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Showfish coast

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND CAMERADERIE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

NEXT MONTH'S MTG: OCT 1

Meeting: September 10th, Harper Room

Speaker: Charles Clifford

Want to breed for great body shape, finnage, and colors in your angel fish lines?

Charles Clifford brings some beautiful specimens of *Pterophyllum scalare* to the auction table, and he's willing to share his techniques and talk about what he does to get and keep such beautiful angels. Note that the meeting this month will be in the smaller Harper Room, which faces Park Avenue. The room can be entered from the parking lot or from inside the community center; seating fills up fast.

Nominations for next year's officers to be taken this meeting!

By Brian Downing, President

What a great meeting we had in August with Rusty Wessel as our speaker. There were over 75 people at that meeting! Rusty was fantastic and the auction was great. I was especially proud of the attention and respect given the speaker, thank you!

If you looked in the background during the meeting you saw some people hard at work. Duncan (hardly in the background) as our exceptional auctioneer, Pauline handling the Treasury and Jim handling the auction

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Our August speaker, Rusty Wessel – calm, collected, organized, and absolutely full of hands-on, fascinating information about Central American cichlids. Many thanks to Marineland for sponsoring Rusty and for donating a variety of food to the club.

recording (while cursing quietly at the computer) and several other unsung heroes. What am I leading up to? Yes, you guessed it, elections, that time of year when a small commitment is asked of our members in return for all the club benefits. Is it fair to ask the same people to run the club every year? No.

It is my hope that all the positions are filled next meeting. I am most concerned about the Treasurer position, which I know is open. We can't operate without one. I'm sure that some of the folks currently in these positions will run again but I can't say that for sure. These positions don't take a lot of effort (maybe an hour a month for most), but they're important! I will proudly run for President (if you'll have me back!) provided all of the Officer positions have nominees. What position can you fill?

Thank you and see you September 10th! — Brian Downing

Hey! Fellow Members! Did you see Brian's proviso above about running for president again? **Each of the Officer positions** for the Board of Directors (Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Editor) **must have at least one nominee! Don't let Brian get away: stand and deliver! -- Editor**

These are the elected Board of Directors positions available for the coming year:

The **President**

- Represents the organization in all business matters
- Conducts both general and board meetings
- Appoints any other position should it become vacant between elections
- Implements all organization mandates in a timely manner.

Incumbent: Brian Downing

Nominated: Brian Downing

The **Vice President**

- Assists the president and committee chairpersons in the performance of duties
- Replaces the president should that office become vacant.

Incumbent: Ron Estrada

Nominated: Kirk Bean

Ron Estrada may run

The **Recording Secretary**

- Maintains a written record of monthly organization activities and all general organization correspondence
- Keeps and maintains notes recording all directives and declarations of policy adopted by the Board
- Keeps and maintains true copies of all official documents

Incumbent: *Vacant*

Nominee: To be determined (TBD)

The **Corresponding Secretary**

- writes letters to solicit donations
- maintains records of donations received
- sends acknowledgment letters in appreciation for support received on behalf of the organization

Note: if you want raffles to come back to club meetings, this is the post you need to fill in order to get them back.

Incumbent: *Vacant*

Nominee: TBD

The **Treasurer** is responsible for

- collecting and disbursing COAST revenues
- maintaining a documented record of all monetary transactions
- verbally presents an officer's report at Board meetings
- turns in quarterly written statements and an annual summary

Incumbent: *Pauline Jackson, retiring*

Nominee: TBD

The **Editor** is responsible for

- finding, writing, and laying out articles and other content for COAST's newsletter, the Showfish
- the publication and mailing of Showfish (actual publication and mailing done by McCabe Printing)
- for any special publication the organization mandates

Note: Creating the Showfish currently takes 30 to 50 hours per month. An organized and more knowledgeable person could probably complete the newsletter in about half that time.

