



MOMO'S STORY

Four and a half years ago I caught a lobster in my pots. Although it was too small, I kept and put it in my aquarium.

I called it MOMO, and it almost became my pet.

Unfortunately it died this summer, quite my fault, the water had become too salty because of evaporation. (normal salinity is about 35 g per liter and it had reached 48 g/l)

During the 54 months during which I kept it, it has molted five times, and it has grown from 350 g when I caught it to 1600 g when it died.

I kept and framed its five shells





Nicole and I gone frequently fishing for its feeding: sand shrimps, rustic limpets, mussels , cockles and so on ...

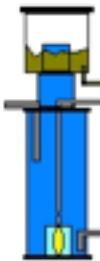
During this période Momo had several companions in its aquarium, like little sea basses, grey mullets, little ballan wrasses, abalones, seahorse (only one unfortunately), banded fishpipes, sea stickelback, rustic limpets, sand shrimps, hooded shrimps, prawns, mussels and cockles.



For its well-being I had equipped the aquarium with a protein skimmer. This device is used mostly in saltwater aquarium to remove organic compounds from the water before they break down in nitrogenous waste. (i)



**A typical Counter-Current Skimmer,
either Hang-On or Sump Mounted**



The water to be processed enters the skimmer reaction chamber at the top via a pipe (shown in grey). The air is administered via a diffuser, (shown in yellow).

The water flowing downward meets the bubble column flowing upward. This increases dwell-time and makes the skimming more efficient.

The drain plug in the collection cup is illustrated in green, as is the accumulated gunk.

Processed water exits the skimmer at the bottom of the chamber and is returned to a sump or to the display tank, as installed. The return pipe is down-angled to minimize stray bubbles from returning to the aquarium.

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(1): How does this happen ?: the answer is quite simple: you inject high volumes of very little air bubbles into a column of waste water, and the interaction between the bubbles and the surrounding water creates like electric charges on the molecules of proteins in the water, and in case of this charge molecules of proteins are caught by the bubbles and make a foam which is easily eliminated. The resulting effluent is purer and cleaner than before.





Hooded shrimp



Sea stickelback



Sea horse



Prawns



Banded fishpipe



Obalone



Grey mullets



Rustic limpet



Sea horse

