experiences in the reefing community. Every fish is an individual — results can vary based on tank setup, feeding, and personality.

Ratings Legend

S = Generally Safe **LR = Limited Risk** **MR = Moderate Risk** **HR = High Risk**

	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Impact Score</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Anthias	S	0	Planktivores
Dwarf Angels	MR/HR	6.8/10	LPS, SPS, Zoanthus, Clams(Sometimes many months before starting)
Large Angelfish	HR	8/10	LPS, SPS, Zoanthus, (Sometimes months or years before starting)
Genicanthus Angels	LR	2/10	Mainly Planktivores
Basslets	S	0	
Blennies	S	0	
Butterflys	HR	7.3/10	(Excluding obligate corallivores) LPS, SPS
Cardinals	S	0	
Clownfish	LR	2/10	May host LPS
Copperbands	LR	2.5/10	Nipping Behavior
Chromis	S	0	Mainly Planktivores
Damsels	S	0	
Dartfish	S	0	Planktivores
Dottybacks	S	0	
Filefish	HR	9/10	Zoanthus, LPS, SPS
Gobies	S	2/10	Sand sifting can bury corals or cloud water, Coral Gobies sps nesting
Hawkfish	S	1/10	Coral perching
Hogfish	S	0	
Rabbitfish	S	1/10	Grazing behavior
Tangs	S	1.5/10	Grazing behavior
Tilefish	S	1/10	Burrowing disturbs substrate
Triggerfish	MR/HR	7/10	May damage corals and nipping behavior.
Wrasses	S	1/10	Substrate displacement

Impact Score = Weighted total from hobbyist experiences.

Impact Notes: Occurance or behaviors noticed over multiple reports.

Sources & Disclaimer

This is not scientific data — just a helpful summary of real-world experiences. Always do your own research and observe your tank. Individual fish behavior can vary greatly.

Exotic Marine Fishes - Axelrod et al. - T.F.H. Publications - 1985

Dr. Burgess's Atlas of Aquarium Fishes - Burgess et al. T.F.H. Publications - 1997

Marine aquarium companion: Southeast Asia - Tennoo & Tennoo - New Life Publications - 1996

The conscientious marine aquarist - Fenner - TFH-Microcosm : Kingdom - 2001

Marine Atlas - Baensch et al. - Mergus - 2005