Incumbent: *Charlotte Marelius*

Nominated: Charlotte Marelius

These are the other Board of Director positions available for the coming year:

The **Program Chair** is responsible for

- finding speakers or making programs for monthly meeting
- coordinating travel and lodging arrangements for out-of-town speakers

Incumbent: *Steve Ehrlich, retiring*

Nominated: **Rahul Kumar**

The **Website Administrator(s)** is responsible for

- website maintenance and development
- business aspects of website
- answering or forwarding for answers any requests for information from website viewers

Incumbent(s): *Rahul Kumar, Tom Varin*

Incumbents assent to reappointment

The **Membership Chair** is responsible for

- updating, maintaining and distributing membership data
- introduction and orientation of new members
- accepting membership applications and renewals

Incumbent(s): *Charlotte Marelius (retiring)*

Nominee: TBD

The **Refreshment Chair** is responsible for bringing the main course for the buffet table.
Incumbent Tom Varin has agreed to continue bringing food.

The **Auction Chair** is responsible for

- storing or creating supplies to run the auction
- storing and maintaining the auction computer, etc.
- receiving and paying out moneys from auction sales

Incumbent(s): Jim Herman

Nominee:

The **Publisher** is responsible for

- printing, assembling, labeling, stamping and mailing the Showfish
- printing other items sporadically as needed, such as auction bid cards

Incumbent(s): Mike and Elaine McCabe of McCabe Printing

Incumbents agree to reappointment

The **Auctioneer** is responsible for

- calling the auctions

Incumbent(s): Duncan Mahoney

Incumbent agree to reappointment

General directors: Tom Varin and Scott Kroeger have agreed to continue serving as directors. Ron Jackson is retiring from his director position. One or two more directors are needed.

Genus Profile –Ctenopoma Labyrinth Fishes

The amazing labyrinths of Africa

Perciformes order (bass fishes), Suborder Anabantoidei, Family Anabantidae, Subfamily Anabantinae
The Ctenopoma (ten-oh-POM-ah) are generally small to medium sized fish (species range from 3 inch to 8 inch specimens) with crisply defined lappets and full finnage are carnivores from the Congo region, with the majority of them from the Niger River delta. Several Ctenopoma have been reclassified as Microctenopoma, and there are also some more primitive but very closely related fish from South Africa which are in the genus Sandelia. Their patterns and colors elicit comments varying from the aspirated, reverant “WOW!” to “Oooh, wow, another beige fish, we are so excited for you, no, really”. The most common appearance is a leaf shape with spots or mottling of a darker brown.

Habitat destruction is always a concern in countries where the surrounding population cares considerably more about their next meal than whether or not a slip of a fish will survive the season—even for well fed, well educated people, the fact that conserving other lifeforms is essential to conserving our own is a hard sell. The chances are good that we will never see some of these fish except in photographs or drawings, due to the species’ scarcity or sensitivity to collection and shipping.

They have small spines on the operculum and often the caudal peduncle, with the female’s spines sometimes too fine to see without a magnifying glass or so few in number as to be virtually absent. Some species are nearly impossible [for people] to sex, others have remarkable differences that are displayed at a young age. A few species of Ctenopoma have been spawned in captivity. Several of the species are bubble nest builders with intense fry guarding behaviour by the male (nests generally built amidst plant roots or driftwood roots), others are egg scatterers who pay no attention to their eggs, and another group lay eggs in a small area where there is a

gravel bottom and/or loose-leaved plants and the male will guard the area until the fry are free swimming. The principal difficulty in raising the fry is finding food small enough for them to eat and introducing the food into the immediate area: Even as fry, the fish do not venture far away from shelter and must have all food delivered right to them until they're a little older. The territorial imperatives vary remarkably between the species, but in general the *Ctenopoma* defend territory only when they are spawning (if then).

They are generally ambush predators, taking insects, in a few cases molluscs, and quite often fish up to a third their own size. *Ctenopoma* prefer live food, but most can be acclimated to frozen foods, with many species taking frozen foods; the most common report regarding flake food was that the fish tried it, spit it out, and never bothered with it again. They are usually peaceful, although they will defend themselves. A few maintain territories, but most of them have territories only while nesting. *Ctenopoma* should not be put with aggressive fish, as they can't defend themselves very well on a day-to-day basis. Typically, they are still (stationary) fish hiding in the plants, somewhat shy, who need roots, plants, and/or cave-like structures to feel secure. They benefit from an expendable dither fish population, which will encourage them to swim in the open.

