

Welcome

to UltraMarine



We live in interesting times and the times are indeed interesting for our hobby.

When I visit my local fish shops I always ask how business is going, and the response is usually along the lines of "OK" and "not bad", yet within the last year I can think of at least two retailers within a few hours' drive who have either given up with marines or shut down completely.

I wonder if shoppers are spending less overall, but concentrating their spend on fewer shops? Either way it seems competition is fierce and the shops that offer good advice and service are perhaps likely to win out?

I was in one of my local shops the other week, and I chatted with the owner about the hobby and people's spending, and how perhaps people would cut back on many other parts of their lives rather than cut back on their aquarium keeping. He tended to agree and we decided one less takeaway pizza or one less bottle of wine or so is more likely than cutting back on ongoing reef maintenance costs. Perhaps people might not splurge on that expensive blasto or trachy but content themselves with a frag or two – we shall see.

Richard

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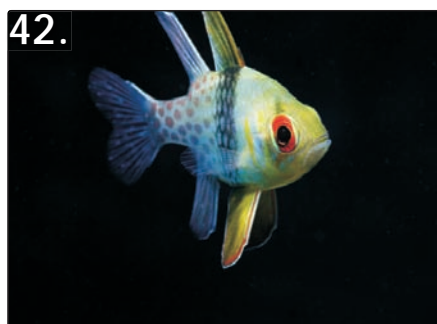
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Image: Richard Aspinall

▲ Front Cover image: **Royal Gramma**
(*Gramma loreto*)



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