

# Will too many people want to buy tropical fish after "Finding Dory"?

By Orlando Sentinel, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.05.16

Word Count **665**



In June, the movie "Finding Dory" will be in theaters. It is about Dory, a Pacific blue tang fish. Photo: Wikimedia

ORLANDO, Fla. - When the movie "Finding Nemo" was popular in 2003, many parents and children could not wait to buy a cute little Nemo fish. Sadly, many of the orange clownfish quickly died.

Animal activists and pet shop owners are worried the same thing will happen with "Finding Dory." The Disney Pixar movie comes out in June.

The new animated movie includes the return of Dory, a Pacific blue tang. The character's voice is done by Ellen DeGeneres.

"I think we are facing the same problem, and it's even worse," said Teresa Telecky. She is the director of wildlife at Humane Society International. "Blue tang live up to 50 years and get big, over a foot long." The fish would need a 180-gallon aquarium, the size of a couch, she said.

## **PETA Tries To Get People To Buy Stuffed Animal Versions**

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is telling families to buy stuffed animal Doris instead of the real thing. A Disney spokeswoman said that Disney is working with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. They are creating a program to save the tang.

Disney also said it will discourage people from buying the fish. The Marine Aquarium Societies of North America reported that marine scientists have talked with Disney about the movie's story. In the movie, Dory is born and raised at a marine center. Yet, raising blue tang from eggs or larvae in a tank is not possible.

The baby fish die because they do not eat normal fish food, said Matthew DiMaggio. He is with the University of Florida and is a leading researcher on blue tang.

"We knew this movie was going to come out, and we have been trying to raise them. But they are a challenge," DiMaggio said. After "Finding Nemo," SeaWorld helped to start a program called Rising Tide. It is trying to raise blue tang and other fish in tanks. The program successfully raised the first yellow tang in Hawaii. It has improved breeding for the clownfish. The program has not had much luck with the blue tang, which died after 22 days.

## **Blue Tang Is Not Easy To Care For**

Marcy Sweeney owns Sea in the City, an aquarium supply store in Orlando, Florida. She vowed she will not sell any blue tang. They are also called Pacific palette surgeonfish.

"Thousands of clownfish died after 'Finding Nemo,'" Sweeney said. "People will tell you that you can set up an aquarium immediately and raise these fish, but they are generally wrong. It's not that easy."

Mike Bober is the head of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council. After "Finding Nemo," more people bought clownfish, but not a huge number. Bober said people can research the right fish for their home aquarium at [MyRightFish.com](http://MyRightFish.com).

There are stores that sell the blue tang online. Some of the online stores include a warning that large saltwater tanks are needed. One site advertised a small blue tang for \$50.

Telecky said many Disney movies have a huge effect on real-life animals. After the movie "101 Dalmatians," many people bought Dalmatian puppies because they are cute. Then, many were abandoned because they can be hard to own.

## **Saving The Blue Tang**

"Their latest movie, 'Zootopia,' has a cute fox in it, a fennec fox, which is native to Africa," Telecky said. "Sales of fennecs have taken off around the globe now."

Rene Umberger is the head of Hawaii-based For the Fishes. She said her group and the Humane Society are trying to save the blue tang. "There is a very real chance that species of fish could be wiped out, meaning near extinction in the wild," Umberger said. She is also worried that fishermen will use a poison to catch the fish. The poison can damage the reefs where they live.

"The fishermen already report that they must go farther and farther out from land to find the blue tang," she said. "The movie hasn't even come out yet."

## Quiz

- 1 What is MOST likely the reason the author included quotes by Marcy Sweeney in the section "Blue Tang Is Not Easy To Care For?"
  - (A) to show why people should not purchase the Pacific blue tang fish
  - (B) to show that the fish is an endangered species
  - (C) to show that the movies end up being harmful to the fish population
  - (D) to show how Disney is harming the fish population
  
- 2 Based on the article, why is it important to protect the Pacific blue tang fish?
  - (A) because the fish need large tanks to be able to survive out of the ocean
  - (B) because Disney is not taking any action to protect the Pacific blue tang fish
  - (C) because people might want to buy the fish after seeing "Finding Nemo," even though they cannot take care of them
  - (D) because the fish already has a low population in the world's oceans
  
- 3 Read the sentences below from the section "Blue Tang Is Not Easy To Care For".

*Telecky said many Disney movies have a huge effect on real-life animals. After the movie "101 Dalmatians," many people bought Dalmatian puppies because they are cute. Then, many were abandoned because they can be hard to own.*

What does the author mean by "abandoned"?

- (A) sold off
- (B) not adopted
- (C) killed off
- (D) forgotten about

Read the following sentence from the article.

*It has improved breeding for the clownfish.*

Which sentence from the article helps to explain what "breeding" is?

- (A) They are creating a program to save the tang.
- (B) It is trying to raise blue tang and other fish in tanks.
- (C) The program has not had much luck with the blue tang, which died after 22 days.
- (D) Marcy Sweeney owns Sea in the City, an aquarium supply store in Orlando, Florida.

## Answer Key

- 1 What is MOST likely the reason the author included quotes by Marcy Sweeney in the section "Blue Tang Is Not Easy To Care For?"
- (A) **to show why people should not purchase the Pacific blue tang fish**
  - (B) to show that the fish is an endangered species
  - (C) to show that the movies end up being harmful to the fish population
  - (D) to show how Disney is harming the fish population
- 2 Based on the article, why is it important to protect the Pacific blue tang fish?
- (A) because the fish need large tanks to be able to survive out of the ocean
  - (B) because Disney is not taking any action to protect the Pacific blue tang fish
  - (C) **because people might want to buy the fish after seeing "Finding Nemo," even though they cannot take care of them**
  - (D) because the fish already has a low population in the world's oceans
- 3 Read the sentences below from the section "Blue Tang Is Not Easy To Care For".

*Telecky said many Disney movies have a huge effect on real-life animals. After the movie "101 Dalmatians," many people bought Dalmatian puppies because they are cute. Then, many were abandoned because they can be hard to own.*

What does the author mean by "abandoned"?

- (A) sold off
- (B) not adopted
- (C) killed off
- (D) **forgotten about**

Read the following sentence from the article.

*It has improved breeding for the clownfish.*

Which sentence from the article helps to explain what "breeding" is?

- (A) They are creating a program to save the tang.
- (B) It is trying to raise blue tang and other fish in tanks.**
- (C) The program has not had much luck with the blue tang, which died after 22 days.
- (D) Marcy Sweeney owns Sea in the City, an aquarium supply store in Orlando, Florida.