Like other labyrinth fishes, they can endure a wide range of water conditions. Most *Ctenopoma*, however, need moderately soft water with a slightly acid pH and a temperature range between 72 and 80°F, they all need access to the surface in order to breathe. Some *Ctenopoma*, dissatisfied with dwindling food supply and pond size of the seasons, will struggle across damp land to another pool. This remarkable walk-about talent usually makes fish and game departments very nervous, so be sure and check whether or not you can bring them into California if you're not getting them from your Californian importer/exporter or LFS.

The species:

Acutiroste PELLEGRIN 1899, Spotted Climbing Perch, from Zaire in streams from Lisala to Kinshasa

- Adult size 4-6". Carnivore: live foods. Not easily sexed, but male has patches of spines on the body and females have fewer spots. Bubble nest builder. Compatibility: not ideally suited for community tank even though of relatively peaceful temperament
- Tank size minimum 36" long, dark tank bottom with hiding places, subdued lighting
- Water: pH 6.5-7.0; hardness 2-4 dGH for breeding, temperature 23-29°C

Ansorgii (BOULENGER, 1912) Ornate *Ctenopoma*, reclassified in the *Microctenopoma* genus. From tropical West Africa, Kinshasa Zaire. Synonym: *Anabas ansorgii*

- Adult size 3-4". Carnivore: live foods, such as small tank mates, but is not aggressive. Males have brighter color accents, ranging from turquoise to orange. Bubble nest builder. Difficulty of getting exports out of Congo has made this rare in hobby.
- Tank size minimum 36" long, condition water with peat.
- Water: pH 6.5-7.5, hardness 3-20° dGH, temperature 26-28°C

Argentoventer (SCHREITMUELLER & AHL, 1922) No common name. From West Africa: Niger

- Adult size to 6". Carnivore: live foods; can be acclimated to flakes. Males have two yellow bands when full size attained. Nest is loose and unguarded.
- Tank size minimum 72" long, plants, subdued lighting, roots.

Nebulosum NORRIS & TEUGELS, 1990 From Niger in West Africa, occupies all zones of tank.

- Adult size to 8 inches. Carnivore: prefers live foods, such as small tank mates, and can be acclimated to flake and pellet food. Breeding habits unknown, difficult to sex, but female is thicker and larger than the male.
- Tank size minimum 40" long, condition water with peat.
- Water: pH 6.5-7.5, hardness 3-20° dGH, temperature 26-28°C

Congicum (BOULENGER, 1887), reclassified in the *Microctenopoma* genus. Congo Ctenopoma. From West Africa in the Congo, Stanley Pool and Ogowe River. Males are more colorful with fancier finnage. Length about 3 inches. Water: pH 5.5 to 6.5, hardness to 15°dGh with 4° KH, conductivity 100 microsiemens/cm, stable temperature of 22°C, minimum tank length about 24 inches. Bubblenest builder. Carnivore; will take frozen food as well as live food.

Intermedium (PELLEGRIN, 1920), reclassified as *Microctenopoma* genus. Male is more colorful and has larger fins. From West Africa. Care similar to *Ctenopoma ansorgii*.

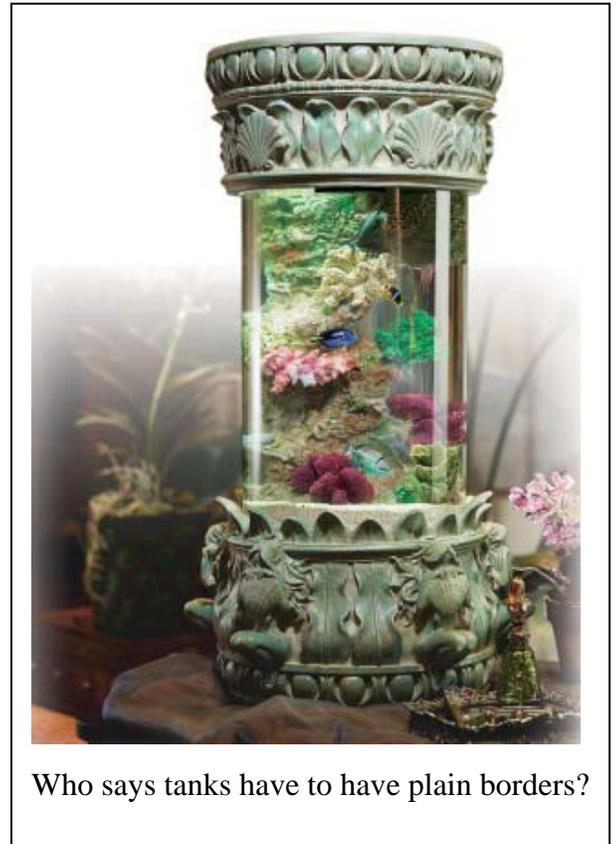
Damasi, (POLL, 1939) Pearlscale Ctenopoma, Eastern Uganda, Lake Edward. Male is darker and more colorful; his ventral fins are elongated and, unlike the female's fins, extend beyond the anus.

