



# BLUESTREAK CLEANER WRASSE

*LABROIDES DIMIDIATUS*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Customers need to watch out for the False Cleaner Wrasse - it mimics the real cleaner wrasse but has fangs and will bite instead of cleaning!

## WHERE AT AQWA?

Everywhere! Cleaner wrasse are so important they are in just about all our exhibits.

## SIZE: <12CM

## DIET: PARASITES, SLIME, DEAD SKIN

## MAIN PREDATOR: FISH

## HABITAT: REEF

## FOUND: TROPICAL & TEMPERATE INDO-PACIFIC

## SLIME SUPPER

Cleaner wrasse make a job out of eating!

They eat the slime, old scales, dirt and parasites from other fishes' skin. Some 'customer fish' will even allow the cleaner wrasse to enter their mouth and clean their teeth and gills of leftover food!

## IT'S A WIN/WIN

Cleaner wrasse have a symbiotic relationship with their customers. The wrasse receives food and protection, while the customer remains healthy by having dead and damaged skin removed before it gets infected. By having old scales and bugs removed customers also stay streamlined and can swim faster without all that dirt slowing them down!

## HOW NOT TO GET EATEN

Cleaner wrasse are recognized from other fish by their stripes, size and dance-like movements. Once identified, customer fish won't eat cleaners because the health benefits of being cleaned are too important.

Plus, cleaner wrasse keep their clients happy, by giving them a free massage! As the cleaner wrasse eats, fins on its belly beat rapidly over the customer's skin, keeping them calm and still.

## MANY MOUTHS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Cleaner wrasse work together, usually in pairs, to set up cleaning stations. These are designated areas on the reef where fish and other marine creatures gather to be cleaned! Cleaning stations earn a reputation and if the cleaner wrasse do a good job, sea creatures will become 'return customers'. The best cleaning stations on the reef will often have a "line" of customers waiting to be cleaned!