

# PERSIAN GULF AQUARIUM FISHES



Text and Photos by John Hoover

Arab dhows at Khasab, Sultanate of Oman.



Orange Dottyback (*Pseudochromis aldabraensis*).

□ Mention the Persian Gulf these days and the last thing people think of is aquarium fishes. Nevertheless, this shallow body of water and its neighbor, the Gulf of Oman, are both home to a number of attractive reef fishes seldom available to enthusiasts

in other parts of the world. Unusual environmental conditions in the two gulfs have produced at least a dozen common reef species endemic to the area, including one of the world's most beautiful butterflyfishes.

Fishes from this part of the world

have one overriding advantage for the aquarist --- they are hardy. Consider: water temperatures in the Persian Gulf can dip into the 50's in winter, and approach the 90's in summer. Unusually high salinity further stresses marine life. Sound

Yellow-Bar Angelfish (*Pomacanthus maculosus*).

Yellow-Bar Angelfish, juvenile.