Adult size to 2 ¾ inches, female smaller. Carnivore: small live food, frozen food. Bubblenest breeder, fry start taking air about the time they reach 3/8 inch in length. Due to peaceful, reclusive nature and brood care, should be kept in a species tank.

Tank should be 30" minimum, densely planted and with patches of floating plants. Water: 6.5 to 7.5 pH, 15° dGH, use peat filtration, 1/3 water change biweekly, 78 – 86°F.

Multispinnis, PETERS 1844, Many-spined Ctenopoma, found in Zambia, Mazambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Mangols.

Well, I have simply run out of time to finish these brief descriptions of members of the *Ctenopoma* and *Microctenopoma* species. A list of other members of the genus is at the end of the following article. With a variety of lengths, colors, patterns, compatability, water chemistry, and brood care, this genus seems to have a little something for everyone. Dustin Richards has graciously allowed us to use his article on his *Ctenopoma*, however, and that will give you an idea of how captivating a *Ctenopoma* can be.



Who says tanks have to have plain borders?



Photo Credit: [Dustin Richards](#)

Ctenopoma acutirostre

Spotted Climbing Perch, Spotted Bushfish, Leopard Ctenopoma

by Dustin Richards. Photo and article copyrighted.

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dustinrichards741@hotmail.com before reprinting

Name: *Ctenopoma acutirostre*

Origin: Congo River Basin (Africa)

Size	Tank	pH	Temp
15 cm	200 L	7.0	28°C

A truly magnificent fish - the *Ctenopoma acutirostre* is

pure eye candy. The striking leopard like pattern and short spikes on the fins give the *Ctenopoma acutirostre* an exotic look. These fish are a part of the unique *Anabantidae* family, freshwater fishes from Africa and Southern Asia. They are related therefore to the ever popular Betta Fish (*Betta splendens*).

The *Ctenopoma acutirostre* needs plenty of room to hide out and live happily. They are carnivorous fish who love to stalk their prey, holding themselves completely vertical, bending their caudal fin to look "leaf like" before going in for a kill. Instantaneously before a kill, the Ctenopoma opens its mouth creating a cylinder type funnel and swallows the prey whole. Feedings should be various and should always include some sort of "live" food (frozen included). Favorites are feeder guppies, live/frozen brine shrimp, tubefex worms and mollusks. Often general tropical fish flake food and pellets are accepted as supplements. If these fish are given the listed diet and proper space, they will often grow to 1/2 their adult size with in 2-3 months.

These fish must have generous sources of hiding spots in driftwood, cavernous rocks and the like to be able to rest and lurk. Being nocturnal fishes (hence the large eyes) they enjoy a very densely planted tank in which to slide amongst the shadows. They are semi-aggressive, but can be good tank mates with other fish as long as the Ctenopoma has plenty of its own private caves/crevices which it will guard diligently. As well, tank mates should be larger than the Ctenopoma or else they will most certainly become a meal. The Ctenopoma does best with other fish who have mild temperaments, as this fish will fight when challenged.

Sexing can be difficult, but males display short spines on the gill covers which the females do not. Breeding has been obtained with moderate skill - but personally I have yet to attempt. The tank should be well planted and large and the temperature should be increased to at least 26°C. Water should be very soft and slightly acidic. The fish are bubble nest builders, but are not diligent parents and should be removed after spawning. Fry take typical foods including green water, fry "starter foods" and then should be moved on to live food such as live brine shrimp.

