

## FOOD AND FEEDING SCHEDULE

The type of food ingested by the cichlid could drastically affect breeding.

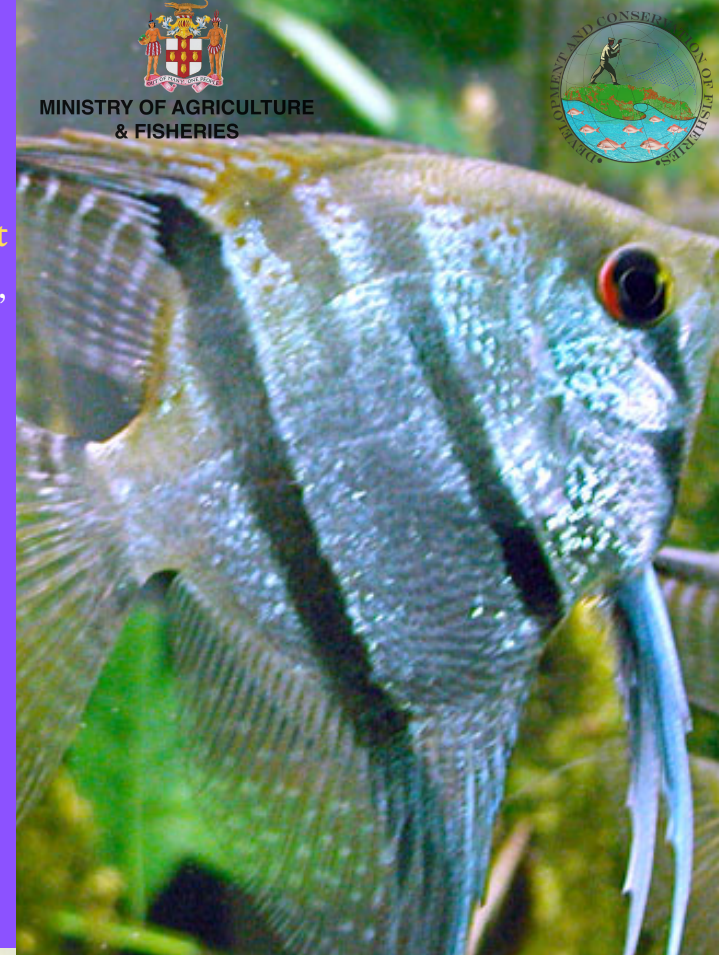
- At one to three weeks the young fry could be fed the **yolk of hard-boiled eggs** squeezed through **cheesecloth**, as well as **brine shrimp**.
- At three to five weeks, **fine flakes** and/or **brine shrimp** could be fed to the fry.
- At five to seven weeks **dry foods** can now be used twice daily for five to seven-week-old fry until adulthood.
- Adult spawners should be fed high quality flakes and/or tubifex worms up to four times daily.

## COMMON PROBLEMS WITH BREEDING CICHLIDS

- Cichlids such as angelfishes have a **habit of eating their first spawn** completely, especially when the parent fishes are disturbed.
- As **cold-blooded animals**, cichlids will live longer at lower temperatures (**24 degrees Celsius**). Higher temperatures such as about **85 degrees Celsius** promote faster growth, better immune response but shorter life span.
- **Low quality strains** of angelfish may occur if proper culling (elimination of flawed strains) is not executed during breeding.

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
& FISHERIES



# BREEDING FRESHWATER ANGELFISH

EXPERIENCE THE EXOTIC

*Pterophyllum scalarae*

## INTRODUCTION

Cichlids such as the **angelfish** are a large group of egg-laying fish that care for their young. The freshwater angelfish (***Pterophyllum scalare***) is a majestic and popular freshwater ornamental aquarium fish exhibiting quite peaceful behaviour in its habitat. When breeding, the following must be considered:

### AQUARIUM/TANK SIZE

The spawning tank should be able to hold at least 75 litres of water, while the rearing tank should have at least 187 litres. The factors that critically affect the size of tank used include species, pH, feeding practices, water changing volume and frequency. A gentle filtration system is necessary since these types of fish are not very fast swimmers.



## BREEDING PAIR

Under ideal conditions, it generally takes a year for breeders to pair off.

The pair is identified as one isolated in the aquarium as they protect a particular territory for spawning. The behaviour of the breeding pair entails male fishes attacking other males, or females dancing around their mate. Breeding pair should be fish that are strong and healthy.

### WATER CONDITIONS

The tank should be cleaned daily to remove detritus from the bottom. On a weekly basis, a partial water change of at least 1–2/3 the tank's volume must be done. The spawning tank should be **slightly acidic** of optimum **pH 6.7**. The temperature of the water should be about **26 degrees Celsius**.

The rearing tanks from eggs to two week old fry entail the use of **deionized** or soft water and **fungus preventatives**. In addition, a 20% water change is needed. For over two-week old fry, the use of normal de-chlorinated tap water can be used. Rainwater is also excellent.

## SPAWNING TANK SETUP

The best suited spawning materials are PVC pipes, slate, Amazon plants or a **band of acrylic** of about 2 inches wide. This should be set at a 45 degree angle resting against the side of the aquarium. This is because cichlids such as angelfish prefer laying eggs at an angle. Plants and /or gravel are usually negligible.



*Angelfishes spawning*