

## **Tropic Marin® Fiji Meerwasser**

**Markus Mahl (CEO Aquarium West GmbH) has spoken to Hans-Werner Balling.**

**M. Mahl:** Mr. Balling, as a biologist you have been an expert in reef-aquaristics for 25 years and, in particular, you are regarded as a lover and connoisseur of corals.

**H.-W. Balling:** Yes, I agree with you. As a very young child, I was fascinated by the underwater world, which led me to biology. And the corals, in their great variety of shapes and colors, are a passion of mine.

**M. Mahl:** You invented the globally practiced Balling method?

**H.-W. Balling:** Exactly. In '94, I developed a formula that allows calcium and carbonates to be added to the water in the form of slightly soluble salts, thus ensuring optimal growth of the corals.

**M. Mahl:** At present, the trend is to fill aquariums with real seawater. What do you think of it?

**H.-W. Balling:** That actually has many advantages. Seawater aquariums can be occupied immediately, because the composition of the water - the ecosystem is a living reef from the beginning. Even sensitive stony corals open their polyps after a short time.

**M. Mahl:** Is it because the natural composition and the special, organic substances of natural sea water are good for fauna and flora?

**H.-W. Balling:** Yes, in fact there is hardly anything better. The composition of the seawater is highly complex and rich in organic substances. With over seventy valuable ingredients, seawater has a powerful effect on all life. However, natural seawater, which is usually pumped out of ocean surface water or ship's tubing, is subject to certain fluctuations. That's why we've developed something new and unique at **Tropic Marin®**. A seawater that is identical in composition to the waters of Fiji Sea, but in pure form. The water is free from complications such as those arising during transport in tanks. Thus, free from organic and inorganic pollutants by environmental pollution such as heavy metals or degradation products of oil spills. It contains only positive organic and inorganic substances.

**M. Mahl:** With **Tropic Marin® Fiji Seawater**, do I gain the benefits of seawater free from contaminants and risks?

**H.-W. Balling:** Exactly! In addition, our water contains prebiotic substances, probiotic bacteria and trace elements. They naturally regulate the nitrate and phosphate levels of the water, optimize the bacterial balance and create the conditions for the well-being and proper growth of fish, crabs, corals and beneficial algae. I am always amazed, and full of enthusiasm, with the wonderful, bright colors developed by corals and fish when they feel comfortable and live in their natural element. In addition, the natural additives promote coralline algae growth and keep bacteria and nuisance algae, which pollute the tank, in check.

**M. Mahl:** That sounds like a simple, safe and at the same time ideal solution, for furnishing and perhaps even preserving aquariums?

**H.-W. Balling:** I see it that way. The aquarium industry is constantly evolving. **Tropic Marin® Fiji Seawater** easily and safely creates natural environment for fish and coral. The water is made with natural salts. Each batch is carefully controlled. And the targeted addition of beneficial bacteria converts toxic waste of fish and other pollutants that are first transformed into non-toxic nitrogen compounds and then released in a second step to the air, which consists of about 80 percent of nitrogen.

**M. Mahl:** Last question. What about the water change?

**H.-W. Balling:** With a weekly water change of about ten percent of the water, an optimal supply for the aquarium's inhabitants' needs is met. The existing microbiology remains intact. The removal of excess nutrients keeps the reef aquarium ecosystem clean. It is certainly possible, for smaller aquariums, to continue to maintain the system with **Tropic Marin® Fiji Seawater**. For large aquariums, however, I recommend water changes with one of our other salt mixes. Of course, you can still utilize additional products. Our **Tropic Marin®** Guide gives tips and information on our products.

**M. Mahl:** Mr. Balling, thank you very much for this interesting conversation.

*\* Markus Mahl - CEO Aquarium West GmbH München*

*Hans-Werner Balling - Biologist & Aquaristic Expert at Tropic Marin®*