This fish has truly been an exciting venture for me. She is with out a doubt my favorite fish amongst all my marine and freshwater tanks. Being a relatively rare fish, I wasn't able to glean a lot of information from the web/books. Much of what I have learned has been from trial and error. My Ctenopoma is slightly camera shy, and truly finds her joy in hiding in her selected driftwood and stalking little feeder guppies. ■■

(List of Ctenopoma species, continued)

Ctenopoma muriei (Boulenger, 1906)	valid
Ctenopoma nanum Günther, 1896	invalid
dwarf climbing perch	
Ctenopoma nebulosum Norris and Teugels, 1990	valid
Ctenopoma nigropannosum Reichenow, 1875	valid
twospot climbing perch, twospot ctenopoma,	
Ctenopoma ocellatum Pellegrin, 1899	valid
Ctenopoma oxyhynchus (Boulenger, 1902)	invalid
sharpnosed climbing perch	
Ctenopoma oxyrhynchum (Boulenger, 1902)	valid
mottled ctenopoma	
Ctenopoma pellegrini (Boulenger, 1902)	valid
Ctenopoma petherici Günther, 1864	valid
Ctenopoma weeksii Boulenger, 1896	valid
Microctenopoma Norris, 1995	valid
Microctenopoma ansorgii (Boulenger, 1912)	valid
Microctenopoma conigicum (Boulenger, 1887)	valid
Microctenopoma damasi (Poll and Damas, 1939)	valid
Microctenopoma fasciolatum (Boulenger, 1899)	valid
Microctenopoma intermedium (Pellegrin, 1920)	valid
Microctenopoma lineatum (Nichols, 1923)	valid

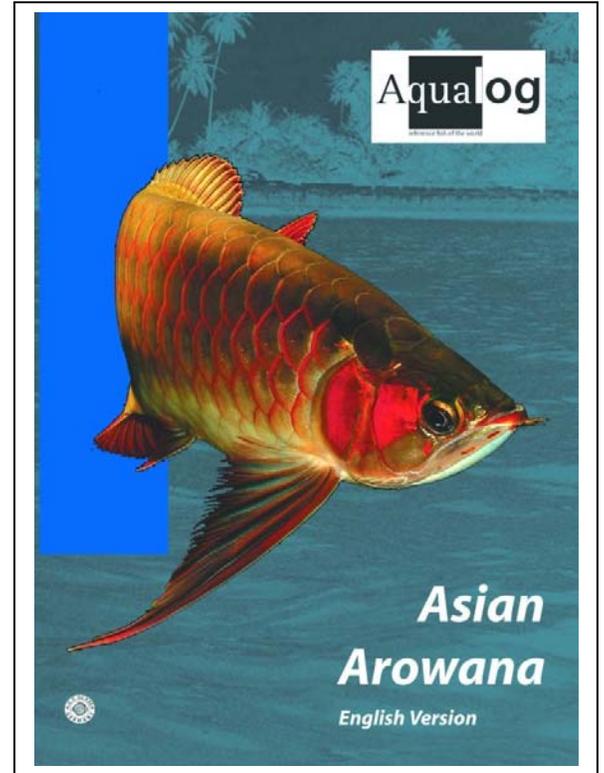
MEMBERSHIPS DUE AND PAST DUE

LARRY GENTRY	June
TIM ADAMS	July
FERNANDO RODARTE	July

JOE & ESTHER CANDELARIA	August
RINO'S CAVES	August
KEN & EVA HENGSTEBECK	August
SCOTT KROEGER	August
DON MACKEY, MARIA BLAIR	August
CHUCK MATEO	August
VICTOR TONGCO	August

CHRIS & KATHLEEN BREITKREUTZ	September
PAM & GARY CHIN	September
ART NORTH	September
LUKE ROEBUCK	September
YEMYINT WU	September
BARBARA HEALY-SPRAGUE	September
JOHN SKOCILIC	September

Microctenopoma milleri (Norris and Douglas, 1991) valid
 Microctenopoma nanum (Günther, 1896) valid
 Microctenopoma nigricans Norris, 1995 valid
 Microctenopoma ocellifer (Nichols, 1928) valid
 Microctenopoma pekkolai (Rendahl, 1935) valid
 Microctenopoma uelense Norris, Douglas in Norris, 1995
 valid
 Sandelia bainsii Castelnau, 1861 Eastern Cape Rocky
 Sandelia capensis (Cuvier, 1829) Cape Kurper



New Book: Aqualog's Asian Arowana

An English version (revises and updates Chinese Volumes 1 and 2)

Chen, D. (editor)

Price = £39.95 (GBP) ISBN: 393602796X

<http://www.stevensimpsonbooks.com/si/004026.html>

Description here is from Steven Simpson Books' site:

2006. 31cm. Pp.244. Numerous colour photos. Hardbound. Exceptional photo-guide and reference to the varieties and care of aquarium bred Asian Arowana.

