

Theo van den Berg-Belgium

I have installed 6 Philips CoralCare fixtures above the show tank on the 23rd of December 2015. After selling the complete content of the tank to a customer, I restarted and rescaped our show tank (200 x 150 x 85 – 78 water level) with new fish and corals last February. During the test period I closely monitored coral growth, and the visual appearance of both coral and fish.

I applied 3 different lighting zones to experiment with the capabilities of the CoralCare fixture. Each set of 2 lamps had specific settings:

First set: 100% cold (peak intensity of 90%) (LPS zone)

Second set: 99 % cold/1 % warm (peak intensity of 90 %) (LPS and SPS zone)

Third set: 70% cold/30% warm (peak intensity of 90%) (SPS zone)

This allows to create so-called mix zones between the lamps, creating 5 different light zones.

At this moment, I am still tuning the color points and intensity as I am searching for the optimal personal setting for each zone.

I am really satisfied with the coral health and color rendering of the SPS zone, but I also see some improvements for the future CoralCare generation.

To my opinion controlling the fixture is very easy. You just set the color points and intensity you desire and you do not have to worry about the spectral content of the light as Philips already made sure that the given spectrum is not harmful to the corals. However the more advanced reefer could find this control limited.

As for me, I miss certain control flexibility with regard to the blue saturated color point that specifically highlights the fluorescence of my exotic LPS corals.

As for the spread of light, it is quite intense at the water surface, but evenly distributed on the bottom of the tank.

A benefit which I highly appreciate is the fact that CoralCare makes use of passive cooling. It improves the robustness of the fixture and I do not expect any technical issues. Next to that, due to the efficiency of the fixture and LED technology, I do not have to cool the temperature of the water anymore.

I would definitely recommend this lamp for closed aquariums. For open tanks, the design and direct view scattered light are less attractive.

This is a selection of images from the results so far. Final results will be published in November 2016.





