# WHY USE a PROTEIN SKIMMER?

So, why do we need protein skimmers in the first place? Where did this method of filtration for reef aquariums originate? What do you need to know about protein skimmers? All of these questions and many more will be answered in the September 2009 Freshwater And Marine Aquarium magazine.

## WHAT IS PROTEIN SKIMMING?

The technical aspects of protein skimming are quite complex. In simple terms, protein skimming mimics a natural process where fine air bubbles are passed through a column of water. You remember the foam you see building up at the beach, or in some streams and rivers? That's the same process we try to replicate in our reef aquaria.

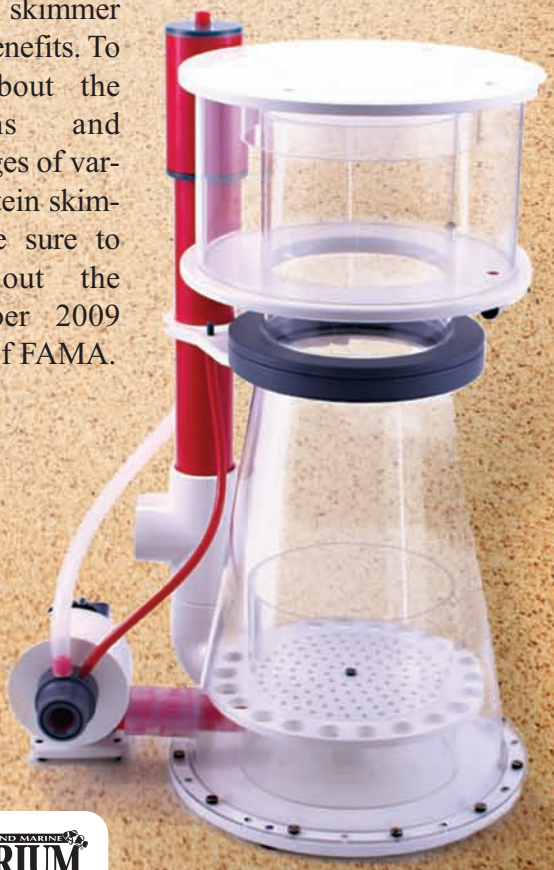
## BENEFITS OF PROTEIN SKIMMING

Reef tanks require very good water quality to thrive. Arguably, the average reef aquarist could not achieve this goal economically without the use of a protein skimmer.

Skimmers remove a lot of the organic gunk in our reef aquariums before it can be converted into harmful nitrogen-related compounds. This keeps our systems clean, the water quality high and our aquatic critters happy.

Skimmers have many advantages. They can be placed inline, within a sump or even in-tank. They remove organic waste from reef aquaria before it becomes toxic to tank inhabitants. Protein skimmers are generally simple to operate and maintain, and they require little technical expertise to use correctly, as long as the manufacturer's directions are followed and a basic understanding of their operation is understood.

Some skimmers are constructed more simply, while others have more elaborate designs. Each type of skimmer has its benefits. To learn about the functions and advantages of various protein skimmers, be sure to check out the September 2009 edition of FAMA.



The September 2009 edition of FAMA includes an article on Protein Skimming.