This is the **English edition** of **Volume 3** of 'The Ever Changing Asian Arowana'. Volumes 1 and 2 were only available in Chinese; volume 3 (a stand-alone volume which revises and brings the work up to date) is available only in English. It presents an outstanding photo-gallery of varieties, behaviour and suitable aquaria with contributions and advice from veterans of the hobby in Taiwan and Singapore.

The current status of Arowana farms is covered with photos and information of the main players in the field. Information on water quality, feeding and commonly encountered diseases is provided together with advice concerning suitable tank mates of differing species for this most spectacular of fishes. ...It is one of the very few genuinely comprehensive books in English on the subject and the only one that is reasonably priced.

This book measures 31 x 22 x 2cm, is printed in high gloss on quality paper with a quality binding; it weighs over 1.5kg. Published price £49.95, introductory offer price of £39.95 until 31st August 2006.

The Showfish is the newsletter of California's Organization of Aquatic Show Tropicals (COAST). It is published six to twelve times a year and is a benefit of membership in COAST. The information and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and may not reflect those held by COAST or other COAST members.

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Exchange Policy: COAST will exchange newsletters which contain information about fish and the fish hobby with other fish clubs. Please notify the Showfish editor, C.A. Marelius, if your club would like to participate in an exchange program.

Board of Directors



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		AUCTIONEER Duncan Mahoney dmahoney@usc.edu 310-391-3704

www.coastfishclub.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coastfishclub/>

When do we meet:

COAST meets the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Meeting agendum:	12:30	Board Meeting
	1:00	Meeting begins; general announcements
	1:30	Presentation begins
	2:45	Auction begins
	4:15-4:30	Auction usually ends; check-out begins
	5:00-5:30	Vacate the room

Where do we meet:

The Center is a brown brick building between a fire station and Lion's Park. Closest major intersection is 19th and Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. in the Victoria Room (usually) or the Harper Room 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa

Upcoming meetings:

October 1	Speaker and Topic: Chuck Rambo, African Adventures
November 5	Speaker and Topic: Bill Thompson, Building Pools
December 3	Speaker and Topic: Luke Roebuck, TBD (European equivalent of the Aquarama Show?)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

COAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Mail to: Pauline Jackson, COAST Treasurer

GUEST Registry / AUCTION Sign-In

10926 Ranney Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92843

(Received by _____ Date Rcvd _____ Payment \$ _____ Member No. _____)

Yes! I want to be a member or guest of COAST. Enclosed/attached is my check or money order made **payable to COAST in the amount of \$20** for a one year membership as an individual or family (within the same household please). Senior citizen (aged 62 or over) or junior (aged 20 or under) memberships are \$15 for one year. Members receive Showfish (ten to twelve issues a year), which contains information of interest to hobbyists. Meetings have programs specific to the hobby, and you are eligible to participate in our monthly auctions and raffles. Why wait any longer?

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Thank you for your membership and registration. Please tell us how you heard about COAST:

Member Magazine Fish Store Website Showfish Referred by _____

What fish do keep / want to keep? _____

What contact information would you like to list in the Membership Roster? (Membership Rosters are COAST property and distributed only within the club to encourage fellowship among members.)

Publish full contact info (default) Do not publish street address Do not publish phone Do not publish email

Unless otherwise specified, the full membership listing of member no., name, phone number, address, city, state and zip code will be listed in our membership directory. Please be sure to notify us of any changes in your contact information, either by email or by using this form.

Please fill it out completely when you're renewing, too. That's how we keep the membership list correct and up to date.

CALIFORNIA'S ORGANIZATION OF AQUATIC SHOW TROPICALS

COAST is a Not-For-Profit Association

<http://www.coastfishclub.com>

c/o C. A. Marelius, Showfish Editor

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Granada Hills, CA 91344-3009

stamp

This month's meeting is on Sept 10.

Next month's meeting will be on October 1.