CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Blue tang

Paracanthurus hepatus

The blue tang carries a switchblade. At the base of its tail sits a hinged, razor-sharp spine that folds flat into a groove and flicks out when the fish is threatened or fighting; it is used with a s…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Acanthuridae
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 8-20 years
Weight: 300-600 grams
Scientific name: Paracanthurus hepatus

Did you know?

- Despite their popularity in aquariums, blue tangs cannot be bred commercially in captivity and are almost always wild-caught.
- Some blue tang populations accumulate ciguatera toxin from the algae they graze, which makes them dangerous to eat in certain regions despite being h…

What I learned

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